

The Parents and Carers Guide to Careers at Norlington School and 6th Form



Introduction

The decisions young people make from an early stage at school can have a big impact on their future career choices and happiness. As parents you have a vital role to play in this career journey.

This guide is designed to provide an overview of how you can help support your son with these important choices. It will provide you with useful websites, relating to Post 16 and Post 18 options. Local and national labour market trends, apprenticeships, courses, colleges etc.

Decision Making



Your son has more options available for their future than ever before, such as:

- The changing nature of jobs
- Education options
- Apprenticeships
- Training opportunities
- Colleges/6th Forms/Unis
- Course choices/levels/combination of courses

For any questions or further information please contact Ms. M McPortland
mmcportland@norlington.school

How you can help?

Make an appointment to speak to Ms McPortland (Careers Leader in school) and Ms Gwen Tackney (Careers Adviser) at the next parents evening or make an appointment within school. They will be able to help answer any questions you may have about your son's career plans.



Talk to your son about careers, find out what they are interested in, what they know already, encourage them to talk about it to you, their friends, school staff and the career professionals in school.



Ask them about their results on Fast Tomato, it is an online careers based tool. Log in with your son and research options and pathways. Your son will have a code and these Log-ins are available from Ms. McPortland.

As young people make choices and plans for the future, your son needs support from the people who know them best.....their families.

Outside of school hours, encourage your son to find out about which courses, job and training opportunities are available locally.

There are alternatives now from the age of 18, you can go to University or pursue an Apprenticeship opportunity. There are School Leaver schemes who may fund your son through University and also offers training and a job within that firm afterwards.

Make the most of open day opportunities at Colleges/schools. It is important to explore all of the options. Your son will be provided with a list of all the Open Day times and dates of the local 6th Forms and Colleges.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. My son has no idea about which career he wants to do. Where do we start with finding options?

A. The first step is helping them to understand that there is no pressure to choose a career now. After all they may find themselves doing a career in the future which doesn't even exist yet! The important thing is that they understand how what they are doing now at school will benefit them in the future. If they want to start exploring their options you should encourage them to understand themselves first. What do they like doing both inside and outside school? How does what they do in those activities relate to careers?



Q. I want to make sure that my son chooses a course which has good career prospects. What should I do?

It's always good to look at industries that are growing and employing more people, but remember that there are new careers emerging all the time so your son might find themselves doing a career which doesn't yet exist. Part of your son's decision making, when choosing a career, should be an evaluation of how many opportunities there are in the sector.

Some careers are highly competitive. If your son is interested in a career that is competitive don't rule it out but encourage them to develop a backup plan.

Q. What can I do to help my son get the skills that employers want?

A. Encourage your son to engage in activities they are interested in and has a careers-link to them. If you enjoy what you do, it will never feel like work. For example: If they want to write, they could publish a blog, If they are interested in ICT, they could learn to repair a PC, write programmes, create their own website etc. if they want to teach or a career in sport, they could volunteer at a local club or Primary School.

Q. I'm concerned about the cost of university. Should I still encourage my son to go?

A. The increase in university tuition fees and living costs has caused some people to question whether a degree is the right route. It is important to remember that your son won't be expected to pay back loans for fees and living expenses until they are earning at a specified level. Also Universities and the government are looking into alternative repayment structures of student fees. Whilst university does not guarantee a job, there are occupations where a degree or similar is essential or expected.

Going to university will equip your son with a broad range of skills and experiences. However, for a lot of careers, university isn't the only option. Many employers now offer a work-based training route for both 16 and 18-year-olds.

Q. What A-level subjects or GCSE subjects should I encourage my son to do? He hasn't a clue what to pick?

A. If your son has some career ideas they should explore which subjects are essential and desirable for those careers. If he is thinking about going to university, some courses have specific A-level and GCSE entry requirements so investigate those.

If he is thinking about applying for a School Leaver Scheme, the employer may request specific subjects and predicted grades from applicants.

If your son is unsure about their longer term plans, the best advice is to encourage them to keep their options open by choosing subjects that will offer the maximum number of career options.

Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience

Every student in Year 10 has the opportunity to complete a 2 week work experience placement. This usually happens from the third week in January each year. Preparation for this starts in the Summer term in Year 9, where your son is encouraged to begin the process in finding his placement.

100% of students who researched and found their own placements recorded the highest grade of satisfaction in their work experience.

Analysis of the reports and feedback from those students who found their own placements have proven to be the most successful. Guidance and more information on how to support your son through this process can be found within the Work Experience Guide on the website.

29% of employers say experience is critical when recruiting young people, and a further 45% say it is significant.

The British Army Work Experience

There are over 300 different roles and jobs within the British Army and this is an opportunity for students to sample a week in an Army work experience programme. They will look at the types of jobs and careers available within the Army, while also furthering their own experiences and developing their self-confidence and leadership skills. This opportunity is open to any student from Years 10-13 who are physically fit. These work experience visits happen twice a year. Please contact Ms. McPortland for further information.

Year 12 Work Experience

Did you know lack of experience is the number one reason why employers turn young job applicants away?

'Real world' experience can add importance to a student's CV, improve confidence and it can bring credibility in a personal statement and at interviews. We at Norlington School and 6th Form believe work experience gives you an advantage.

In Year 12 every student must complete a work placement. This provides the vital link between the academics of A-Level life and the World of Work. This work placement can range from 1 day to 2 weeks and it is a great way to gain exposure and skills within a company.

There are a large number of companies offering **work experience** days and weeks to 16-18 year olds. There is a strong representation from the finance industry and investment banks such as Credit Suisse, from professional services firms such as Ernst & Young, from legal firms such as Pinsent Masons and Old Square Chambers and from media companies such as The Guardian. Help and guidance will be provided for your son during this process.

This work experience is a compulsory component of his Year 12 study and must be completed during his non-school time.

Labour Market Trends: Locally & Nationally

The UK labour market is currently experiencing a dramatic shift in the types of work available and also in the way we work. Your son will experience a world of work which will be very different from the ones we experienced. I have included some useful websites which may help you to access the research for local and national trends and also to help future planning. It may be useful in finding out the kinds of jobs available, the skills required and to give you an insight into a career/job which may be in the greatest demand in the future.

Useful Websites:

This is the Government Website which gives National Labour Market Statistics.

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/methodologies/aguidetolabourmarketstatistics#jobs>

It looks at:

- areas of the UK and the types of jobs
- Part-time/Full-Time statistics
- Rates of Pay
- Employment and unemployment Figures
- Growth job areas

These are the Waltham Forest Labour Market Statistics

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket>

<https://walthamforest.gov.uk/content/statistics-about-borough>

These look at local labour market information

Websites which look at the Future of Careers and the World of Work

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-labour-market-projections-2014-to-2024>

Labour Market predictions

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543301/WF Headline Presentation v3.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/543301/WF_Headline_Presentation_v3.pdf)

Careers for the future and the changing Labour Market

Other useful websites

Apprenticeship Guides

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2019/01/Parent-Pack-January.pdf>

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/>

Websites which can help with: Decision Making/Information on Careers/Advice/Interview Skills/Career Pathways/Applications and more:

<https://successatschool.org/>

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>

<https://icould.com> (Real life career videos, advice and information).

<https://www.careersadviceforparents.org/>

<http://www.parentalguidance.org.uk>

A Level decision making

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

www.UCAS.co.uk

Post 16 Pathways

What are A-Levels?

A-Levels are traditional qualifications offered by Colleges and 6th Forms. They focus around academic subjects and are qualifications which are highly valued by universities and employers.

How are they organised?

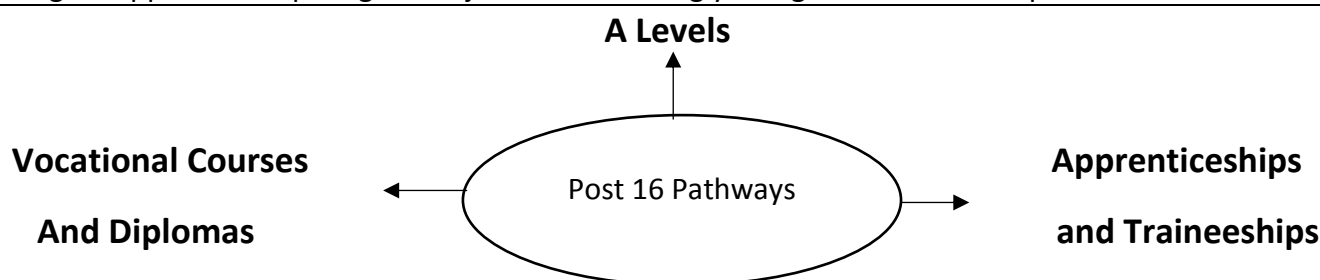
An A-Level takes two years to complete. Each student will usually select 4 subjects to study and the learning is in much more depth than at GCSE. Expect to spend a lot of time researching, refining, reading and writing up assignments

How are they assessed?

A-Levels are assessed through examinations with some coursework dependent upon the subject.

What can they lead to?

A-Level students usually intend to progress to university after their studies. However, they may also opt for a higher apprenticeship. High level jobs do still strongly recognise the A-Level qualification.



What is a vocational course?

These are work-related qualifications that professional bodies and employers helped to develop. For eg: BTEC's/OCR Nationals. They cover a wide variety of different industries and skills. They come in 3 different levels according to your previous qualifications or experience: The Award, Certificate and the Diploma.

How is it organised?

Most courses take between 1-2 years to complete. Where you can progress through the stages towards a Diploma.

How are you assessed?

Through a mixture of practical and written tests and modules. These are graded as Pass, Merit and Distinction.

What can this lead to?

Vocational qualifications prepare you for further learning and work. You could study higher level qualifications at college or University.

What is an Apprenticeship?

An apprentice is work based learning and you are employed by a company, it is a job.

How is it organised?

An apprentice is required to attend college to learn new skills which they are expected to develop while working. An apprenticeship usually lasts for 3 years.

How are you assessed?

Continual assessment which differs between courses and providers.

What can an apprenticeship lead on to?

85% of apprentices are given full time employment within the company which helped in their training. Higher apprenticeships are also available in some companies and are the equivalent to a degree based learning.

	A-Levels	APPRENTICESHIP	VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	<p>Most courses ask for any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The minimum of 5 GCSE's at Grades 5 and above. -A set average points score of all your GCSE grades -The average points score of your best 6 grades -a total score of your best 6 grades -The total score of all your GCSE's -You may also need good grades in certain subjects. <p>Different Schools and Colleges will have different entry requirements.</p>	<p>You must be between 16-24 years of age. Other entry requirements vary because you are applying for a position within a company, so do your research carefully.</p>	<p>These depend on where you study and at what level you study. For an Award (Level 1), you will need to show evidence of your academic grades in at least 5 subjects.</p> <p>Certificate (Level 2), you will need 5 GCSE grades at levels 2-5, or a good pass at Level 1.</p> <p>Diploma (Level 3), you will need 5 good GCSE grades at Level 4 and above or a good pass at Level 2.</p>
SUGGESTED LOCAL PROVIDERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norlington School and 6th Form • Leyton Sixth Form College • Sir George Monoux College • Lammas 6th Form • Highams Park 6th Form • Holy Family College 6th Form • Walthamstow Academy 6th Form • City of Westminster College • City and Islington College 	<p>Applying for an Apprenticeship is applying for a job, but here are some local training providers who can help with your search.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vision Express • Network Rail • Apprenticeship Connect • Calex (Vehicle, engineering) • Skillnet Ltd • London Housing Direct Ltd • Intequal (IT) • Royal mail • Future London <p>(You can run a general search for apprenticeships in Waltham Forest, they also have travel distances for a filter)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waltham Forest College • Leyton Sixth Form College • City & Islington College • Sir George Monoux College
FOR MORE INFORMATION	<p>For general information about A-Levels, visit www.A-Levels.co.uk</p> <p>For information on which A-Levels some university courses require then visit: www.UCAS.com</p> <p>Also speak to your subject teachers about A-Levels in different subjects. Also book a meeting with the careers professionals in school.</p>	<p>For general information on apprenticeships visit: www.apprenticeships.org.uk</p>	<p>Visit the websites for all of the colleges above and download their prospectus.</p>

