

What can I do after GCSEs?

There are many options open to you when you finish your GCSEs. You could choose to study subjects that could lead to university, vocational qualifications or take up an apprenticeship.

Study full-time

Schools, colleges and training providers offer a range of subjects and courses which you can study full-time. You normally need to have at least five GCSEs at grades A* to C and at least grade B in any specific subjects you want to study.

- **A levels** - these are good if there are GCSE subjects you like and want to study further or if you are planning to go to university.
- Work and job-related courses - **NVQs and BTECs** are good qualifications to take if you want to combine hands on, practical learning with studying subjects and technical skills. They are specialist courses which relate to particular jobs or sectors.

Apprenticeships, traineeships and supported internships

You can also choose to train while you work by taking on an apprenticeship, traineeship or supported internship.

- **Apprenticeship:** You work for an employer and train to do a specific job at the same time. There are many types of apprenticeship for example, engineering, veterinary nursing and accountancy.
- **Traineeship:** Gets you ready for work or for doing an apprenticeship. They last from six weeks to six months and provide essential work preparation training, literacy and numeracy skills and work experience to get an apprenticeship or other job.
- **Supported internship:** Just for students with learning difficulties or learning disabilities who want to get a job and need extra support to do this. They last for at least six months and are unpaid. You get work experience and an employer trains you to do a job role. You also get to study for qualifications or other courses to help you get ready to take up a job.

Work or volunteer while studying part-time

You can combine training or studying for a qualification and work at the same time.

- It doesn't have to be a paid job, you can volunteer on a project or with a charity, or get a work-experience placement in a career or job area that interests you.
- Colleges and training providers offer a wide range of training courses which are part-time including A levels and work-related qualifications like BTECs or NVQs.