

A guide to Post-16 Options

Here is a guide to Post-16 Options for all school leavers. Applications take place at the start of Year 11 (September to December), applications can continue throughout the year but this is the period to apply to get the best chance of securing a place. For alternate options such as the traineeship from the council, or the functional skills learning – these do not need to be applied to until the end of Year 11.

All applications can be done online. For colleges and sixth forms simply apply via their websites which usually take around 20 minutes to register and select a course.

Many colleges allow students to select up to 5 options to allow them back-up choices. All students are recommended to apply for at least 1 back-up option whether that is at the same place of study or somewhere else.

Qualification Levels

GCSE qualifications are separated into two levels depending on the grade achieved (see the table below). The same level qualification can be achieved other ways – see the third column below. A breakdown of all the levels (including the higher levels) can be found here - <https://www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels>

Qualification Level	Achieved by	Also Achieved by
Level 3	A-Level	Advanced Apprenticeships, L3 BTEC Diplomas
Level 2	GCSE Grades 4-9 / A*-C	Functional Skills Level 2, L2 BTEC Diplomas, L2 Apprenticeships
Level 1	GCSE Grades 1-3 / D-G	Functional Skills Level 1, L1 BTEC Diplomas
Entry Levels 1-3	Skills For Life	Entry Level version of Functional Skills, Diplomas and other courses

Progression Entry Requirements

All Entry Requirements that require GCSE's include needing Maths and English as two of the required grades.

Students can progress on to the next level up after successfully completing each level at a Merit Grade (Diplomas have 3 grade tiers that go from Pass to Merit to Distinction) as long as they either successfully achieve Maths & English at a Level 2 pass (see above) or continue to study them. Therefore, if they progress through college years then they will not have needed to have achieved the grades required in any other subjects that are needed to progress straight from school.

*Below are the grades generally required and there are exceptions for different colleges and courses so some may ask for different grades or number of grades.

Course	Grades Generally Required*
A-Level	4 or 5 x GCSE Grade 4's or 5's
Apprenticeship or BTEC Diploma Level 3	4 x GCSE Grade 4's
Apprenticeship or BTEC Diploma Level 2	4 x GCSE Grade 3's
BTEC Diploma Level 1	2 to 4 x GCSE Grade 2's

Supported Traineeship or Foundation / Pathway / Introduction to College Course	None
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Post-16 Progression Options Summarised

Foundation and Entry Level courses

Foundation / Entry Level courses generally require no GCSE grades and act as an introduction to the course and college and require a Merit grade to progress on to a Level 1 diploma course. From there students can progress through each level as long as they achieve a Merit each time and to move up to Level 2 diploma they generally need to get English and/or Maths GCSE at grade 3/D which they will do as part of their Foundation and/or Level 1 course.

A full list of these courses that each college offers can be found below. They focus on specialist support for SEND and generally require an EHCP to apply. Those listed in italics do not require an EHCP and are therefore not so focused on SEND support.

Colleges	SEND & <i>Foundation Options</i>
Alton College (part of Havant & South Downs College – HSDC) www.altoncollege.ac.uk	<i>Creative Arts, Skills For Independence, Vocational Studies (Tasters) - HSDC Course Finder - Browse and find the right course for you HSDC</i>
Basingstoke College of Technology (BCOT) www.bcot.ac.uk	Prospects (Employability Skills) (bcot.ac.uk) (Employability Skills + WEX) --- Foundation Learning (bcot.ac.uk)
Bracknell & Wokingham College www.bracknell.ac.uk	Skills For Independence - Courses - Bracknell and Wokingham College (activatelearning.ac.uk)
Farnborough College of Technology (FCOT) www.farn-ct.ac.uk	Pathways, Life Skills, Employability - Sector – Farnborough College of Technology (farn-ct.ac.uk)
Farnham College www.farnham.ac.uk	Independent Living - SEND - Farnham College (activatelearning.ac.uk)
Guildford College www.guildford.ac.uk	Pathway To Independence (Tier 3 offers Tasters) - Courses - Guildford College (activatelearning.ac.uk)
Merrist Wood College www.merristwood.ac.uk	Pathway To Independence - Courses - Merrist Wood College (activatelearning.ac.uk)
Queen Mary's College www.qmc.ac.uk	Level 1 and Entry Courses Queen Marys College (qmc.ac.uk) Includes Tasters in Swimming, PE, Drama, Art or Business Studies, Health and Social Care, Media, Employability
Sparsholt College www.sparsholt.ac.uk	Foundation Studies Programme Sparsholt College Vocational routes include Tasters or Focus in Horticulture, Floristry, Agriculture, Animals, Horses
The Future Skills Centre – Bordon @ BCOT www.bcot.ac.uk/bordonfsc	Future Pathways (FSC) (bcot.ac.uk)

Vocational BTEC Diploma Level 1 & 2 courses

To enter at the higher levels straight from school then they usually need;

Level 1 courses generally require 4 GCSE's at grade 2/E (inc Eng Lan & Maths)

Level 2 courses generally require 4 GCSE's at grade 3/D (inc Eng Lan & Maths)

Functional Skills Level 1 qualification is the equivalent of a GCSE grade 3/D and is accepted.

Functional Skills Level 2 qualification is the equivalent of a GCSE grade 4/C and is accepted.

Below is a table of subject areas and which colleges offer them

There are some courses which only a small number of places offer;

Merrist Wood and Sparsholt specialise in outdoor courses and are located in the countryside with the environment and facilities to cater for these courses.

Those highlighted in green are offered by all places of study except the ones listed. The ones in white are only offered by the places listed.

For exceptions; Merrist Wood and Sparsholt are not listed as they **only** offer specialist outdoor courses.

Course	College
Accounting	Andover, Bracknell & Wokingham, FCOT
Aeronautical Engineering	FCOT
Animals	BCOT, Merrist Wood, Sparsholt (+ South Downs, Brinsbury)
Agriculture	Merrist Wood, Sparsholt
Arboriculture & Countryside Management / Forestry	Merrist Wood, Sparsholt
Art & Design (generally includes Graphic Design)	All
Basketball	Bracknell & Wokingham
Business / Economics	All
Butchery	Sparsholt
Catering / Food	BCOT, FCOT, Guildford, Newbury
Childcare	All <i>except Farnham</i>
Computer-Aided Design (CAD)	Guildford
Conservation (Environmental & Wildlife)	FCOT, Merrist Wood, Sparsholt
Construction	Andover, BCOT, Bordon Future Skills Centre (BCOT), Bracknell & Wokingham, FCOT, Guildford, Newbury
Construction Multi-Skills Trades	Bordon Future Skills Centre (BCOT)
Counselling	Bracknell & Wokingham, Guildford
Criminology	All <i>except BCOT, Bracknell & Wokingham, Farnham, Guildford, Newbury</i>
Dog Grooming	BCOT (PT only), Merrist Wood
e-sports	QMC
Electronics	QMC
Engineering	BCOT, Bracknell & Wokingham, FCOT, Guildford, Newbury
Equine (Horses)	Bracknell & Wokingham, FCOT, Merrist Wood, Sparsholt
Fashion	Alton, FCOT
Fishery	Sparsholt
Floresty	FCOT, Merrist Wood, QMC
Football	Bracknell & Wokingham, Newbury

Football Academies	Bracknell & Wokingham, Newbury, QMC, Sparsholt
Football Coaching	Merrist Wood, Newbury
Games Design	Alton, Andover, BCOT, FCOT, Farnham, Guildford
Geography	<i>All except BCOT, Bracknell & Wokingham, Guildford, Newbury</i>
Graphic Design (or take it as part of Art & Design)	Andover, Bracknell & Wokingham, FCOT, QMC
Hair & Beauty	BCOT, Bracknell & Wokingham, FCOT, Guildford, Newbury
Health & Social Care	<i>All except Farnham</i>
Horticulture	FCOT, Merrist Wood, Sparsholt
Humanities / Social Sciences HPS (History, Psychology, Sociology)	<i>All except BCOT, Guildford, Newbury</i>
IT / Computing	<i>All except Alton</i>
Landscaping	Merrist Wood
Law	<i>All except BCOT, Newbury</i>
Lifeguard	QMC
Make-Up & SFX	Guildford
Media & Film	<i>All except Bracknell & Wokingham, FCOT, Newbury</i>
Medicine	Farnborough 6 th
Motor Vehicle / Mechanics	Andover, BCOT, Bracknell & Wokingham, FCOT, Newbury, Sparsholt
Music	<i>All except BCOT, Bracknell & Wokingham, Guildford, Newbury – Tech only</i>
Music Tech / Sound Engineering	Farnham, Newbury, QMC
Outdoor Events	Merrist Wood
Performing Arts / Drama	<i>All except BCOT, Bracknell & Wokingham</i>
Personal/Fitness Training	QMC, Sparsholt
Photography	<i>All except Andover, BCOT, Newbury</i>
Politics	<i>All except BCOT, Farnham, Guildford, Newbury</i>
Public Services	Alton, Andover, BCOT, Bracknell & Wokingham College, FCOT, Merrist Wood, Newbury, Sparsholt
Sport	<i>All except Farnham & Guildford</i>
Sport Coaching	Sparsholt
STEM Core - English, Maths, Science	<i>All except Newbury</i>
Teaching	Andover, FCOT, Guildford
Travel & Tourism	<i>All except Alton, Andover, Newbury</i>
Veterinary Nurse	Sparsholt

A-Levels

A-Levels are Level 3 qualifications and usually require a minimum of Grade 4 at GCSE in at least English and Maths. Most colleges and 6th Forms offer these.

Supported Traineeships

If they want to go into work in an Apprenticeship and feel they are ready for that step but don't have the entry requirements then they can do pre-apprenticeship first, these are called Traineeships and offer supported work experience. Here are the ones in Hampshire that offer specialist support for SEND;

Hampshire Futures -

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hampshirefutures/yourfuture/workingandtraining/supportedinternship>)

Alton College - [Supported Internship | HSDC](#)

Farnborough College - <https://www.farn-ct.ac.uk/course/traineeship/APTRAIN>

Guildford College – [RARPA Supported Internship - Guildford College](#)

activatelearning.ac.uk) plus they also offer a pathway version - [Pathway to Supported Internship - Guildford College \(activatelearning.ac.uk\)](#)

Functional Skills

To gain Functional Skills qualifications in Maths and English if not achieved at school, these can be done on any Foundation or Level 1 college course or can be done on their own here;

Inclusion Hampshire - <https://inclusionhampshire.org.uk/post-16/careers>

Skills2Achieve - <https://www.enhamtrust.org.uk/skills2achieve>

These are programmes they can start at any time. Inclusion Hampshire is more dedicated 1:1 support for learning needs than Skills2Achieve is.

Also...

Extra Support

Hampshire Futures offer extra support to those students up to the age of 25 who aren't yet ready to progress or don't know what they want to do next through their STEP Programme (this can include travel training, CV & application help, info about different careers & opportunities and more) -

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/hampshirefutures/yourfuture/workingandtraining/careershelp>

Other Support

Here's some resources you may not be aware of that may be of help;

List of College SEND contacts and info (from Hampshire's Local Offer for SEND) -

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/results.page?familychannel=6-1-4>

Hampshire SENDIASS – <https://www.hampshiresendiass.co.uk>

Hampshire's Local Offer for SEND -

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/localoffer.page>

CWSNF - <https://www.childrenwithspecialneeds.co.uk>

College SEND Contacts

SEND Department contacts for each college can be found here –

[Colleges and post-16 - Search Results | Family Information and Services Hub \(hants.gov.uk\)](#)

Specialist courses only offered by some colleges

Course	College
Catering / Food	BCOT, FCOT, Guildford, Newbury
Fashion	Alton, FCOT
Floresty	FCOT, Merrist Wood, QMC
Games Design	Alton, Andover, BCOT, FCOT, Farnham, Guildford
Graphic Design (or take it as part of Art & Design)	Andover, Bracknell & Wokingham, FCOT, QMC
Hair & Beauty	BCOT, Bracknell & Wokingham, FCOT, Guildford, Newbury
Make-Up & SFX	Guildford
Public Services	Alton, Andover, BCOT, Bracknell & Wokingham College, FCOT, Merrist Wood, Newbury, Sparsholt

Animals

Course	College
Animals	BCOT, Merrist Wood, Sparsholt (+ South Downs, Brinsbury)
Dog Grooming	BCOT (PT only), Merrist Wood
Equine (Horses)	Bracknell & Wokingham, FCOT, Merrist Wood, Sparsholt

Sport & Fitness

Course	College
Basketball	Bracknell & Wokingham
Football	Bracknell & Wokingham, Newbury
Football Academies	Bracknell & Wokingham, Newbury, QMC, Sparsholt
Football Coaching	Merrist Wood, Newbury
Lifeguard	QMC
Outdoor Events	Merrist Wood
Personal/Fitness Training	QMC, Sparsholt

Trades & Outdoor

Course	College
Agriculture	Merrist Wood, Sparsholt
Arboriculture & Countryside Management / Forestry	Merrist Wood, Sparsholt
Conservation (Wildlife & Environmental)	FCOT, Merrist Wood, Sparsholt
Construction	Andover, BCOT, Bordon Future Skills Centre (BCOT), Bracknell & Wokingham, FCOT, Guildford, Newbury
Construction Multi-Skills Trades	Bordon Future Skills Centre (BCOT)
Horticulture	FCOT, Merrist Wood, Sparsholt
Landscaping	Merrist Wood
Motor Vehicle / Mechanics	Andover, BCOT, Bracknell & Wokingham, FCOT, Newbury, Sparsholt

Most Colleges offer these courses

Course	College
Art & Design (generally includes Graphic Design)	All
Childcare	All <i>except Farnham</i>
Criminology	All <i>except BCOT, Bracknell & Wokingham, Farnham, Guildford, Newbury</i>
Health & Social Care	All <i>except Farnham</i>
IT / Computing	All <i>except Alton</i>
Media & Film	All <i>except Bracknell & Wokingham, FCOT, Newbury</i>
Music	All <i>except BCOT, Bracknell & Wokingham, Guildford, Newbury – Tech only</i>
Performing Arts / Drama	All <i>except BCOT, Bracknell & Wokingham</i>
Photography	All <i>except Andover, BCOT, Newbury</i>
Sport	All <i>except Farnham & Guildford</i>
Travel & Tourism	All <i>except Alton, Andover, Newbury</i>