

Sheffield
Futures



Options 2021

Your choices at 16 and beyond

Autumn 2020



The choices at 16+

There are 3 main pathways:

1. An academic pathway (A Levels).
2. An apprenticeship.
3. A vocational pathway.

All 3 pathways involve further learning.
Which type of learning suits you best?



1. Academic Pathway: A Levels

- A Levels mean studying ideas and gaining knowledge.
- You typically study 3 subjects (sometimes 2).
- These are often subjects you've studied at GCSE but there are some new ones.
- They are assessed mainly by exam after 2 years.
- You will need around 5 GCSE grades 9-4. Some subjects expect grades 9-5 / 9-6.



2. Apprenticeship pathway

- Apprenticeships are real jobs.
- Overall you spend about 4 days a week in work and 1 day in training.
- They pay a wage.
- The training is at different levels.



Apprenticeship levels

Intermediate – Level 2

Training equivalent to GCSE grades 9-4.

Advanced – Level 3

Training equivalent to A Level.

Higher / Degree – Levels 4-6

Age 18+.

Lead to higher education / professional qualifications.



Apprenticeship entry requirements

Intermediate - Often GCSE grades 3 or equivalent.
Some employers set their own tests.

Advanced - Often grades 9-4 or equivalent, including English and maths.

Higher or degree – Normally Level 3 qualifications, such as A Levels, BTEC National or equivalent.

For all levels you must be ready for work!



Work based learning

Work based learning programmes, such as **Traineeships** and **Study Programmes**, can help you get the skills and experience you need for an apprenticeship. They include:

- Learning in a workplace or work environment.
- Help with job hunting, CVs and interviews.
- Support with English and maths.



3. Vocational pathway

A middle way

- You study a course related to a job or a broad area of work (work sector).
- Courses are in a range of work areas.
- You can study at different levels.
- The entry requirements vary depending on the level.



Where you can learn

- The Sheffield College (City, Hillsborough, Olive Grove, Peaks).
- A school 6th form
- Longley Park 6th Form
- UTC (Sheffield city centre or Olympic Legacy Park)
- Chapeltown Academy
- A college or sixth form outside Sheffield
- A training provider (apprenticeships and work based learning)

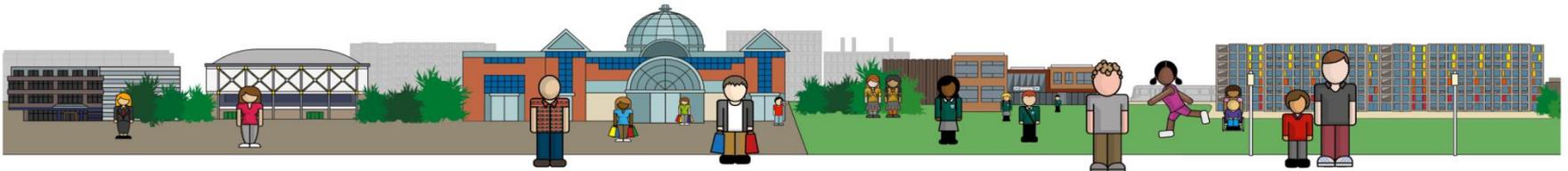


Sheffield Progress

- Searches for full time courses, apprenticeships and work based learning in Sheffield.
- An applications system for local sixth forms, colleges and some training providers.

Your school will explain how to use it and give you login details.

www.sheffieldprogress.co.uk





Qualifications



Main types of qualification

Academic

- Based on ideas, theories and knowledge.
- Normally needs GCSE grades 9-4 (sometimes 9-5 / 9-6) or equivalent.
- Assessed mainly by exam.

Vocational

- Sometimes called 'technical'.
- Prepares for a broad work area or specific job.
- Can be studied at different levels, depending on grades.
- Assessment methods vary.
- Studied full time, or part time through an apprenticeship.



Qualification levels

Levels 4-6 (e.g. degree, foundation degree, HND)

Normally require Level 3 qualifications, e.g. A Level, BTEC National.

Level 3 (e.g. A Level, BTEC National, T Level)

Normally requires at least GCSE grades 9-4 or equivalent.

Level 2 (e.g. BTEC First, NVQ 2)

Normally requires GCSE grades 3 or equivalent

Level 1 (e.g. BTEC Level 1, NVQ 1)

Normally requires GCSE grades 1-2 or equivalent.

Entry Level (e.g. Entry Level Functional Skills)

No set entry requirements.



T Levels

- T Levels are new vocational ('technical') qualifications.
- They mix classroom study with at least 45 days in industry.
- They are at Level 3 – equivalent to A Level.
- Entry requirements will be about 5 GCSE grades 9-4.
- They started this September at Barnsley College and will also be taught in Doncaster from 2021.
- Subject areas include construction, education and childcare, digital, health, science.

www.tlevels.gov.uk





Higher education



Aiming at higher education?

The main ways in at 16+

- A Levels.
- Vocational qualifications at Level 3.
- A mix of the two.
- Some apprenticeships (at Level 3).

Things to consider

- Some qualifications are more suitable for certain courses.
- Some (not all) higher education courses want specific subjects.



Higher education: the cost

- **Tuition** – up to £9,250 a year but **may change from 2021**.
- **Living costs**, e.g. rent if you live away from home.

Help includes:

- **Student loans** – cover tuition fees and help with living costs. You start repaying loans when you earn over a certain amount. Repayments are based on what you earn, not on what you owe.
- **Bursaries** for some students - don't have to be repaid.
- **Bursaries** also available for nursing and midwifery courses.



Higher education

Find out more

- UCAS: www.ucas.com
- www.informedchoices.ac.uk – *course ideas based on subjects*
- www.gov.uk/student-finance - *Student Finance*
- University / college websites and social media
- University / college admissions staff



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Money



Child Benefit

Paid until age 20 if you are in:

- Full time learning e.g. college, sixth form.
- Approved work based learning that doesn't pay a wage (e.g. study programme or traineeship).

Not paid if you are in:

- A job / apprenticeship.
- Higher education.



Child Benefit Extension

- Child Benefit stops at the end of August if you're not in full time learning (or earlier if you start a job / apprenticeship before then).
- If you're not fixed up at his point, Child Benefit Extension can be claimed for a further limited period.
- www.gov.uk/child-benefit-16-19
Or call: **0300 200 3100**.





16-19 Bursary

Vulnerable Bursary

Worth up to **£1,200**.

Paid if you are:

- In care / leaving care.
- Receiving Income Support / Universal Credit or certain disability benefits **in your own name**.

www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund





16-19 Bursary

Discretionary Bursary

- Might be paid if you're in full time learning and facing hardship but can't get a Vulnerable Bursary.
- Can be a payment / help towards costs such as travel.
- The school / college / training provider decide who receives it and how it is paid.

www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund.



Minimum wage

- Under age 18: £4.55 an hour.
- Apprentice: £4.15 an hour.
(For apprentices under age 19, or over 19 but in first year.)

Rates from April 2020



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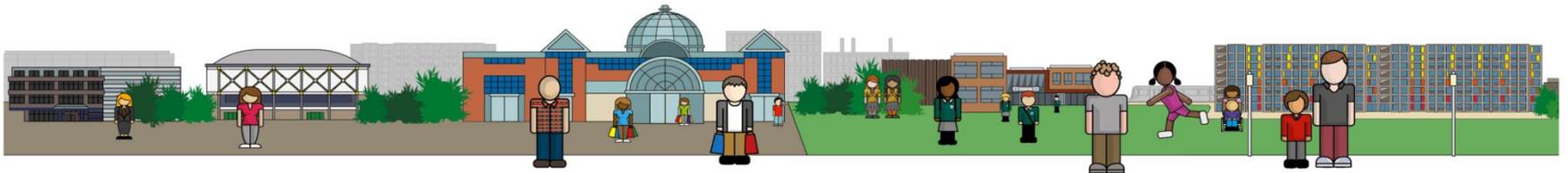
Next steps!





Autumn term

- Careers guidance appointments.
- Open events / careers events – may be online.
- Use your *Options 2021* guide and www.sheffieldprogress.co.uk.
- Find out your predicted grades.
- Prepare your Sheffield Progress application.



Find out more

www.sheffieldfutures.org.uk

www.sheffieldprogress.co.uk

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

www.ucas.com

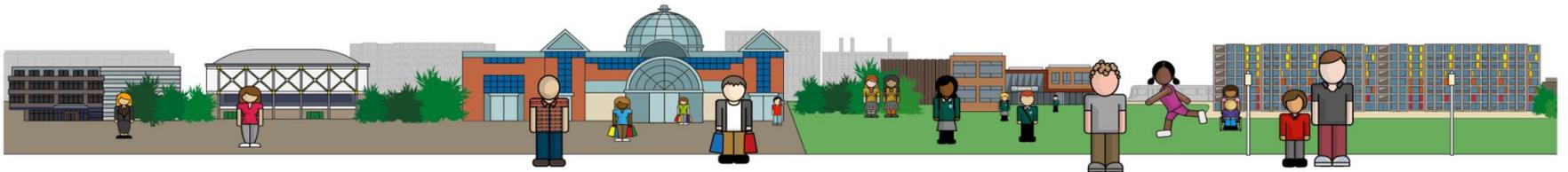




Applications

Many applications should reach Sheffield Progress by the **end of January 2021**.

Your school may set an earlier deadline.



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Thank you!
Any questions?

