

# What Options do I have after Year 11?



## OPTION 1: FULL TIME COLLEGE or SCHOOL 6<sup>TH</sup> FORM

### Local colleges:

Stoke 6<sup>th</sup> Form College [www.stokesfc.ac.uk/](http://www.stokesfc.ac.uk/)  
Stoke on Trent College [www.stokecoll.ac.uk/](http://www.stokecoll.ac.uk/)  
Newcastle College <https://nscg.ac.uk/>  
Reaseheath College [www.reaseheath.ac.uk/](http://www.reaseheath.ac.uk/)

### School 6<sup>th</sup> Forms:

St Joseph's 6<sup>th</sup> Form [www.stjosephstrentvale.com/](http://www.stjosephstrentvale.com/)  
St Margaret Ward <https://stmargaretward.co.uk/>  
St Thomas More [www.stmca.org.uk/](http://www.stmca.org.uk/)  
City College (Haywood 6<sup>th</sup> Form) [www.citycollege.coop/](http://www.citycollege.coop/)



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

### Is College for me?

*Don't assume that college is the same as school – it's not.*

#### • Similarities

- You will have a timetable to follow
- You will have tutors and deadlines
- You will have timetabled classes and your attendance will be recorded
- College have pastoral and academic teams to support your learning and wellbeing

#### • Differences

- You will have gaps in your timetable to do your own study.
- Some colleges may schedule your timetable over 3 or 4 days so that you are free to gain work experience or part time work in the remainder of your time
- Many courses are very practical (vocational)
- You will be treated as an adult but you will be expected to take responsibility for your work and meeting deadlines

### What sort of courses can I do?

#### • A-Levels (Level 3)

- Are more classroom and exam based and you usually choose 3 or 4 subjects.
- You study them for 2 years before taking your A-Level exams.
- You can choose subjects that you did at GCSE, or you could choose different subjects that you have not done before like Law, Economics, Psychology, and Sociology
- You will generally need 5 GCSEs at grade 5 or above including Maths and English. Some colleges may ask for higher grades so always check individual college entry requirements.

#### • T-Levels (Level 3)

- These are a mix of classroom learning (80%) and industry placement (20% - at least 45 days)  
To find out more look at [www.tlevels.gov.uk/](http://www.tlevels.gov.uk/)
- They are equivalent to 3 A-levels so have the same general entry requirements but check with individual colleges in case higher grades are required in specific subjects.
- Are available locally at City of Stoke on Trent 6<sup>th</sup> Form, Stoke on Trent College and NSCG - See college websites for range of subjects available.

#### • Vocational – BTEC'S/NVQ'S (Level 1, 2 and 3)

- This is a mixture of hands on learning, classroom learning and work experience
- You are assessed through course work and exams
- Courses relate to a career area like Health & Social Care, Engineering, I.T & Public Services or particular roles such as hairdresser or bricklayer.
- There are different course levels (Level 1, 2 and 3) depending on your GCSE results.

Information is accurate at the time of printing, however is subject to change. August 2023

## OPTION 2 : APPRENTICESHIPS

*An apprenticeship could be with a local company or the Armed Forces.*

- This type of learning involves on-the-job practical training
- You generally go to college or a training provider one day a week then work for 4 days a week with an employer at their premises
- You can do an apprenticeship in many career areas. To find out more about apprenticeships and search for vacancies see [Become an apprentice \(apprenticeships.gov.uk\)](https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)

### Things to think about:

- You will be training to do a specific job so you need to be sure what job you want to do long term. If you're not sure, it is better to choose a broader course with a college or training provider to help you find out more about the industry you are interested in and give you more time to decide.
- Apprenticeships can offer an excellent training and progression route but don't choose it because you think it will be an easy option. It's not; you will be working or studying for 5 full days a week. It requires a lot of hard work, commitment, motivation and maturity.
- Employers have high expectations and will be looking for applicants who can show that they are committed to their work and learning. Before deciding to give you an apprenticeship an employer will want to find out what you have done in school and your free time to prove that you will suit the job and work hard. E.g. Excellent attendance and work record at school, relevant work experience, taken part in extracurricular activities.
- **You will usually have to find your own work placement and competition for vacancies is high, so apply for a backup option e.g. a full-time college course or a study programme.**

## OPTION 3: PRE-APPRENTICESHIP (Study Programme)

If you are not quite ready for an apprenticeship when you leave school you could consider a Study Programme at a local training provider.

- This is a stepping stone onto an apprenticeship or a full-time college course or training.
- Can help to build your confidence and job skills.
- You will undertake practical work experience whilst receiving support with maths and English
- Group sizes tend to be small.

### Local Training Providers

Equality	<a href="http://equality.training/">http://equality.training/</a>
Nacro	<a href="https://www.nacro.org.uk/services/staffordshire/longton-centre/">https://www.nacro.org.uk/services/staffordshire/longton-centre/</a>
Martec	<a href="https://www.martectraining.co.uk/">https://www.martectraining.co.uk/</a>
Learn4work	<a href="#">Learn 4 Work   Learn 4 Work   Stoke-on-Trent</a>



## How to Choose?

- Don't try and decide on your next steps before you have done some research otherwise you might choose something only to find that it's not what you expected.
- Visit open events at the local colleges, 6<sup>th</sup> Forms and training providers in the autumn term. You can take parents / carers along and it is a great way to find out more and decide if it is right for you – Open dates will be provided in September
- Choose a course you think you will enjoy and work hard at but also think about what jobs it will prepare you for.
  - Can you see yourself doing this type of work long term?
  - Will it pay you the sort of salary you are looking for?
  - Are there jobs like this available locally or will you have to be prepared to relocate?
  - Will you have to go onto university or Higher/Degree apprenticeships? Are you prepared to do this?

### To find out more about your job ideas:

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors>

<https://quest.startprofile.com/world-of-work>

<https://www.ucas.com/ucas/after-gcses/find-career-ideas/explore-jobs?f=>

### If you're not sure what job might suit you, try the personality quizzes below:

<https://www.stepintohenhs.nhs.uk/careers/take-the-test> (NHS job roles that may suit your personality)

<https://www.goconstruct.org/learn-about-construction/find-the-role-for-you/ultimate-quiz/> (Construction Job roles that may suit your personality)

### For further useful websites please see the Careers section of the school website:

<https://ormistonsirstanleymatthewsacademy.co.uk/for-students/careers-guidance>

### If you have any questions:

Please contact Julie Chadwick - your careers adviser, in the Academy on [jchadwick8@ossma.co.uk](mailto:jchadwick8@ossma.co.uk) or telephone 01782 882200 (Tuesdays and Wednesdays).

