

## Options after GCSEs

There are a range of options to take after GCSEs, every young person is different and each route will suit different interests, learning styles, aptitudes, and future career ideas.

### Main Routes:

- 1.) **Academic:** A levels/ Applied Level 3 courses -Choose 3-4 different subjects. Entry requirements 5 GCSEs 5-9 usually including English, Maths and Science.

Good Option for:

A student who enjoys academic learning with others usually in a classroom setting. This route enables a student to keep open a wide range of future options or to study A level subjects required for a specific degree (e.g. Engineering, Medicine). It is important to be able to study independently. Students need to be able to plan and manage their workload leading towards a final exam, usually sat at the end of a 2 year course. See <https://www.kingsbridgecollege.org.uk/341/sixth-form> for a list of the A level/Applied A level courses offered in the sixth form at Kingsbridge Community College.

- 2.) **Work-based:** Apprenticeships with learning on the job and off the job with a college or a learning provider. See <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

Good Option for:

A student who knows they want to gain practical training and learn skills in a job, working alongside experienced staff. Ideally someone has a good idea of what job they want to train in. Apprentices earn a minimum wage of £4.81 per hour and which includes the time they are working towards a qualification (20% of time e.g. day release at college) This is not an easy option as a young person would be expected to work up to 40 hours per week with 20 days paid holiday per year, plus bank holidays. Apprenticeships take 1 to 5 years to complete depending on the level/role.

- 3.) **Vocational Courses:** e.g. Level 2 and 3 Diplomas and T levels

Good Option for:

A student who has a broad area of Career interest e.g. Tourism, Public Services, Engineering, ICT, Sport, Construction, Childcare, Creative Media, Performing Arts, Science, Art and Design, Business, Horticulture, Animal or Equine management. These courses are offered at different levels 2 or 3 depending on GCSE results. Level 3 courses require 4-5 GCSEs Grades 4-9. Suit a student who prefers ongoing assessment with end of module tests.

Level 3 are acceptable for entry to university but also a good route if a student is keen to start work or an apprenticeship at 18.

T levels are replacing some the Level 3 Courses they include 4 days studying at college one day in work placement

If a student has a specific job in mind, some courses that can lead into jobs like hairdressing, accounting, cookery, plumbing, car mechanics and alternative to an apprenticeship.

**Local Further Education Colleges:** This is a list of some of the colleges previous students have applied to after GCSEs. Some Colleges will also work with employers offering the day release training part of an apprenticeship.

South Devon College, Paignton offers Vocational Courses and some A levels. <https://www.southdevon.ac.uk>

City College, Plymouth-FE College offers Vocational courses. <https://www.cityplym.ac.uk>

Bicton College-Budleigh Salterton (Part of Cornwall College) Land based courses including Agriculture, Land Based Engineering, Equine and Conservation Courses <https://www.bicton.ac.uk>

Duchy College-Callington-Land based Courses (Part of Cornwall College) <https://www.duchy.ac.uk>

Plymouth Arts University-Specializes in Art, Design and Production Arts Courses.

<https://www.plymouthart.ac.uk>

South Devon UTC-Newton Abbot Part of Education South West Group-specialisms in Health and Social Care, Engineering and Digital Technologies. <https://southdevonutc.org.uk>

Scott Medical and Healthcare College-Plymouth-Vocational Courses in Health Sciences <https://www.scottcollege.co.uk>

Access Creative College Formerly Dbs-Plymouth courses in Music Production and Sound Technology

<https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/locations/plymouth/>

Exeter College-FE College Offers Vocational Courses, A levels and IB <https://exe-coll.ac.uk>