

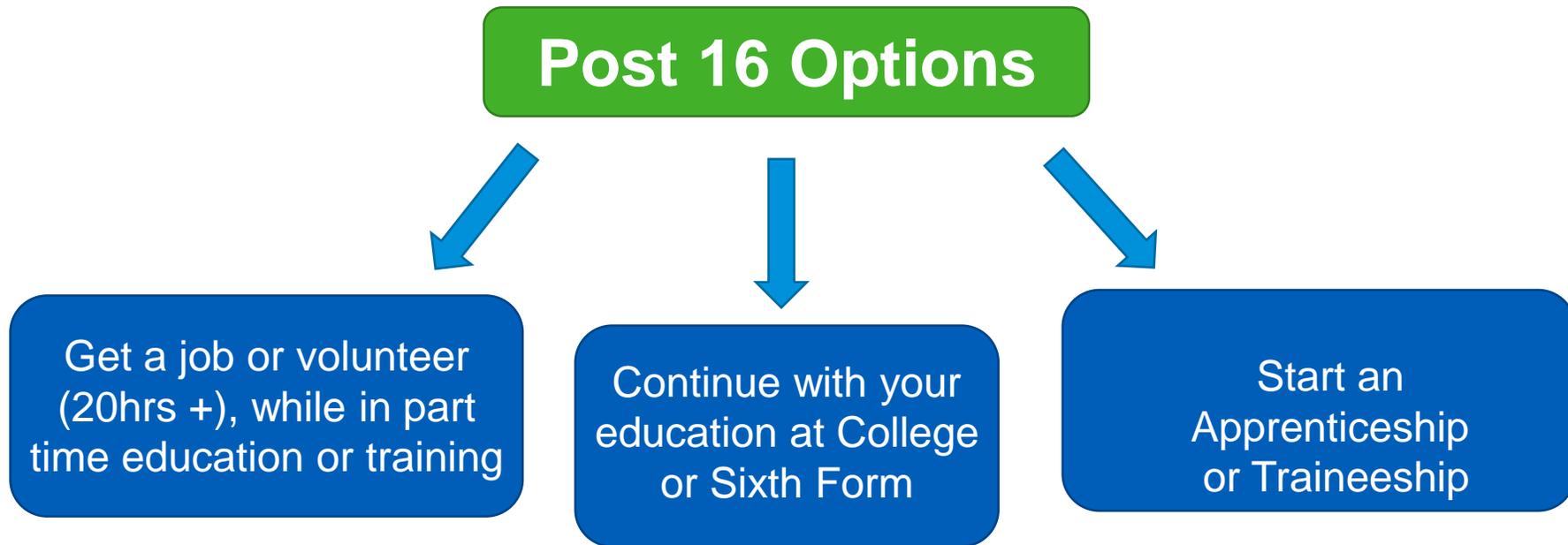
# What next after your GCSEs?





You can leave school on the last Friday in June if you'll be 16 by the end of the summer holidays

You must then do one of the following until you're 18:



# Your options:



**Sixth Form at a local school or Sixth Form College  
(St Brendan's)**

**Further Education (FE) College (e.g. City of Bristol,  
SGS, Bath College)**

**Apprenticeship or Traineeship**

**Employment, self employment or voluntary work  
(for 20+ hours per week) + part time education or  
training**

# Who should consider sixth form...



**A-levels are the main courses taught in sixth forms (plus some Level 2 & 3 BTECs & GCSE retakes)**

**A-levels are considered to be the “academic” option**

**A-levels are the qualifications that are accepted at all universities**

**A-levels give access to higher level apprenticeships**

**Students expecting at least 5 x 9-4 (A\*-C) grades at GCSE, particularly if this includes English (and Maths) should be seriously considering taking A-levels**

# What subjects to take?



- Some University courses will only accept specific subjects – research before you choose.
- If you are not sure what you want to go on to do, studying a broad range of subjects including ‘facilitating subjects’ will help you keep your options open.  
(Facilitating subjects are Sciences, English Literature, Geography, French, German and Maths).
- A-levels are a big step up from GCSE. It’s important to study subjects you find interesting and are motivated to learn.
- After Sixth Form you can work, go to university or do an advanced apprenticeship

# Further Education (FE) College



**Some A-levels but a much wider range of vocational courses to choose from**

**You can do Level 1, 2 and 3 courses so would enter the course appropriate to your GCSE results**

**Different environment and facilities to school**

**After College you can work, go to university or do an apprenticeship**

# Where to start...



**Get prospectuses from your tutor, careers teacher, or direct from the college or school**

**Find out about and attend College Open Days / Evenings and discuss courses with college staff. Ask questions!**

**Complete College application forms. Attend interview – prepare in advance!**

**Then...secure the GCSE grades needed!**

# Apprenticeships



**Modern apprenticeships are different to traditional apprenticeships, which were associated with trade industries like plumbing and carpentry. The modern apprenticeship covers a wide-range of industries, including accounting, banking, law and IT. They are available across 170 industries and 1500 job roles!**

**Apprenticeships combine full-time work in an industry, with studying for nationally certified qualifications. Apprentices benefit from on-the-job training, *and* the academic training which is needed to gain the relevant qualifications.**

**These schemes offer a pathway for school leavers towards higher education, or a means of fast-tracking a career.**

**All apprentices are also paid a salary for the duration of their scheme.**

# Apprenticeship Levels



- 1. Intermediate Apprenticeships (Level 2) = equivalent to 5 GCSE passes**
- 2. Advanced Apprenticeships (Level 3) = equivalent to 2 A-level passes**
- 3. Higher Apprenticeships (Level 4/5) = Foundation degree and above**
- 4. Degree Apprenticeships (Level 6/7) Bachelor's or master's degree**

# Find out more ..



**To find out about apprenticeships available locally and to be kept up-to-date with live vacancies register with:**

**[www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)**

**Many local providers such as colleges and training companies will also advertise apprenticeship vacancies on their websites.**

**Also think about what you'd like to know and find out by asking questions of real apprentices!**

**Apprenticeships for September tend to start being advertised around Easter – although some of the big engineering companies locally are already recruiting**

# Traineeships



**A traineeship is a tailor-made programme of support for young people, aged 16-24, who want to work, but who need extra help to gain an apprenticeship or a job.**

**This combines a structured, meaningful and substantial work experience placement with training in an area of your choice, to get you ready for a job or apprenticeship. It also gives you a chance to get your Maths and English skills up to a good standard as well as developing the employment skills you need to progress with your career.**

- Traineeships are unpaid, though employers can contribute to food and travel costs.

For more information and to find a traineeship, visit:

**[www.gov.uk/find-traineeship](http://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship)**

# Employment



**To work full time for an employer or be self-employed, must include one day a week working towards an approved and nationally recognised qualification.**

**Find out about LOCAL JOB VACANCIES (*Websites, Newspapers, Job Centres, Agencies*)**

**What training is offered?**

**Update your CV, practice completing application forms and mock interviews in preparation for interview offers.**

**Apply for jobs that start from July 2018**

# How to decide:



**What are you good at?**

**What do you enjoy?**

**Are there different routes to get to the same destination or do you need to decide on specific qualifications/subjects now?**

**What courses look interesting?**

**If you really aren't sure about what you want to do in the future then 'stay broad' - do a broad range of subjects, so that you can decide later!**

**Look at a range of websites and prospectuses to find out what is out there and visit lots of open events**

# Have a back up plan!

~~Plan A~~  
Plan B

Apply to more than one option...  
You may do better than you expected  
Things might not work out as you  
hope  
You might change your mind!



# Make an informed decision



**If you look at a range of options & research your plans you will make a well informed decision**

# Useful websites



**To find information about open events search online:**

**Bristol post 16 directory**  
**South Glos post 16 directory**

**Also look at individual websites of companies and colleges**

To generate career ideas:  
<http://icould.com/buzz/>

To find information re different courses and careers:

[www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk)  
[www.careersnearhere.com](http://www.careersnearhere.com)  
[www.plotr.co.uk](http://www.plotr.co.uk)  
[www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk)