

Levels of education. What do they mean?

It is now well established that young people are required to remain in some form of education or training until the age of 18 – but this does NOT mean your child must stay at school after their GCSEs.

Even when your child has decided on their chosen job or career, it is worth exploring the variety of routes they could take. Some jobs might require getting qualifications at college (Level 1 or 2 - equivalent to GCSEs but in a vocational course – one that directly trains you for a job, or Level 3 - equivalent to A-Levels but again in a vocational course.

Other jobs might require going to college first then doing an apprenticeship, or you might be able to do an apprenticeship straight from school. Some jobs might require a university degree so doing A-Levels at school or college or achieving a Level 3 qualification at college would be necessary. Below is a summary of the different post-16 options your child has:

Level	Qualification / educational route				
8	Doctorate (PhD)		NVQ 8		
7	Masters degree (MA)				
6	Bachelors degree BA or BSc		Degree apprenticeship / NVQ 5, 6, 7		
5	Foundation degree FdA or FdSc	Higher National Diploma (HND)			
4		Higher National Certificate (HNC)	Higher apprenticeship / NVQ 4		
3	A levels Grades A-E	International Baccalaureate	T Levels	BTEC diploma BTEC certificate	Advanced apprenticeship / NVQ 3
2	GCSE Grades 4- 9 (C, B, A or A*)			BTEC first diploma	Intermediate apprenticeship / NVQ 2
1	GCSE Grades 1- 3 (D,E,F or G)			Foundation diploma / entry level qualifications	Traineeship / NVQ 1
	Academic route	Vocational route	Applied / work route		

For more information, The National Careers Service website breaks down the different levels and types of courses here:

[Post 16 options | National Careers Service](#)