

What are my options after year 11?

Study full-time

Schools, colleges and training providers offer a range of subjects and courses that you can study full-time.

You can study:

- **subjects: A Levels:** These are good if there are subjects you like and want to study further, or if you are planning to go to university.
- You normally need to have at least five GCSEs at grades 9 to 4
- **work and job-related courses: Applied General Qualifications, BTECs,** are good qualifications to take if you want to combine hands on, practical learning with studying subjects and technical skills. They are specialist courses which relate to particular jobs, sectors, or subject areas. Depending on what qualifications you take, you can go on to further education, training, or employment, or you can go to university.

Apprenticeships & Traineeships

You can also choose to train while you work by taking on an apprenticeship or traineeship

Apprenticeship: You work for an employer and train to do a specific job at the same time. There are over 280 types of apprenticeship for over 1,500 job roles – anything from engineering to boat-building, or veterinary nursing to accountancy.

Traineeship: Gets you ready for work or for doing an apprenticeship. They last from six weeks to six months and provide essential work preparation training, literacy and numeracy skills and work experience to get an apprenticeship or other job.

What are the differences between A levels and Vocational Qualifications?

- ▶ Depending on your sixth form you may have the choice to study A levels on their own or alongside Applied General Qualifications. Further Education Colleges will offer Applied General Qualifications and also T Levels.
- ▶ A Levels are academic and general qualifications and Applied General Qualifications are courses that are about a vocational area and more practical. T Levels are technical qualifications, equivalent to 3 A Levels that combine classroom study and work placements.

They are:

- ▶ Equivalent to each other in terms of grading for example an A Level grade A is equivalent to a BTEC Distinction grade.
- ▶ You can gain UCAS tariff points and progress on to university study with either A Levels, Applied General Qualifications or T Levels.

What are the differences between A levels and Vocational Qualifications?

A Levels

- ▶ You usually take 3 or 4 different A Level subjects (or can do one or two alongside an Applied General Qualification).
- ▶ A Levels are general and academic and are a good choice if you want to keep your career options open.
- ▶ Choose a subject you enjoyed at GCSE or pick up a new subject such as Law, Economics or Psychology.
- ▶ Some degrees and universities will only accept specific subjects and grades for entry to certain degree courses at university.
- ▶ A Levels do not suit everyone. They are usually assessed at the end of two years by final exams, so you need to be good at independent study, revision and exam technique .

What are the differences between A levels and Vocational Qualifications?

Applied General Qualifications (Vocational)

- ▶ These qualifications are known as Applied General Qualifications or known by the exam board they take e.g. BTEC
- ▶ There are a wide range of Applied General Qualifications available, from animal care to performing arts and business to graphic design at lots of different levels.
- ▶ These qualifications offer the underpinning knowledge of a subject, practical skills and relevant work experience. So these courses will suit you if you have an interest in a specific job area eg Health and Social Care.
- ▶ These subjects can be taken alongside two A Levels at school or as one course equivalent to two or three A Levels at college.
- ▶ Generally there are less exams and a range of different assessment methods are likely to be used - such as assignments, tests, observations of learner performance, role-play, work-based assessment, production of visual or audio materials and products. These courses tend to suit people who prefer coursework to exams.
- ▶ Most student progress on to university to study a degree or go on to an apprenticeship after these qualifications.
- ▶ If you are intending to study at university in the future it is worth checking if your vocational qualification will allow you to access the course that you are interested in studying, as some course have restrictions.

T Levels - new for 2020

The government is introducing a new qualification in 2020 called T Levels. T Levels are Level 3 technical qualifications that relate to a vocational area. They are equivalent to 3 x A Levels.

What are T Levels?

- ▶ New two year Level 3 qualifications - equivalent to 3 x A levels
- ▶ Lead to a specific occupation and available in a whole range of different areas from Cyber Security to Wildlife Management.
- ▶ Designed by professional bodies, employers and universities so that they are relevant and up to date.
- ▶ Include at least 3 months work experience and opportunity to build transferable skills and knowledge related to the job area.
- ▶ Progress on to apprenticeships, jobs and university.

Who are they for?

- ▶ They are for 16 - 19 year olds who want to focus on developing skills and knowledge of a specific occupation or job sector.
- ▶ Only a few colleges are offering the new T Levels so you will need to check with the college you would like to study with.

(Current colleges that are offering certain T levels are: HOW/WCG – Leamington /Solihull College.)

Apprenticeships

- ▶ Apprenticeships provide an opportunity to:
- ▶ Gain an insight into the reality of working in a job area;
- ▶ To develop the skills required to work in that type of employment;
- ▶ Get paid.

Traineeships

- ▶ If you are aged 16 to 24 and not quite ready to start an apprenticeship, you could consider a Traineeship. Traineeships are designed to help young people who want to get an apprenticeship or job, but don't yet have the appropriate skills or experience. Traineeships aim to prepare young people for their future careers by helping them to become 'work ready'.

Help with choosing your post 16 options

- ▶ A good place to start planning your post-16 options is to think of these three questions.
- ▶ Where am I now? (What qualifications, skills, and interests do I have?)
- ▶ Where do I want to get to? (What would I like to be doing in 5 years time – job, living away from home, etc?)
- ▶ How will I get there? (What course, training or future job is likely to get me where I want to go?)
- ▶ Of course, at 16, you don't necessarily know the answers to all these questions, but now is the time to start exploring information about careers, jobs and courses.
- ▶ If you really aren't sure about what you want to do in the future then 'stay broad' - do a broad range of subjects so that you can decide later!
- ▶ It might also help to get advice from people who know you well (like parents & teachers) or ask Mrs Hale your school careers adviser.

Open Events

Now is the time to visit open events at Sixth forms and Colleges.

Stratford-upon-Avon College -Virtual Open Events are taking place from Monday 2nd November to Wednesday 11th November.

Students are able to book online for the sessions now at <https://www.stratford.ac.uk/news-and-events/virtual-open-event/school-leaver-virtual-open-event/>

The sessions are split up into each individual subject areas and students can book onto as many as they like. Lecturers will be leading the sessions and there will be an opportunity to ask them any questions at the end. Once registered, students will be sent a link to the Zoom session(s) they have expressed interest in using the email address they provide in the form, so it is important they check these regularly.

With open events and campus tours not possible currently, they have collated a range of content to give you an experience as close to a real open event as possible.

WCG – A group of colleges. Royal Leamington Spa, Rugby, Moreton Morrell, Pershore, Warwick Trident, Evesham, Malvern Hills.

Virtual (online-only) Open Events in October & November. Book a place. Bookings open end of September.

College Tours – Open October & November. Book a place (first come, first served basis). Bookings open the end of September.

Visit: wcg.ac.uk/openevents

HOW - visit [howcollege.ac.uk /openevents](http://howcollege.ac.uk/openevents)

Hartpury – visit Hartpury.ac.uk/open events. Virtual open days are: Saturday 26th September/Saturday 24th October/Saturday 28th November. Book your place.

Sixth forms – open events

AGS – Thursday 12th November. More details to follow. Dates for tours will be:

Week commencing 16th, 23rd and 30th November 2020

Week commencing 11th & 18th January 2021

Tours will run at 9.15 / 9.45 / 10.20 / 10.50 / 11.40 / 12.10 and last approx. 25minutes.

Please email sixthform@alcestergs.com to make enquiries.

St Benedict's – Virtual open evening - Tuesday 17th November. More details to follow.

Stratford High – Virtual tour& online events these will run throughout November/December/January. Visit - www.stratforduponavonschool.com for more details.

Chipping Campden – Virtual open evening – Thursday 5th November. See school website for more details.

Prince Henry's – TBC

Mrs Hale will be available in the Career Zone at Break & Lunch times if you need to see her.

Please pop in!

Now is the time to start being proactive and plan your future.

Brand new Leamington Football Club Academy in partnership with Pershore College.

This is a fantastic opportunity for any keen footballers who might be moving onto college in September 2021. WCG have had a partnership with Leamington FC for two years, running a similar programme at Moreton Morrell College.

LEAMINGTON FC FOOTBALL ACADEMY

Open to learners aged 16-18, the successful applicants will study for a **BTEC L3 National Extended Diploma in Sports Coaching and Development**, allowing for sports enthusiasts to pursue a career in the sports industry or higher education.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

Students will have the opportunity to join the men's academy and be coached by an expert team of coaches.

The course is over 5 days a week where players benefit from up to 10 hours of additional football a week and play their fixtures in either the National youth U19 or Association of Colleges league at the club's 3000 capacity Phillips 66 Community Stadium. Students also receive season tickets to Leamington Football Club and chances to train with the first team and attend scouting opportunities from Leamington Football Club.

Chosen players on a weekly basis will be rewarded with training with Leamington FC 1st team, who currently play only two divisions outside the football league. Outstanding players will be given the opportunity to trial at professional clubs.

APPLY NOW

Apply for the course online at wcg.ac.uk - search for '[Leamington Football Academy](#)'.

TRIALS

Football trials are taking place on **Friday 30 October 2020, 11am - 1pm at Pershore College-**
If you are interested book onto a trial ASAP - contact details below.

GET IN TOUCH

For further information please contact either WCG Pershore's admissions team on 0300 456 0049, email info@wcg.ac.uk or Mark Fogarty at Leamington FC on 07564 926231, email mark.fog@hotmail.co.uk