

PARENTS & CARERS GUIDE





At Progress Careers, we are committed to bridging the gap between parents and the career education, information advice and guidance their children receive. We want you to have full oversight of what information and guidance your child receives and enable you to support your child with making the important decisions about their futures.

SUPPORT CAREERS CHOICES

You are one of the biggest influences on decisions your child will make about their future. You know them better than anyone so you can help in ways that no one else can. There are plenty of ways you can support your child to make informed decisions about their future careers.

STARTING THE CONVERSATION

- Focus on skills and behaviour your child will need, rather than specific jobs
- Talk about goals and what your child finds fulfilling
- Be open minded and encouraging
- Talk about what careers experiences your child has had at school (lessons, visits, tutor time, enrichment and assemblies)
- Be patient as your child's choices may change
- Start early - the earlier you help your child to find out about what they could do, the better prepared they will be to make the right decision for them
- Start to explore career websites that tell you about different jobs and how to get into them
- Attend any open events at local colleges, sixth forms and training providers
- If you're unsure on any questions your child may have, ask for help. Our advisers are here to help and support both you and your child



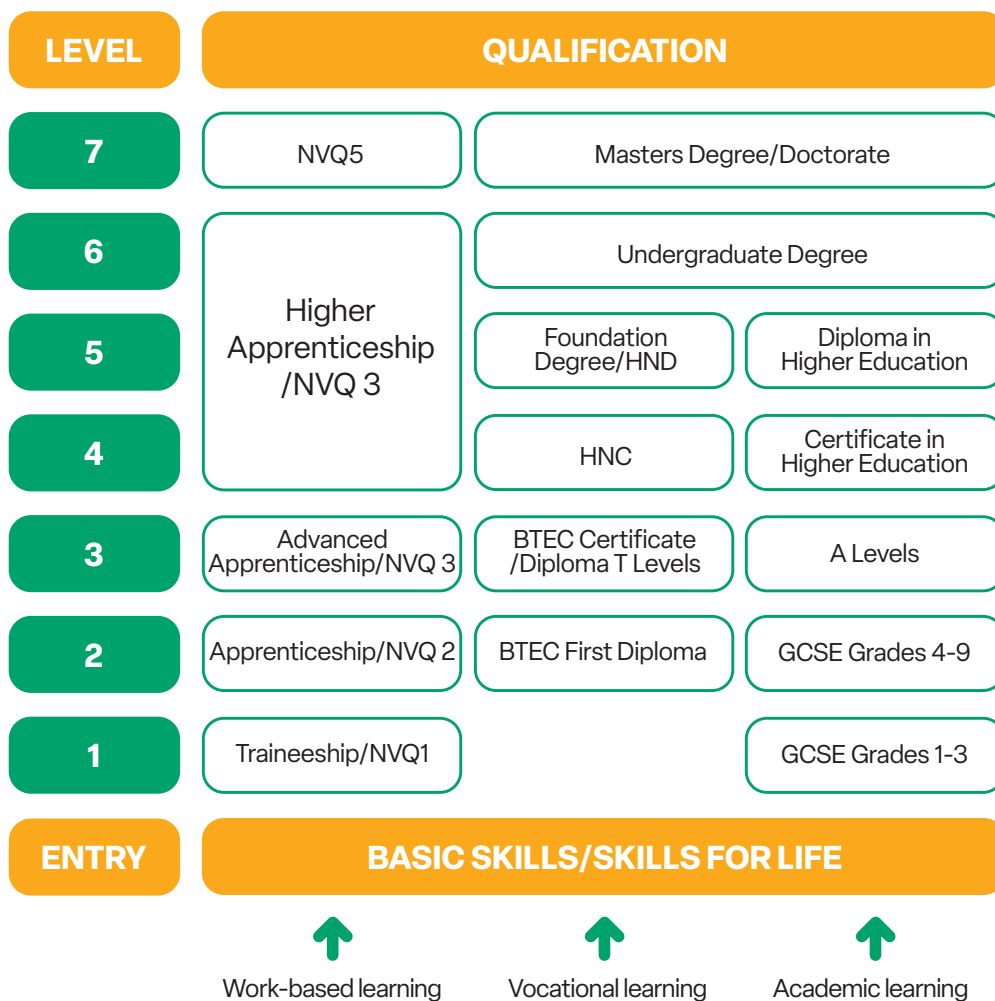
UNDERSTANDING OPTIONS

Your child will have to make decisions about options and pathways throughout their time at school and after school.

- **Year 9** – your child will have subject choices to make for GCSE which will determine what qualifications they will leave school with
- **Year 11** – your child will need to decide whether to stay in full-time education at a college or sixth form, get an Apprenticeship or Traineeship, or get a job with training
- **At 17 and 18 years old** – your child may need to decide whether to progress in education – either at college or university, get an Apprenticeship or get a job

POST-16 QUALIFICATION ROUTES/LEVELS

Here are the different levels of qualifications. When your child meets with their career adviser, they will discuss these options and levels.



New GCSE Grade structure	Previous GCSE Grade structure	Vocational Grades
9 8 7	A*	L2D*
	A	L2D
6 5 4	B	L2M
	C	L2P
3 2 1	D E F G	L1D L1P L1M L1P
U	U	U

Depending on your child's GCSE grades it will depend on the level they can move on to. Anyone who doesn't have at least grade 4 in Math's and English will have to continue studying towards their GCSE until they pass both or finish their college course.

4 = Standard Pass

5 = Strong Pass

THE GENERAL PATHWAYS OPEN TO YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE SCHOOL

Further Education

This means continuing your education either by going to 6th form or college, where you can study A levels, a vocational course, or a mixture of both. All providers will have different entry requirements, so it is important to do your research.

A Levels

Like GCSEs an A level covers one subject in depth and is assessed through exams at the end of a two-year course. Most people pick 3 subjects, but others may only do 2, if they must resit their Maths or English GCSE.

Each college sets its own entry requirements but generally they are looking for a minimum of five “good” GCSE passes, usually at grade 4/C or above. In addition, some subjects might have their own requirement e.g. a college may ask for a minimum of grade 7 in Maths for you to take A levels in Maths.

- Level 3 learning
- You will usually need a minimum of 5 GCSE's grade 9 to 4/5 including English and maths, however this varies across schools and colleges
- You can choose to study 3 different subjects which can be a combination of academic subjects (maths, English, history etc) and vocational (health and social, childcare, sport etc)
- You will be assessed mainly through exams
- Last two years

Vocational Courses

If you choose a vocational qualification, you study a variety of topics within one area of work such as engineering, catering or childcare. Vocational qualifications are usually more hands-on than A levels, with a mix of both practical and theory. They are usually assessed through a mixture of coursework and assessments/exams.

- Study one subject over one to two years depending on the level
- Relate to a particular area of work that you want to pursue a career in e.g. performing arts, childcare, sport, construction etc
- Coursework and assessments
- Various levels of learning depending on your exam results. As a general guide.
 - **Level 3 courses** 4/5 GCSE grades at 4 or above plus English/maths at grade 4 or above
 - **Level 2 courses** 3/4 GCSE grades at 3 or above plus English at grade 3 or above
 - **Level 1 courses** 2 GCSE grades at 2 or above plus English at grade 2 or above
 - **Entry level course/foundation learning** you do not usually need any formal qualifications



T Levels

T Levels have been designed in partnership with employers to give you the skills and knowledge to get on in the workplace. They combine classroom learning with industry placements to prepare you for skilled work or higher-level study. 1 T Level is the equivalent of 3 A levels. <https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students>

Level 3 learning, equivalent to 3 A levels

- Last 2 years.
- Developed in collaboration with employers and education providers so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training, or further study
- Mixture of classroom learning and on-the-job experience

Contains industry placement of at least 315 hours - approximately 45 days

Apprenticeship

Employed in the workplace and gain practical work experience, skills & relevant qualifications within a certain sector.

- Earn a wage; this varies depending on the employer and the level
- Level 2 learning right up to degree level, which is level 6 & 7
- Assessed mainly through portfolio-based evidence and observations
- Common entry requirements are grade 4 and above in maths and English but can vary

Our top 5 links for apprenticeships

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/>

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>

The National Government sponsored websites for information on apprenticeships, traineeships and the vacancies database including options to apply online

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/> The institute for apprenticeships and technical education provides information for apprentices, available apprenticeship standards and resources.

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/> Explains what apprenticeships are, how they work, and the different types. It also provides resources for prospective apprentices and parents to help you understand everything you need to know to secure and succeed in an apprenticeship.



Volunteering and Work Experience

Engaging in volunteer work and work experience is an excellent means for students to develop employability skills. It looks great on college, university and job applications, and assists students in making well-informed choices about their next steps.

Labour Market Information

What is LMI?

Labour Market information is the facts and figures of the past, present and future work force. It informs us national and local trends as well as what jobs are in demand and declining. It also gives an idea of who and how many individuals are employed and any given time.

Why is it important and how can it help you child make informed choices?

- It can help you understand what jobs are in your local region.
- It can show you the skills are required for specific jobs.
- It can make you aware of jobs that are increasing and what jobs are declining.
- Make you aware of what qualifications you might need.

LMI is changing all the time and its important to explore with your child and a great way to do this is through LMI For All – LMI For All.

Post 16 options

Pupils from each of these pathways can continue their education. This could be accomplished through college, an apprenticeship, or additional schooling. They may also choose to start working right away.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- Make sure you have all the information about your child's options including how they can progress, as some options may limit what they can go on to do afterwards
- Encourage your child to choose the option that suits their learning style – look at how each option is taught and assessed and how your child will learn. For example, Apprenticeships are competence-based and involve them carrying out tasks in a real work environment
- Encourage your child to apply for as many options as they can, that way they will have longer to find out more and make up their mind
- Remind them to make applications in good time, usually before the end of January, so that they can confirm places and concentrate on final exams and coursework
- Attend options events and open days to help you and your child find out about the options and where they're delivered
- Pathways can be complicated, if your child is unsure, encourage them to speak to an adviser

HOW TO SPEAK TO YOUR ADVISER

Please speak to your school about how you can get in contact with your career's adviser, they are there to help your child explore the world of careers. Your school website will also have a wealth of information and links to Progress Careers Microsite, where you can look at local providers and information.

CAREERS INFORMATION

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/> Over 800 job profiles telling you what a job involves and how to get into it. Includes a skills assessment tool, help with CVs and interview advice.

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/> An online resource that helps you consider your options. This resource has a range of sections dedicated to job sectors, qualifications, identifying and recording skills and an online test.

<https://successatschool.org/> Useful careers guidance and careers zone focused on different jobs, what to study and how to get there. <https://targetcareers.co.uk/> A guide to potential career paths, choosing the most appropriate A level subjects and which careers require specific degrees or A levels.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers> BBC Bitesize explains the world of work, with advice from experts and from young people who've found a path that suits them.

Your schools Microsite - Here you will find local providers and employers that can support your child's next steps.

If you're unsure on any questions your child may have, ask for help. Our advisers are here to help and support both you and your child. Please visit your school website, or speak to your schools Career Lead to find out how to contact us.