

WBS Careers – Year 11 **Planning for Next Steps**

Personal Guidance

Your Careers Advisor, Mel Lawrence, is in William Brookes on Tuesdays. You can request an appointment through your tutor or e-mail Mel at;

mel.lawrence@wbs.318education.co.uk

Choosing the right courses can be critical for some career paths and it is important to not unintentionally close off paths that you may wish to pursue later on in your career.

What you can do to make the right choice?

- Find out about different careers that interest you:

Prospects.ac.uk <https://icould.com/>

Get advice from the people who know you, like your parents and teachers and from your Careers Advisor, Mel Lawrence.

Look at the qualifications on offer to you at local 6th Forms and Colleges. You could start by visiting one of the Post 16 options events in either Shrewsbury or Telford in September. You could also visit the open day events at the local colleges, ideally in the Autumn term.

You could consider whether an apprenticeship might be a good route for you? (see apprenticeship information below).

For either BTEC, T level or A level choices, ensure that they are subjects that:

- you will enjoy
- you think that you will do well in
- will help you get to where you want to go in the future

You can have a few ideas of things you would like to apply for. Just before Christmas this year may be a good time to start making some applications.

A - Levels

A Levels are subject-based qualifications which can be studied as part of a three A Level programme or a mixed A Level/Vocational programme. See examples of a range of courses and entry requirements here;

- <https://www.scq.ac.uk/courses/a-levels>
- <https://www.telfordcollege.ac.uk/join-us/our-courses/full-time/>

If thinking about studying A Levels then there are some really useful articles under the advice section on:

- www.which.co.uk/alevelchoices
- www.which.co.uk/alevelexplorer

such as which A levels you should take to study particular degrees, how to choose your A Levels and making the jump from GCSEs etc.

Vocational Qualifications (T Levels, BTECS)

BTECS

If you are thinking about vocational qualifications, then research the pros and cons

- www.which.co.uk/btecs

If you want to go to University then you could start researching courses that might accept BTECs;

- www.which.co.uk/courses

or check out the entry requirements on the UCAS website www.ucas.com.

See an example of a range of BTEC courses here;

- <https://www.scg.ac.uk/our-courses/vocational>
- <https://www.telfordcollege.ac.uk/join-us/our-courses/full-time/>
- <https://hinsc.ac.uk/colleges/walford-college/courses/>

T Levels

A T Level is a full-time programme equivalent to 3 A Levels. T Levels are ideal if you wish to continue your studies in a more practical way.

They are good for those students who know what industry they want to go into. They help you to build knowledge and work experience.

You will spend 20% of the time on work experience and 80% of the time in the classroom. They are like an apprenticeship, although you won't get paid.

They will give you the chance though to continue your studies and get a much broader idea of what it's like to work in a certain sector, with the opportunity to specialise later. Some students may be able to continue onto university, an apprenticeship, or straight into work. An example of T levels here;

- <https://www.scg.ac.uk/courses/t-levels>

Here is a link as to which Universities are accepting T levels currently. For more detail on specific entry requirements for University courses then see www.ucas.com.

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-providers-with-t-levels-in-entry-requirements/list-of-higher-education-providers-that-accept-t-levels-for-entry>

Apprenticeships?

Apprenticeships are paid, work-based training for those who know what job they would like to do. You will work 80% on-the-job and generally it's 20% in the classroom.

Finding an apprenticeship is like finding a job.

Apply for College as a back up, in case you are unsuccessful at getting an apprenticeship. This is Important.

Also many vacancies will ask for 4s in English and Maths and some 4s in other subjects so always make sure you have a back up plan.

How to find live apprenticeship vacancies:

- Find an apprenticeship website below is the first place to look, register for an account and set up alerts:
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- NHS Jobs: <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate> Shrewsbury and Telford
<https://www.jobs.sath.nhs.uk/find-job/apprenticeships>
- Public Sector: www.wmjjobs.co.uk [Current Vacancies – Shropshire Council](#)
- Engineering; <https://in-comm.co.uk/vacancies/>
- Indeed: www.indeed.co.uk
- Rate my apprenticeship and Get my First Job: www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk
<https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/>

Job centre plus, family contacts, friends and careers events are useful too.
The Telford Apprenticeship show tends to be in March and is a great place to talk to local employers and apprentices.

Register to be told of apprenticeship vacancies at the local Colleges (on their websites) and relevant providers below as well, as many have databases of companies seeking apprentices. Just because you register it doesn't mean that you have an apprenticeship, they will just forward you vacancies for you then to go through a job interview process and there may be lots of others applying for the same vacancy.

A good time to apply is February/March of your leaving year, although some companies do recruit almost a year before so it can be wise to register on the National apprenticeship website from October onwards.

A good CV is especially important if you are looking into apprenticeships.

- <https://uk.indeed.com/career-advice/cvs-cover-letters/school-leaver-cv>
- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/cvs-and-cover-letters/example-cvs/school-leaver-cv-example>
- <https://barclayslifeskills.com/i-want-help-applying-for-jobs/school/cv-builder/#/>
- <https://careerswales.gov.wales/getting-a-job/build-a-cv/school-leaver-cv-example>

Study Programmes or Traineeships

If you feel you are not ready to go straight into an apprenticeship, need to work on your literacy and numeracy or just boost your employability skills then study programmes can allow you to try out different types of work tasters to work out what you want to do and can support you to progress into education, employment or an apprenticeship.

See Information for study Programmes at SBC, County Training, Juniper, Landau, Enable in the open day events list.