

Post 16 Progression information for Parents and Carers

POST 16 PATHWAYS & YOUR YEAR 11 ROADMAP

A LEVELS



Length of Qualification

2 Year qualification focused on 3 or 4 subjects

Assessment Type

Mostly final exam and sometimes includes coursework

Entry Requirements

5-6 GCSE's at grades 4/5 – 9 including English and Maths. Some subjects require minimums of 6's

Aimed At

Students interested in going to University

BTECS



Length of Qualification

1 or 2 year qualifications focusing on specific career areas

Assessment Type

Mostly coursework based, with some practical exams

Entry Requirements

4 GCSE's grades 4 – 9, including Maths and English for Level 3. Mostly 3's for Level 2 or 1's & 2's for Level 1

Aimed At

Students who prefer coursework and want to go into work or University

T LEVELS



Length of Qualification

2 year course with 45 day work placement in specific career area

Assessment Type

Mostly exams plus an Employer Set Project

Entry Requirements

5 GCSE's grades 4/5-9, including English and Maths

Aimed At

Students who want both academic and practical learning

APPRENTICESHIPS



Qualification Type

A paid job with work-based training

Assessment Type

80% of time is in the workplace, 20% in training with an End Point Assessment

Entry Requirements

Most Level 2's and 3's require grade 4 in English & Maths

Aimed At

Students who are ready for work

September - November



Go to open events and start your applications early. Deadlines are usually in December or January, so check each College's website. You can apply to more than one college and it's wise to have a back-up choice.

January - April



Check if you need an interview, these usually happen now, either in school, at the College, or by phone. Afterward, you'll get a conditional offer if you meet the entry requirements (see College websites). If you haven't been invited, contact the College to check your application.

April - September



Interested in an Apprenticeship? Start searching for one now on the Gov.UK website to see current vacancies. Make sure you have a CV and Cover Letter ready.

Summer



Before results day, make sure you know how and when to enrol, this info will be sent to you or on your College portal. Enrolment starts once you get your results, so you'll need them to sign up. If you can't collect your results in person, tell your school so they can post them to you and check your address is up to date.



POSITIVE STEPS
SUPPORT | CHALLENGE | CHANGE

How to talk to your teen about their future

1

Accept their idea of success may be different to yours

Their dreams and ambitions might not align with your ambitions for them. This can be disappointing, but let them walk their own path.

2

It's OK if they're not sure on a career route yet

They don't need to make that decision right now. They do need to develop skills that will help them progress, and that should be their focus.

3

Encourage them to turn passions into money-makers

They're more likely to be successful (and happier) pursuing a career in something they enjoy.

4

Help them navigate their limitations

Not being academic should not be a barrier to success and there is usually more than one way to reach a destination.

5

It's OK if they change their mind!

Reassure them that if they tell you they have their heart set on one direction, then later change their minds, you won't get cross about it.

6

Encourage them to explore all their options

Help them plan out a route that focuses on their strengths. Different educational routes can often provide entry points into the same industry.

7

Help them if they are struggling to look far ahead

Setting short-term, achievable goals will help them strive towards a long-term ambition.

8

Empower them: they have control over their future

The decisions they take and what they do matters.

Next Steps

There are lots of ways to help your son find out which courses and colleges would be best for them,

- Attend **as many** college open events as possible, speak to the tutors and college students.
- Discuss the outcomes of their **career guidance meeting** If they have had one, it will be uploaded on to Unifrog.
- Support your son to make **at least two college applications**, a firm choice and a backup choice. **You don't have to decide until GCSE results day.**
- Ensure your son **attends their college interview** and help them to prepare for this. 'Why do you want to study this course' is a start
- Encourage your son to keep an open mind and to think about their strengths and what motivates them to succeed.
- Ask your son what they enjoy in and out of school. Think about different subjects, ways of working and hobbies and interests.
- You can sometimes change your course when you register at the end of August as your results might be different than you expected.
- Don't plan to be on holiday on **GCSE results day** and college enrolment day, they may give your place away if you don't turn up to register.

Many colleges are oversubscribed and the even if you apply before the deadline date, places for the most popular courses may have been filled. Our advice would be to apply before the end of November.

The contact details for our careers advisor who is in school every Tuesday.

Karin Davidson (careers advisor) KarinDavidson@positive-steps.org.uk

College Open Days 2026 (Provided to us by Positive steps)

Tameside	Oldham	Stockport	Manchester	Salford
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College	Date(s)	Time(s)	Application deadline
Tameside College www.tameside.ac.uk Go to the relevant site for the courses you are interested in: ➤ Beaufort Road ➤ Tameside One	Monday 28th September Saturday 10th October Monday 16th November	5:00-8:00pm 10am-2:00pm 5:00-8:00pm	Apply by Christmas/January especially for popular courses
Clarendon Sixth Form College www.clarendon.ac.uk	Monday 28th September Saturday 10th October Monday 16th November	5:00-8:00pm 10am-2:00pm 5:00-8:00pm	Apply by Christmas/January
Ashton Sixth Form College www.asfc.ac.uk	Tuesday 29th September Saturday 17th October	5:00pm-8:00pm 10:00am – 1:00pm	Details to be confirmed
Laurus Ryecroft Sixth Form College https://laurusryecroft.org.uk/sixth-form/home/	November – register your interest on the college website	Details to be confirmed	Details to be confirmed
Oldham Sixth Form College www.osfc.ac.uk	Saturday 26th September Monday 5th October	10:00am – 2:00pm 5:00-7:00pm	Applications open in October No deadline date yet
Oldham College www.oldham.ac.uk	Wednesday 7th October Saturday 14th November	4:30pm-6:30pm 10:30am – 1:00pm	Apply by Christmas/January
Blue Coat Sixth Form https://www.bluecoatsixthform.org/	Thursday 22nd October	6:00-8:00pm	Applications open on 22 nd October Application deadline: Friday 18th December

Stockport College https://stockport.tscg.ac.uk/	Saturday 3rd October 2026 Register on college website	10:00am – 2:00pm	Apply by Christmas especially for popular courses Applications open after 3 rd October
Aquinas College https://www.aquinas.ac.uk/ Stockport	Saturday 19th September Saturday 17th October	10:00am – 1:00pm on both days	Applications will go live on 19 th September. Deadline: 30th November 2026
Xaverian 6th Form College www.xaverian.ac.uk Booking essential – book on the college website from September	Saturday 10th October Sunday 18th October	10:30am-2:00pm 10:30am-2:00pm	Deadline: Friday 18th December Complete: Online application form Personal Statement Staff Reference School will provide predicted grades
Loreto 6th Form College www.loreto.ac.uk Booking essential – book on the college website from September	Saturday 10th October Sunday 18th October	10:00am – 12:00 or 1:00pm -3:00pm on both days	No deadline info yet Complete: Online application form Personal Statement Staff Reference School will provide predicted grades
The Manchester College www.tmc.ac.uk Across different sites – check which one offers the courses you are interested in Register to attend on college website	Tuesday 6th October Saturday 14th November	5:00-7:00pm 10:00am – 1:00pm	Apply by Christmas especially for popular courses Applications open in October

Connell College https://www.connell.ac.uk/	Thursday 15th October	4:00-7:30pm	No deadline information on website yet
Access Creative College https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/campuses/manchester/ Manchester city centre	Saturday 17th October Complete online form on website and check for further open event dates		Apply by Christmas/January
Salford City College – check college website for bus pick-up points across Manchester. Some sites accessible by tram.			
Pendleton 6th Form College https://pendleton.salfordcc.ac.uk/	Saturday 19th September Thursday 22nd October	10:00am – 12:00 5:00pm-7:00pm	Apply by Christmas/January
City Skills https://cityskills.salfordcc.ac.uk/	Monday 5th October Saturday 14th November	5:00pm-7:00pm 10:00am – 12:00	
Worsley College https://worsley.salfordcc.ac.uk/	Tuesday 6th October Tuesday 10th November	5:00pm-7:00pm 5:00pm-7:00pm	
Future Skills Media City https://futureskills.salfordcc.ac.uk/	Wednesday 7th October Saturday 7th November	5:00pm-7:00pm 10:00am – 12:00pm	
Eccles College https://eccles.salfordcc.ac.uk/	Wednesday 30th September Thursday 12th November	5:00pm-7:00pm 5:00-7:00pm	

Year 11 college assemblies - Term 1

College Name	Date Attending
Ashton Sixth Form College	Monday 21st September
Laurus Ryecroft	Monday 28th September
Xaverian College	Friday 2nd October
The Manchester College	Monday 12th October
Oldham College	Monday 19th October
Loreto College	Friday 23rd October
Clarendon College	Monday 2nd November
Tameside College	Monday 2nd November

We have a **careers fair on the 6th October** when all these are attending plus open events that you can visit regardless of your projected grades.

The grades to put on college application will be the ones from the 23rd October.
College references will usually use the projected grades from you Mock exams that you receive in January 2027.