



HUMBER



# THEIR **FUTURE** THEIR **CHOICE**

## Careers Guide for Parents/Carers

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- Future pathway options
  - Advice for Year 11 students
  - Find and apply for courses
  - Useful tips and advice
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## EXPLORING OPTIONS

Future beyond school

School leavers

Your son or daughter

OPPORTUNITIES

Tips and advice

Future pathways

Their next steps

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# NEXT STEPS

For your son or daughter  
in the Humber



**Supporting your son or daughter to make the right decisions in life is never an easy task. Deciding which path to take can seem overwhelming for them; and knowing how to offer support without influencing their decisions can be difficult for you.**

This handy guide has been brought to you by the Humber Outreach Programme and the Humber Careers Hub. We want to strip out the jargon and give you the information you need to help you support your son or daughter in understanding their career choices and plan their next steps.



# ABOUT US

The Humber Careers Hub is part of a national initiative from the Department for Education, led by the Careers and Enterprise Company to improve careers education for 11-18 year olds. Careers Hubs connect employers with schools and colleges across England to deliver world class careers education. To find out more please visit: [www.careersandenterprise.co.uk](http://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk)



**Our aim is to ensure that young people receive the information, advice and guidance they need to be well prepared to enter the world of work.**

We know when young people fail to receive high-quality careers guidance they are less likely to progress to a fulfilling and rewarding career. When young people do not receive, it reduces the number of suitable employees who hold the right skills, qualifications and experience that employers are looking for. As more and more businesses see the region as a place to invest and grow; working alongside employers; we want to ensure that talent is developed, nurtured and retained and the skills and expertise of young people ensure the continued growth and prosperity of the region.

## THE HUMBER OUTREACH PROGRAMME

(HOP) is one of 29 Office for Students partnerships throughout England. We work with higher education institutions, schools, academies, colleges and community groups across the Humber region.

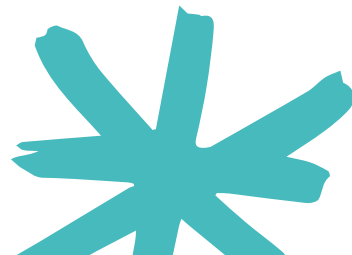
HOP aims to raise the expectations of young people from less advantaged backgrounds through exciting and challenging opportunities, with the goal of increasing their awareness of and participation in further and higher education. We aim to provide impartial advice and guidance to contribute towards confident choices about future pathways and decision-making.

You can find out more about HOP and see our resources by visiting: [www.hop-humber.co.uk](http://www.hop-humber.co.uk)



# WHERE DO WE START?

**It's not easy for you as a parent or carer to know where to start when supporting your son or daughter. We often expect young people to know what they want to do in the future; now more than ever before there are so many options available; together we just need to help them make sense of what is available to them.**



All young people are different, they learn in different ways and not all opportunities will suit everyone. If your son or daughter enjoys more active learning, through practical experience, then they may not particularly enjoy classroom based learning in the future. Similarly if they enjoy academic classroom based lessons, getting an apprenticeship and learning on the job might not suit them.

A career is a lifelong journey it's likely that during a working life people experience many different job roles. If your son/daughter has their heart set on a specific job role right now, that's great! However, the world of work is always changing and the choices they make now, do not mean that they won't be able to change their career direction in the future, so don't put too much pressure on them to get it perfect straight away... not everyone does!



## What do we need to know?

The law says that your son/daughter must participate in further education or training until they are 18 years old. They have three main options to consider:

- **to study full-time within a school, college or university**
- **to do an apprenticeship or traineeship**
- **to get into full-time employment or volunteering (more than 20 hours a week) but this must be combined with part-time study or training.**

There are lots of people around who can help to support you and your son/daughter to make these choices. You might find it useful to talk to extended family, friends or teachers and ask for their advice. Your son/daughters school will also have a designated Careers Leader whose contact details will be on the school website.



# UNDERSTANDING THEIR OPTIONS - YEAR 11

Choosing what to do at the end of Year 11 can be confusing if a young person isn't sure about what they want to do in the future and the different qualifications and levels available to them. Up until now your son/daughter will have had limited options around the qualifications they have been able to study. Now they have more choice – they can make choices about their own learning and the qualifications that go with it. These choices can influence their options for future education or employment.



## Why are qualifications important?

Qualifications alongside experience open the doors to more opportunities in education and work. You should encourage your son/daughter to take their qualifications seriously because:

- 1** On average, people with qualifications earn more in their lifetime than those who don't have qualifications.
- 2** Qualifications prove to potential employers that they have what it takes to do the job and are willing to learn.
- 3** Qualifications may give a greater choice of jobs to choose from (some jobs require certain levels of qualifications; this is important to consider when deciding on future careers and when making post 16 choices).
- 4** Gaining qualifications boosts confidence and gives the motivation to continue learning and studying.

## What are their qualification options?

- **Academic** – studied at school/college and can lead to university, an apprenticeship or a job.
- **Applied General (e.g. BTECs)** – studied at college/school and can lead to university, an apprenticeship or a job.
- **Tech Levels (T Levels)** – studied at college or in an apprenticeship and can make you job ready or lead to university.
- **Occupational** – taken in an apprenticeship or work and can be described as on the job training.



# UNDERSTANDING QUALIFICATION LEVELS

**Now that you know what qualification options there are, let's look at what the levels mean.**

There are not only different qualification options which your son/daughter can choose to take but there are also different levels of qualifications. These qualifications relate to how complex the learning in the qualification is. The higher the level, the more complex the qualification will be to complete. In total, there are nine levels of qualifications. You will normally be expected to complete one level before progressing to the next. When your son/daughter finishes school, it is important that they work to a level that best suits them, based on their prior attainment. Trying to achieve too much too soon is likely to make it harder for them and de-motivate them from completing their studies.

## Qualification levels explained:

### Entry Level

1, 2 or 3 Entry Level Awards, Certificates and Diplomas, Functional Skills at Entry Level

### Level 1

GCSE's 1-3 NVQ Level 1, Introduction Diploma, Certificate, Cache Diploma, Skills for Working Life, Functional Skills Level 1, OCR Nationals/Foundation

### Level 2

Five GCSE's grade 4-9, NVQ Level 2, BTEC First Diploma, Functional Skills Level 2, OCR Nationals, Cambridge Technicals Level 2

### Level 3

Minimum of 2 A Levels, NVQ Level 3, BTEC Awards, Certificates & Diplomas at Level 3, BTEC Extended Diplomas, OCR Nationals, Cambridge Technicals Level 3

### Level 4

Degree, Foundation Degree, HNC or HND, NVQ Level 4/5 FULL



## TOP TIP:

**Schools, colleges and employers will be able to advise on appropriate levels and how long they may take to complete.**



# UNDERSTANDING PATHWAYS

It is important that your son/daughter understands all the different pathways/options and what they entail to ensure they pick the best route for them. Every school, college and training provider offers a different type of learning experience and a combination of different qualifications.



## School Sixth Form

Where students complete Year 12 and 13 within their current or a new school, full time courses, often reflective of a school curriculum.



## Sixth Form College

Generally for students progressing directly from Year 11, bigger than school sixth forms, with a wider choice of subjects and courses.



## Further Education College (FE College)

Generally quite large with lots of students of all different ages studying full and part time courses. FE colleges offer a wide range of subjects, courses and facilities.



## Specialist Colleges

Some students choose to attend specialist colleges. These are colleges usually outside of the local area and may mean moving away from home. Specialist colleges offer a range of courses, and may include courses for young people with disabilities or learning difficulties.



# POST 16 \* OPTIONS

## GCSEs

GCSE is the qualification taken by 15 and 16 year olds to mark their completion of the Key Stage 4 phase of secondary education in England. They have a 9-1 grading system with Grade 9 being the highest grade.

## BTEC Nationals

Give you a broader knowledge of a particular sector or industry. They are available in a range of sizes which are equivalent to one, two, or three A levels. They can be taken in combination with other qualifications. They are level 3 vocational qualifications that provide specialist, work-related learning across a range of sectors and are designed to equip students with the specialist knowledge, practical skills and understanding they need to progress along their chosen learning and career paths.

## A Levels

Advanced Level qualifications (known as A Levels) are subject-based qualifications that can lead to university, further study or training. You can normally study three or more A Levels over two years. They are usually assessed by a series of examinations. You normally need at least five GCSEs at grades 9 to 4/A\* to C; at least grade 4/5 in the specific subject(s) you want to study. However, the specific requirements needed to study A Levels will vary across schools and colleges. It's important to check what you will need with the sixth form or college you are looking to study at.



T Levels are new courses which follow GCSEs and are equivalent to 3 A Levels. They are 2 year courses, which launched in September 2020, they have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training or study. T Levels offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). There are a range of different subjects that T Levels can be studied in, but these courses will become available at different times over the next few years.

## Apprenticeships

If your son/daughter chooses to take the apprenticeship option, they will work and earn money at the same time as they are learning and gaining a formal qualification. An apprenticeship combines hands-on training in the workplace with study at a local college or training provider. Students must be over 16, live in England and have finished school to be able to start an apprenticeship. There are different levels of apprenticeships and the entry requirements vary depending on the vacancy they are applying for. There are 100's of different types of apprenticeship vacancies in almost every type of industry and job role and all pay at least the national minimum wage for apprentices.

### TOP TIP:

**Apprenticeships need to be applied for during Year 11, but they won't start until June or after when your son or daughter has finished their exams and courses.**

# PLANNING A PATHWAY?



Work through these statements with your son / daughter and record their answers



# UNDERSTANDING THEIR OPTIONS – YEAR 13

## Keeping up with studies

This is the most important thing to do while your son/daughter decides about their future. Ensure they keep on top of all their homework and coursework for their subjects/courses and submit this work on time. Make sure they begin to test their knowledge to ensure they really know the subject(s) well.



### Is your son / daughter still unsure about what career they want?

Ask them to take the buzz quiz to see what sort of careers would suit them best: <https://icould.com/buzz-quiz/>. You can then research job profiles on the internet with them.

There are hundreds of different job profiles for them to look at with details of the qualifications they may need plus career prospects and salaries.

To help them consider the pros and cons of University vs Apprenticeship take a look at [www.whatcareerlive.co.uk/parents](http://www.whatcareerlive.co.uk/parents).

Speak to your child's school/college careers leader or adviser. They have a huge amount of knowledge and will be able to give lots of information which will help them decide what they want to do. They will have up to date information about the current pandemic and how this is affecting University visits, apprenticeship applications etc.

Research whichever option(s) they are thinking about, as research is key. Knowledge is power. The more they find out about their options the more informed their final decision will be.



# KEEP IN TOUCH:

University Higher Education is study after the successful completion of Level 3 qualifications, usually A Levels leading to higher national diplomas, foundation degrees, undergraduate or post graduate degrees. This is usually undertaken at a university or higher education institution. Make sure your son/daughter finds out as much information as possible. This could include attending (virtual) Open Days, asking questions, emailing the university or speaking to students who are already there.



Get them to find out as much information as they can about the course they would like to undertake and the city or town they could potentially be living in.

Start with the complete University Guide Then look at the UCAS website where you will find out all you need to know about applying for University. You can find a list of University and college virtual open days on the following websites: **> UCAS > Open Days > WhatUni?**

Ask your son/daughter to start thinking about their personal statement. If they need support, they can receive additional help from their teachers/tutors or school careers advisers. Don't forget to get them to refer to past work experience/Duke of Edinburgh Award/volunteering/clubs and societies. This is their chance to stand out from the rest.

Help on how to write their personal statement can be found on the UCAS website.

A Further Education College includes any study after secondary education that's not part of higher education (that is, not taken as part of an undergraduate or graduate degree). This includes vocational qualifications.

Colleges of Further Education have Open Days during the autumn term. Make sure that your son/daughter attends these events to find out more about the course(s) that they may wish to study. Course information will be on the college's website. Get your son/daughter to ask the lecturers questions, speak to other students to get a good feel for what the course will be like on a day to day basis.

Always consider what your son/daughter intends do after they finish their course when considering these options.



# YEAR 13 APPRENTICESHIPS

If your son / daughter decides to take the apprenticeship route, they will work and earn money at the same time as they are learning and gaining a formal qualification.

An apprenticeship is a combination of hands-on training in the workplace with off-the-job training at a local college or training provider.



Apprenticeship levels are set and equivalent to as follows:

- 2 Intermediate (GCSEs)
- 3 Advanced (A-Levels)
- 4 Higher (Foundation Degree)
- 5 Higher (Foundation Degree/first year of Bachelor's Degree)
- 6 Degree (Bachelor's Degree)
- 7 Degree (Master's Degree)

You must be over 16, live in England and have finished school to be able to start an apprenticeship.

There are different levels of apprenticeships, the entry requirements will vary dependant on the vacancy you apply for.

There are 100's of different types of apprenticeship vacancies in almost every type of industry and job role they all pay at least the national minimum wage for apprentices.

**Internship** - an internship is a period of work experience offered by an employer to give students and graduates exposure to the working environment, often you will find this is within a specific industry, which relates to their field of study. They can be paid or unpaid. Some internships are paid whilst others are not. It might be worth bearing this in mind when making this decision. If you are going to move away from home, you should look to undertake a paid internship.

Research the apprenticeship opportunities available in and across the Humber. <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

What level of apprenticeship does your son/daughter want to go for? If they are thinking about University or an apprenticeship then it is likely to be level 4, 5 or 6.



# TOP TIPS AND HINTS

For a young person finding opportunities may seem like a confusing process, however it doesn't have to be! Share and discuss these hints and tips with your son/daughter to help them get started. Hopefully, by now, they will have an idea now of what they want to study and most importantly enjoy, what type of job they can see themselves doing in the future and the qualifications they need.

The next step is finding the institution who offers what they are looking for. When looking for opportunities, there are a few things to think about; do they want to stay local to where you currently live or would they prefer to move and/or travel, this can help to slim down the options of where they would like to study. **Finding full and part-time education:**

- > **Look at school and college prospectuses and websites**
- > **Attend open days / evenings virtually and in person**
- > **Encourage your son/daughter to speak to their careers adviser**
- > **Use personal networks, family, friends, teachers**
- > **Look for job vacancies online and in newspapers**
- > **Visit local recruitment agencies for training and employment opportunities**
- > **Contact local businesses in person and ask them if they have any opportunities**



HUMBER OUTREACH PROGRAMME



Hull and  
East Yorkshire  
Local Enterprise  
Partnership

Website: [www.hop-humber.co.uk/](http://www.hop-humber.co.uk/)

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