



## @ Oasis Academy Brislington

Welcome to the Autumn Term edition of our new **ASPIRE** Careers Newsletter. At Oasis Academy Brislington we are aiming at providing our students with a careers education which enables them to build the motivation, confidence and resilience to stand as first amongst equals and to achieve their potential, develop their talent and fulfil their ambition.

### Why?

- 1. Students:** because we want students to choose the best possible path, which reflects their talents and interests.
- 2. All stakeholders:** because we want students to fully understand the world of opportunities that is open to them in the future.
- 3. All stakeholders:** because we believe in the importance of developing employability skills so that students are careers ready and engage in a sustainable career in the future.
- 4. All stakeholders:** because students need to know their vocational identity and, therefore, need to have access to outstanding careers information and advice.

### How?

Through a stable careers programme students will develop an understanding of their own strengths and weaknesses, skills, talents and abilities as well as developing knowledge about different career pathways, job sectors and employability skills which will enable them to make informed and ambitious decisions about their future.

For that reason, we will publish the termly **ASPIRE** Careers Newsletter which will provide our students and parents/careers with careers related information. In this edition we will provide information regarding:

1. staying in education and training beyond Year 11.
2. getting support with making the right Post-16 decisions.
3. Post-16 qualifications.
4. what parents and carers can do to support the next steps.
5. Autumn Term Open Events





## Staying in education and training beyond Year 11

All the information provide below can be found @ [Where to get post 16 education - bristol.gov.uk](http://Where to get post 16 education - bristol.gov.uk)

### Do I have to stay on at school?

All young people are required to stay in education or training until the end of the academic year of their 18th birthday. This is so that every young person gains the right knowledge and skills to move on to a successful career.

### What are my options?

You can choose from full-time education at school or college, an Apprenticeship, a Traineeship, full-time work or volunteering (which is defined as 20 hours or more a week) combined with part-time education or training.

## Getting support with making the right Post-16 decisions

In School, you should meet with your careers advisor who will provide you with independent advice and guidance about all the post-16 options in your area. You should also speak to your tutors and other staff in school such as the Careers Lead Dr I Goldberg who know you well and will be able to support you. They will advise you about the options that match with your interests and abilities.

You can also contact:

- A qualified careers advisor at the National Careers Service on 0800 100 900 or webchat on-line for impartial advice and support tailored to your needs at [nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)
- Or look on:  
  
'Careerpilot' is a great source of local information and advice at: [careerpilot.org.uk](http://careerpilot.org.uk)

If you have special educational needs or receive additional support at school then you should also speak to your school's special educational needs co-ordinator (Mrs J Newman) , who will advise you about your next steps. Before you make a decision about your next step here are some questions to ask yourself:

- What am I good at?
- How well do I expect to do in Year 11?
- What are my interests?
- What skills do I have?
- What do I like doing?





## Post-16 qualifications

### Qualifications Guide - Post 16 options

#### A Levels

Qualification level: 3 - Assessment methods: exams

#### What is it?

A Levels are two year courses with little coursework or practical assessments followed by an exam.

#### It's for you if...

A Levels are a popular way to get the qualifications required for university, although you can just take them on their own without progressing to university. They're for you if you get on well with both classroom learning and independent study, and if you enjoy a more academic style of learning.

#### Apprenticeships

Qualification level: 2-5 - Assessment methods: at the end of your training

#### What is it?

It's helpful to think of an apprenticeship as a job, rather than a study programme. You get hired by an employer for a particular role – like hairdresser, veterinary nurse or accountant – and you study while you get paid to do the job.

The various levels of apprenticeship are equivalent to GCSE's (Level 2), A levels (Level 3) and foundation degree (Level 4).

#### It's for you if...

You know what you want to do for a living, you want to work, and you want to get nationally recognised qualifications while you're at it. Apprentices learn by doing the job, so if you prefer a hands-on approach, it could be ideal for you.

#### Vocational BTEC qualifications

Qualification level: 1-5 - Assessment methods: written or activity-based assignments

#### What is it?

BTECs are work-focused qualifications that look at the areas of knowledge and skills you might need for a particular sector or industry. You can take them on their own, or alongside other qualifications like apprenticeships and A Levels. You can also choose BTEC Higher National Certificates or Diplomas - sometimes called HNCs or HNDs - which are the equivalent of the first and second years of a degree respectively. These can then be topped up to a full degree with additional study.

#### It's for you if...

You know what sector you would like to work in and you learn better in a hands-on, vocational environment. Or perhaps you'd like a course that gives you some of the academic theory while also preparing you for the workplace. BTECs are increasingly popular for getting into uni. One in four students take the BTEC route.





## Post-16 qualifications—continued

### Degree Apprenticeships

Qualification level: 4+ - Assessment methods: on-the-job and written/exam

#### What is it?

These programmes are developed by employers and universities. Degree apprenticeships can be taken once you have completed a Level 3 qualification. You need to show your prior learning achievements and also an ability to study at a higher level.

#### It's for you if...

You want a degree without the cost, or simply want to get on with your career but still want degree-level training.

### National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs)

Qualification level: 1-7 - Assessment methods: in the workplace

#### What is it?

NVQs are usually taken alongside work. They're designed to show that you're competent in the various skills needed to do a particular job and are assessed on the practical work you do.

#### It's for you if...

You want a qualification that ties in with a job, that enhances your career prospects and that you can follow as you gain more skills – once you complete one level, you can progress to the next one.

### T Levels

T Levels are new courses that first started in Sept 2020 with a roll out of new courses each year after, which will follow GCSEs and will be equivalent to 3 A Levels. These two year courses offer a mix of classroom learning and an industry placement. The first courses will include: teaching; digital production, design and development; surveying and planning. Keep an eye out for developments!

### Traditional Degrees

Qualification level: 4+ - Assessment methods: exam/coursework / performance

#### What is it?

Traditional degrees last three or four years (full time). They are more theory-based and academically challenging – students learn to think critically, structure arguments and gain an in-depth understanding of their subject.

#### It's for you if...

You get on well with academic learning and want to totally immerse yourself in a subject. The university experience is unique, offering students the chance to develop and grow both personally and professionally before entering the world of work.





## What parents and carers can do to support the next steps

### Top Tips for supporting your child over the next few years

For many young people, the world past the end of Year 11 can feel overwhelming. It can be difficult for parents and teachers to know how to help their children/students make informed choices about their future careers in a rapidly changing world of work. There are hundreds of exciting opportunities and it is never too early to start investigating and exploring the options ahead.

- All secondary schools are required to provide a programme of careers education and guidance; this should be published on their websites. The Careers Programme should include: access to a careers advisor, exposure to the world of work, exposure to further study options, opportunities to meet employers and support and help with applying to the range of Post-16 pathways available (i.e. apprenticeships, Further Education, Sixth Form Schools or Colleges or University options).
- The schools/academies will be able to direct you to a range of local and national information sources.
- As a teacher or parent it can be useful to share your own experiences however, be aware that over time processes and entry requirements have changed and what you had been advised may now be out of date.
- Many young people have an idea of what they want to do but are unsure about how they can achieve their goals. If they have particular interests in a career then explore the range of options with them. There could be a variety of ways to start within the chosen area and the entry requirements may be different depending on the route they take. If, after investigating options, their chosen direction is not realistic in light of predicted grades: are there alternative routes which might not require the same level of qualification?
- Find out what the demands are for these careers. Often popular industry areas have far more applicants than vacancies. Investigate similar skilled roles in differing industry areas; in the early stages, many roles have transferable skills. Explore the options of underrepresented areas such as women in construction, or men in health and social care roles – do not limit the options based on out of date gender limitations. Similarly, it could be beneficial to research local and national labour market information. This will inform you of current skills and shortages and demand in sectors local to where your young person is looking for employment.





# ASPIRE Open Events

Ashton Park—11th November

Bristol City Community Trust—5th October

City of Bristol College - See website

Cabot Learning Federation - 20th October

Merchant's Academy—14th October

Military Prep College—Interviews every Friday between 2.00pm and 4.00pm

North Bristol Post-16 Centre—9th October (Cotham)/ 21st October (Redland)

Reflections Training—29th October

SGS—30th September (A-Levels—Filton)

9th October (all campuses)

St Brendan's—2nd October

St Mary Redcliffe - 10th November

Weston College—13th October





# Events



The job market for students leaving school or university can be tricky and now more than ever we need to help them as much as we can to secure the very best opportunities when they enter the workplace. We would like to extend our invitation to you for our very first parent / carers information evening event.

We have leaders from some of the biggest employers in their industry IBM, HSBC, PwC, bp, University of Bath, Clifford Chance & Capgemini coming to talk to you about how your son / daughter or young person under your care can navigate the job market to find some incredible work experience / internship placements as well as graduate and apprenticeship opportunities. We will be sharing some useful tips around psychometric testing, how to prepare for assessment centres, CV's, and applications as well as lots of information around preparing your child / young person for the workplace / university.

This event is free of charge and it will be running on Thursday 30th September, 6pm – 7:30pm. You will have the opportunity to join this event virtually with your son / daughter / and or young person, ask questions you want directly to leading employers and obtain lots of useful information. The booking link can be found below here.

**Booking Link:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YP-Insight-Evening>

[Parent / Carers Information Evening – Your Child \(young person\) Their Future – Prestatyn High School – Denbighshire North Wales](#)

**A**cademy   **S**tudent   **P**arents/ Carers   **I**nformation/ Advice and guidance   **R**esources   **E**ducators