



Shoreham Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning



Post-16 Options

How does it all work?



careers@shoreham-academy.org



Post-16 Education – What are my options?

Since 2013, the Raising of the Participation Age law has stated that young people must be in some form of 'education or training' until they are 18. This can include:

Full-Time Study – this could be a qualification taken at a sixth form, college or training provider, totalling 540 hours of learning time per year, or around 18 hours per week.

Apprenticeships – this involves working for an employer while studying for a qualification as part of your training. Usually, work makes up 80% of an apprenticeship and at least 20% (or one day a week) should be dedicated to studying.

Part-Time Study with Employment or Volunteering – this could be working in a full-time job (classed as any work that takes place over more than two months and is over 20 hours per week) or volunteering (again, over 20 hours per week) while studying part-time at a college or training provider (totalling 280 hours of learning per year).

How do I pay for post-16 education and training?

Education and training in the UK are free for young people until they turn 19. In addition, there is a **16-19 Bursary Fund** to help students from low income families pay for things like transport, food and stationery, which can be accessed at any sixth form, college or training provider you attend after Year 11 - www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund

If you receive financial benefits from the government, such as **Tax Credits** or **Child Benefit**, it is important that you are aware of how these can be affected once your child leaves school. If your child is in full-time education, such as sixth form or college, your benefits will remain the same but if your child progresses into paid employment or an apprenticeship, they will no longer be considered your dependant and your benefits for them will stop. More information can be found via the **Gingerbread** website: <https://www.gingerbread.org.uk/information/benefits-tax-credits-and-universal-credit/money-when-your-child-turns-16/>

Many organisations also have their own financial support for students, so check first!

Useful Links:

<https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school>

Sixth Form Colleges



Sixth form colleges typically focus on A-Level (Advanced Level) qualifications – two-year courses that end in an overall examination and a grade from A*-E, with a similar structure to GCSEs but looking at the subject in a lot more depth. Students can study:

Traditional A-Levels – Subjects like **Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Geography, History, Languages, Religious Education, Music, Art**

Alternative A-Levels – Subjects like **Photography, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies, Economics, Politics, Sports Science**

BTEC L3 Diplomas – Some sixth form colleges offer BTEC qualifications that can be taken alongside A-Levels. These are usually made up of several separate modules and include practical assessments and coursework, as well as exams. Subjects can include **Health and Social Care, Applied Science, Travel and Tourism and Engineering.**

Students studying A-Levels usually select three or four subjects (depending on their GCSE grades) that they want to study at sixth form and if they study four, can choose to drop one subject after their first year of sixth form. Students can also choose to study a one-year AS Level qualification, which is worth 40% of an A-Level. Sixth form colleges also offer something called the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an independent project that can provide students with UCAS points to put towards university.

Entry Requirements – Most sixth form colleges usually ask students to have 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/C or above but make sure that you do your research, as some courses, such as A-Level Maths, Physics, Biology and Chemistry, require students to achieve a Grade 6 at GCSE to demonstrate their deeper understanding of the subject.

Shoreham Academy Sixth Form



You are fortunate to study in an Academy with a sixth form and provides year 11 students with the obvious pathway to further, greater independence, exceptional facilities, and excellent teaching you have come to expect. As your needs change, so does your style of learning. Students receive the support independence you expect but with the best support systems you deserve. Shoreham Sixth Form is designed around the needs of the students in order for students to go on to achieve either the best university course, jobs or apprenticeships.

Welcome to Shoreham Sixth Form

We are an ambitious and inclusive Sixth Form. We share a culture of integrity, hard work and excellence, which enables you to achieve your full potential.

At Shoreham Sixth Form, our clear purpose empowers staff and students to create a learning environment that leads to truly exceptional success.

Our specialised teaching staff deliver high-quality lessons to ensure that you are both challenged and supported throughout your learning.

You are a unique young adult and we are committed to providing bespoke education and guidance as you make some of the most important and exciting decisions of your life.

INTEGRITY



HARD WORK



EXCELLENCE



YOUR Future Starts HERE!

At Shoreham Sixth Form we encourage you to be ambitious when deciding on your destination after college. We work alongside you to secure the future you choose.

The majority of our students apply to university, with many accessing top institutions such as Oxford, Imperial College, UCL and even Harvard. Our UCAS and Oxbridge Coordinators work closely with students to support their applications and entry tests. All students attend bespoke Destination Workshops every half term helping you to decide if your next step is university, employment or an apprenticeship.

You will have the opportunity to take part in our nationally recognised work experience programme. By working on a project for a local, national or even international company, you will gain a meaningful insight into the workplace.

“Studying at Shoreham Sixth Form has helped me create a clear pathway for my future” - Madi Year 13 - Future Paramedic



SHOREHAM ACADEMY SIXTH FORM

**NEW YORK
2025**



Our wide range of courses enable all students to pursue their passion.

A LEVEL COURSES

Art and Design	Law
Biology	Mathematics
Business	Further Mathematics
Chemistry	Media Studies
Computing	Music
Dance	Philosophy and Ethics
Drama	Photography
Economics	Physical Education
English	Physics
French	Politics
Geography	Product Design
German	Psychology
Graphic Design	Sociology
History	Spanish

LEVEL 3 VOCATIONAL COURSES

Applied Science
Criminology
Dance
Food Science & Nutrition
Health & Social Care
ICT
Sport
Sport and Exercise Science
Travel & Tourism
Uniformed Protective Services

T LEVEL COURSES

T Level in Education and Early Years

ADDITIONAL ENRICHMENT COURSES

Arts Award Gold	Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
ASDAN	Football Coaching Level 1
Community Sports Leadership Award (CSLA)	Higher Sports Leadership Award (HSLA)

OUR FULL COURSE GUIDE: <https://www.shoreham6form.co.uk/courses>



SHOREHAM ACADEMY SIXTH FORM

The Extended Project

Embedding within our provision...

The Extended Project
© Shoreham Academy Sixth Form

THE EPQ SPARKS CURIOSITY AND INCREASES THE SOCIAL MOBILITY OF STUDENTS. IT ALLOWS STUDENTS TO BECOME EMERGING EXPERTS AND HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE TRANSFORMATIVE.

How To Apply

NOVEMBER

Attend our Open Evening and get a real sense of what life is like at Shoreham Sixth Form. Visit your subjects of interest and speak to current students.

DECEMBER

Application Deadline. Access the application form here:



JULY

College Induction is a time to meet the Sixth Form Team and get ready for College in September.

SPRING TERM

The college admission interview is an opportunity to talk to an expert about your subject choices and future plans, as well as reflect on your current academic progress.

AUGUST: RESULTS DAY!

Collect your GCSE results and then enrol in your college courses.

SEPTEMBER

Begin college and jump into Year 12!



Shoreham Sixth Form

A Level
BTEC
T LEVEL

INTEGRITY HARD WORK EXCELLENCE



Wraparound Support

Every student has a dedicated mentor to support your transition from school to college and ensure you are on track to succeed. You will meet with them individually every six weeks to check your progress and discuss your wellbeing.

At Shoreham Sixth Form you will have access to weekly sessions which equip you with skills and knowledge for adult life. Our mentor programme enables you to cover topics ranging from global challenges to finance and healthcare, which ensure that all our students grow as confident and engaged young people.

“The best thing about college has been the friends I’ve made along the way” - Harry Studying TV Production at the University of Bournemouth

We have a wellbeing committee and pastoral team who are there to ensure you have the confidence and support you need to achieve your very best every day.

Some Local Options:

Shoreham Academy Sixth Form - Offers A-level, BTEC and T Level Courses

<https://www.shoreham-academy.org/sixth-form/welcome>

BHASVIC Sixth Form College – Offers A-level and some BTEC Courses

<https://bhasvic.ac.uk>

Varndean College– Offer A-level and some BTEC Courses

<https://varndean.ac.uk>

Cardinal Newman Sixth Form College - Offer A-level, BTEC & T Level courses

<https://newmancollege.co.uk>

Worthing Sixth Form College - Offer A-level, BTEC & T Level courses

<https://worthing.ac.uk>



COLLEGES & TRAINING PROVIDERS

Colleges and training providers usually offer BTECs or other vocational qualifications that focus on a specific area of study in a practical way, which can include:

Vocational Colleges:

Shoreham Academy Sixth Form also offer vocational courses including a T Level in Education and Early Years.

Brighton Met & Northbrook – Offer vocational qualifications like Hair and Beauty, Engineering, Performing Arts, Motorsport & more. Campuses across Brighton and Worthing. Level 1 and 2 courses also available <https://gbmc.ac.uk>

Plumpton College – A countryside campus in East Sussex offering Land based courses <https://plumpton.ac.uk>

Brinsbury College – A countryside campus near Pulborough offering land-based courses <https://brinsbury.ac.uk>

Chichester College – A largely vocational college also offering T-levels and A-levels. Level 1 and 2 courses also available

Entry Requirements:

Entry Level/Level 1 – Can require anything from no qualifications up to 3 GCSEs (any grade)

Level 2 – Usually requires 3 GCSEs at Grade 3/D or above

Level 3 – Usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/C or above

Smaller Training Providers – In addition to the larger FE colleges, there are a number of smaller training organisations around the area and further afield that offer a range of vocational courses for students, including **Motor Vehicle, Business Admin, Customer Service, Health and Social Care, Construction, Personal Fitness, Hair and Beauty** and **Hospitality and Catering**, as well as support with **Maths** and **English** and help for students wanting to progress on to apprenticeships or work, all delivered in a much smaller environment with class sizes of 10-15 students:

AIS - [Apprenticeships In Sussex \(apprenticeships-in-sussex.com\)](http://apprenticeships-in-sussex.com)

SCTP - [About us | Sussex Council of Training Providers \(sctp.org.uk\)](http://sctp.org.uk)

Skills Training UK - [Courses - Skills Training UK](http://Skills Training UK)



APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships – Involve working for an employer in a specific role while being trained to do the job by experienced staff, in a combination of on-the-job and off-the-job training at a college or training provider (this must be at least 20% of the apprenticeship). Apprenticeships must be at least one year long; all apprentices must be paid a minimum of £4.81 per hour (although many companies pay more!). Apprenticeships can now be undertaken in a variety of industries, including **Engineering, Graphic Design, Software Development, Hair and Beauty** and **Catering** (and can be started as soon as an individual turns 16 and has left full-time education, although you can apply beforehand). Apprenticeships come in four different levels:

Intermediate/Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE) – usually requires Maths/English at GCSE

Advanced/Level 3 (equivalent to A-Level) – usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4+

Higher/Level 4-5 (equivalent to Foundation Degree) – usually requires L3 or A-Levels

Degree/Level 6-7 (equivalent to University Degree) – usually requires 3 A-Levels or similar

Local Apprenticeship Information

AIS - Apprenticeships In Sussex (apprenticeships-in-sussex.com)

SCTP - About us | Sussex Council of Training Providers (sctp.org.uk)

Skills Training UK - Courses - Skills Training UK

Other useful Links:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

<https://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/>

Maths and English resits – What are the rules?

It is important to remember that if you get lower than a Grade 4/C in your GCSE Maths and English exams, you will need to re-sit these qualifications as part of any course you study at college or as part of an apprenticeship. It is nothing to worry about, as the college or training provider will help you with studying for these qualifications or if necessary, get you to complete an alternative qualification called Functional Skills Maths and English, which is available for any students who achieve lower than a Grade 3 in their GCSE Maths/English.



T Levels were introduced in 2020, they follow GCSEs and will be equivalent to 3 A Levels. These 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work.

T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.

For more information on T-Levels, check out the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-t-levels/introduction-of-t-levels>

Preparing Your Safety Net



Although many students achieve the grades that they want from their GCSE examinations, it is important to prepare a back-up option in case students change their minds about what subjects they want to study or are unsuccessful in getting the grades required to progress on to their college/apprenticeship/course of choice.

The great news is that students can apply and accept offers from as many sixth forms, colleges, and training providers as they want and can then make their mind up about which they want to progress on to in September after visiting the environment, meeting the staff and finding out what GCSE grades they have received in August 2023!

REMEMBER – Always prepare your '*Safety Net*'!

Entry Requirements – What do I need to get in?

The changes in recent years to the GCSE grading system have confused some people, so take a look at the information below to make sure you know what grades you might need to get at GCSE in order to move on to your chosen destination after Year 11:

New grading structure	Current grading structure
9	
8	A*
7	A
6	B
5	C
4	
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

Key Points:

A **Grade 4** is a **Standard Pass**, while a **Grade 5** is a **Strong Pass**

Only around 2-3% of students will achieve a **Grade 9**, making it a little higher than the old **A***

Although the new grades don't exactly match the old grades, colleges will mostly view them as follows:

9-7 = A* - A **6** = B **4-5** = C **3-1** = D and below

Vocational qualifications like **BTEC** and **VCERT** match up with GCSEs as follows:

L1 = GCSE grades 1-3 (Pass - Distinction)

L2 = GCSE grades 4-9 (Pass - Distinction)

Most colleges, sixth forms and apprenticeships accept BTEC-type qualifications, as do **95%** of universities, including the Russell Group and Oxford!

Do your research!

No matter what you read online, it is important to check all information carefully. Although the Department for Education have stated that a Grade 4 will be considered the official 'Pass Mark' for students (<https://www.tes.com/news/new-gcse-pass-lowered-grade-5-4-dfe-u-turn>), not all colleges or universities may agree with this. For example, Kings College London and UCL both now ask for a Grade 5 at GCSE in English and Maths as part of their entry requirements, but Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool (all Russell Group universities) still consider Grade 4 the equivalent to a C. **Use ALL the information available!**

As stated above, different post-16 and post-18 pathways may ask for different entry requirements depending on the course and/or college. For example, some apprenticeships require only GCSE English and Maths at Grade 3 (D) and above, while some sixth form colleges ask for a Grade 5/6 (high C/B) in the subject students are wanting to take up from GCSE to A-Level.

Some useful references:

Which University – How important are my GCSEs? <https://university.which.co.uk/advice/gcse-choices-university/how-important-are-my-gcse-grades>

Ofqual - <https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2018/03/02/gcse-9-to-1-grades-a-brief-guide-for-parents/>

The Student Room - <https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/gcse/exams/new-gcse-grades-explained>

Qualification Levels Guide – GCSE to Degree Level

L6	University Degree (BA/BSc/BEng)	University Degree (BA/BSc/BEng)	Degree Apprenticeship (NVQ L5 + L6)
	Grades Needed: Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4/5 and 2-3 A-Levels/BTEC L3 Extended Diploma (check first!)
L5	Foundation Degree (FdA, FSc)	Foundation Degree (FdA, FSc)	Higher/Degree Apprenticeship (NVQ L4 + L5)
L4	HNC (Higher National Certificate – L4)	HNC (Higher National Certificate – L4)	
Grades Needed:	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma	Usually GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 and 1-2 A-Levels/ L3 Diploma/Extended Diploma
L3	A-Levels	L3 Diploma / Extended Diploma (BTEC or other) / Access to HE courses	Advanced Apprenticeship (NVQ L3)
	Entry Grades Needed: Usually 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or higher, including Maths and English	5 GCSEs at grade 4 or higher (usually including Maths and English)	Usually at least 3-5 GCSEs (but sometimes no formal qualifications)
L2	GCSEs (grades 9-4)	L2 National / BTEC Diploma / Functional Skills	Intermediate Apprenticeship (NVQ L2)
	Entry Grades Needed: None	3-4 GCSEs at grade 3 or higher (usually including Maths and English)	Usually none, although sometimes GCSE Maths and English and a skills test
L1	GCSEs (grades 3-1)	L1 Diploma / Functional Skills	Traineeship (preparation for apprenticeship)
	Entry Grades Needed: None	None (sometimes basic Maths and English)	None
Entry Level 3	Key Stage 3	E3 Diploma (Foundation)	–
	Entry Grades Needed: None	None	–
	School / 6 th Form	College / Further Education	Apprenticeships

How do I make my final decision about post-16?

Deciding where to go after Year 11 can be tricky, particularly while you are busy revising for your final GCSE exams, so it is important to consider the following factors that might help with decision making:

- **Where can this option take me in the future?** If you are thinking about a destination after post-16, such as university or higher/degree apprenticeships, it is important to know whether the qualifications you are taking from 16-18 can help you to progress on to these pathways. Use websites like the Russell Group's **Informed Choices** (<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>) or **Success at School** (<https://successatschool.org/>) to find out whether the course you choose after Y11 will allow you to progress on to what you want to do or speak with staff at the sixth form, college or apprenticeship you are applying to in order to get further details!

For example:

- **If you want to study Dentistry at university, you usually need to take A-Levels in Chemistry and Biology/Maths/Physics.**
- **Some universities do not accept BTEC L3 Extended Diplomas (although 95% do!)**
- **Apprenticeships have varying entry requirements – some ask for 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above while others ask for 2-3 A-Levels**
- **What will doing this option be like?** Whatever you choose to do after Year 11, you will probably be doing it for at least one year, so it is important that you know that the learning environment and style of learning will be right for you. Why not...
 - **Speak to sixth form or college staff and students at one of the many Open Days or Open Evenings that take place throughout the year – the websites for each sixth form or college will have these dates on to help make your search easier! Y11 students will also have a chance to speak to providers at an event at the school in autumn!**
 - **Research more about the sixth form, college or apprenticeship provider online to find out about what you would study as part of your qualification or what support the organisation can provide you with while you are studying e.g. help finding work experience, financial support like a free bus pass or food allowance, assistance from the careers team to help you move on after finishing your course etc. Sixth form and college websites have all the information you need!**

Want to get prepared over the summer holidays?

Careerpilot

Learn more about the options available after finishing school, including sixth form, college, apprenticeships and university – <https://careerpilot.org.uk/>



Search and apply for apprenticeships online – <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>



Free careers software to help you connect your skills, hobbies and subject interests to what you might want to do once you leave school – <https://www.startprofile.com/>



Improve your employability skills and start recording your experiences in a CV – www.barclayslifeskills.com



The school Careers Adviser, Michelle Newman, will be working with all Year 11 students from September but you can also email her at careers@shoreham-academy.org with any questions!

**Amazing information about
careers, university,
apprenticeships and options
post 16/18 on our new
careers platform**

unifrog

www.unifrog.org