Your future, your choice, move on!

Post-16 options

Information held in this booklet was correct at the date of printing (August 2016)

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Email: careersservice@warrington.gov.uk
Website: www.careersforyoungpeople.co.uk

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About

How will this booklet help me?

This booklet tells you about the choices you have around your education, employment or training options from when you are 16 years old and beyond.

Here, you can find information about different types of qualifications and what they can lead to.

This booklet will give you the information to start thinking about what is right for you:
• school sixth form
• college
• an apprenticeship
• a job with training
• a traineeship

All young people are now required to continue in education or training until their 18th birthday, or until a level 3 qualification is gained (whichever comes first).

Your options are:
• remain in full time education
• go on an apprenticeship
• get a job - however there must be some accredited training with the job (e.g. one session per week or once per week)
When deciding the right pathway for you, you need to consider the following:

- The GCSEs you have achieved or might achieve
- How you like to learn
- Where you would like to study - ensuring you consider how you will get there
- What you want to do in the future

Over the next few pages, you can find more detailed information about the different options.

All qualifications have a level which indicates the academic achievement. You can look at the ‘How do qualifications compare?’ table on the next page to find out how different qualifications relate to each other.
## How do qualifications compare?

Use this grid to see what level your qualifications are at and what qualifications they could lead onto afterwards.

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GCSEs taken in 2017 will be the first year of the implementation of new Progress 8 performance measure, whereby English and Maths new GCSE grades will be 1-9. In all other GCSE subjects grades A*-G will continue to be awarded and in the case of Btec courses students will receive pass, merit or distinction awards. If you are confused about what this means for you and your post 16 options, please discuss with your current school and/or your planned post 16 school or college.
Pathways

If you already have a Level 2 qualification when you leave school (the equivalent to 5 A*-C GCSEs), you may want to move on to a Level 3 course, like A Levels or a Level 3 vocational qualification.

If you haven’t reached a full Level 2 yet, or you want to improve in some subjects, you may want to retake 1 or more GCSEs alongside other Level 2/3 qualifications.

If you don’t think you are going to achieve a Level 1 qualification (for example, GCSEs at grades D-G), you may want to look at different study programmes, a traineeship or a re-engagement activity as your next step, or you could talk to a local college about what courses may suit you (see page 21 for details).

*If you haven’t achieved an A* - C GCSE in Maths and/or English, you will be required to continue to study these subjects.*
16 to 19 years Study Programmes

Study programmes are about ensuring that you are able to study at the next level based on what qualifications you already have, and the level of course you do is designed to meet clear education and career aspirations, such as moving into employment or going into higher education.

Study programmes incorporate all courses for 16-19 year olds, and include the following elements:

- A qualification that links to suitable progression opportunities, such as employment, training or higher education.

- Work towards GCSE A* - C grade in Maths and/or English, or other qualifications if appropriate, such as functional skills.

- It may include work experience related to the vocational area of the study programme, which develops employability skills and creates potential employment options.

- It also includes other activities unrelated to qualifications, that develop skills, attitudes and confidence that supports progression.

While on a study programme you might be eligible to apply for Bursary Funding to help with travel and other expenses. The school or college you will be studying with will have further information.
“Paul has a learning difficulty and has been supported since leaving school by the Careers for Young People service to achieve his ambition of becoming an Outdoor Activity Instructor. Paul was referred to a variety of organisations to gain some voluntary work experience to help him achieve this, he is now studying a full time Outdoor Activity Leadership Course”
Entry and Level 1 programmes

There is no overarching qualification at these levels; instead you will work on a personalised programme that leads to a mix of small, flexible qualifications, as a basis for progression to further learning to Level 2, or employment.

Programmes could contain a significant amount of time in a work experience placement if this is required to help you progress.

You will be required to take Maths and/or English if you have not achieved A* to C GCSE.
Re-engagement activities

If you have few or no qualifications and need a little extra support to re-engage into learning, maybe you didn’t like school or you’ve had a break due to ill health or other issues, help is available.

- Youth Services have local activities in the community and Warrington Youth Club may also have something that would interest you, such as the National Citizen Service.
- The Families Information Service website has information on things to do and places to go. www.warringtonchildren.org
- Careers for Young People run its own re-engagement programme and can advise you on a range of re-engagement activities and courses that are available in Warrington and surrounding areas. Please contact us for more details; visit our website www.careersforyoungpeople.co.uk, email us careersservice@warrington.gov.uk or telephone us 01925 442211
- The Brighter Futures team offers support through mentorship, by matching you with a volunteer mentor who can help you through a difficult period of time and support you in those initial stages to re-engage into learning or work.
- Interserve Learning and Employment offer a support service called #LIFEGOALS, offering a range of activities to provide young people with the skills needed to secure employment or a training opportunity. Contact the team on 0333 444 2770, email WTON.GOALS@interserve.com or alternatively visit their website ILE.BUZZ/GOALS
Traineeships

Traineeships are an ideal route to go along if you are motivated and want to get an Apprenticeship or job but lack the skills and experience that employers are looking for. They offer a high quality work placement, practical work preparation training and the opportunity to improve your English and Maths, if needed.

A Traineeship can last up to a maximum of six months with content tailored to meet your individual career needs and while you are on the programme you may still be able to claim welfare benefits, in addition to your employer potentially supporting you with expenses like transport and meals through a bursary.

You can apply for a Traineeship if you’re:
  • eligible to work in England
  • unemployed and have little or no work experience
  • aged 16 to 24 and qualified below Level 3

For real vacancies and more information take a look at www.gov.uk/find-traineeship
“Jason didn’t attend much school after Year 10 due to family problems. When Jason turned 16 Julie became Jason’s Education & Employment Adviser and visited him at home and found out he was interested in Construction work. She organised for him to attend an interview at Cornerstone Construction Training Centre and as he lived quite far out of town Julie supported him to get a bus pass. Jason completed Cornerstone training and moved onto a successful apprenticeship with a local employer. ”
Level 2 or equivalent qualifications

A full Level 2 qualification is the equivalent to 5 GCSEs at grade A* - C, and there are lots of different study programmes to reach this level, including Awards, NVQs and BTECs. These are work-related qualifications which can give you the skills needed for a broad area of work, or train you for a specific job. Courses are often practical and involve hands-on projects, although some may involve examinations.

You can do these types of qualifications at School Sixth Forms, Colleges or Private Training Providers.

Apprenticeships can also be achieved at Level 2 - see page 16 for more details

You will be required to take Maths and/or English if you have not achieved A* to C GCSE.
“Claire gained 5 GCSE grades at D-G, she wanted to improve her grades in order to continue into further education, she was provided with impartial information from the Careers for Young People service and is now enrolled on a course with a local training provider to gain equivalent qualifications.”
Level 3 qualifications:

A levels (short for Advanced Levels) and vocational qualifications

A levels are available in over 45 subjects, from English and Maths to Psychology and Business Studies. You can study A levels alongside other qualifications such as Btecs, NVQs or other vocational qualifications. A levels and AS levels are taught in a similar way, but A levels are more advanced and take longer to complete. AS levels are similar to the first year of an A-level course.

AS level results used to count towards your final A level result. This is changing now, so while you will still be able to study an AS level alongside the first year of your A level course, your A level result will be based entirely on the exams you do at the end of the two-year course. These changes are being introduced gradually, but all subjects will have moved to the new system by 2017. These changes may have an effect on your decisions this coming September, therefore please discuss with the School Sixth Form or College you are planning to attend to ensure you are aware of your options.

Vocational qualifications combine both examination and coursework, with some practical assessments or work experience, therefore combining practical work with academic learning. These qualifications can also lead to further study at University, Apprenticeships or Employment. You can often take them alongside A levels or GCSEs.

You can do these types of qualifications at School Sixth Forms or Colleges. Private Training Providers may also deliver Level 3 vocational qualifications.

Apprenticeships can also be achieved at Level 3 - see page 16 for more details.

You will be required to take Maths and/or English if you have not achieved A* to C GCSE.
Apprenticeships

On an Apprenticeship you study for qualifications while working and you learn the skills you need for the job that you are doing.

There are various levels of Apprenticeships depending on your current skills and qualifications and the requirements of the job:

- Intermediate Apprenticeship (Level 2)
- Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)
- Higher and Degree Apprenticeship (Level 4 and above)

Your Apprenticeship will take between one and five years to complete depending upon the level and the sector that you are working in.

Most of the training is delivered in the workplace learning from the people next to you. The rest of the training is provided by a Learning Provider, either at your place of work, off-site, perhaps at college or via e-learning.

All Apprenticeships are real jobs so all apprentices earn a salary. You will earn at least the national minimum wage for apprentices - £3.30 (increasing to £3.40 in October 16) – note: many employers pay significantly more.

You can apply for an Apprenticeship if you’re:

- 16 or over
- Living and eligible to work in England

For real vacancies and more information take a look at www.getingofar.gov.uk

If you are not quite ready for an Apprenticeship, or a job, a Traineeship (see page 11) is a great way to go.

You will be required to take Maths and/or English if you have not achieved A* to C GCSE.
Jobs

You may want to find employment or a part-time job to do alongside a course. We can provide you with information about looking for work at the Careers for Young People Centre and on our website www.careersforyoungpeople.co.uk

If you are working or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week, then this means you must either be doing an apprenticeship, or you are carrying out some form of accredited training. This training can be linked to your job, or it can be totally separate to your job.

If you would like to convert your job into an apprenticeship and gain a recognised qualification then we can help you to do this. Contact us for more details; visit our website www.careersforyoungpeople.co.uk, email us careersservice@warrington.gov.uk or telephone us 01925 442211.
Transport

Please be aware when choosing a place to study that Warrington Borough Council does not usually fund post 16 transport.

You can get more information on Warrington Borough Council post 16 transport policies from www.warrington.gov.uk
Information for young people with additional needs

Ask Ollie is Warrington’s dedicated website which provides the Local Offer for parents, carers, children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). It provides information about services which are available in their area and how to access them. The Offer includes details of education, health and social care services for children and young people from birth to 25 years of age.

The Local Offer will:

• Provide you with information about education, health and care services
• Help you to access additional help, including leisure and support activities
• Provide information to help plan the next stage of your life (e.g. moving to college or into employment)

Who is it for:

• Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities aged 0-25
• Parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs
• Professionals

How to find out more:

You can get all the latest information regarding the local offer at: www.warrington.gov.uk/localoffer
Warrington has two specialist schools which have been purpose built to provide the additional educational support to meet the needs of young people with special educational needs and disabilities with an education and health care plan.

Green Lane Special School  01925 811617

Foxwood Special School    01925 811534

The two schools sit within Woolston Learning Village, offering state of the art specialist resources for young people aged 4-18 years old, with a college on site for young people aged 16 years old and above. The village provides students with exclusive access to tailor-made learning environments to enable them to reach their fullest potential.

Warrington mainstream schools sixth forms, FE colleges and sixth form colleges also cater to individual SEND needs and may be able to provide a suitable educational offer. Please see page 22 Useful contacts.

For more information please visit the Ask Ollie website www.warrington.gov.uk/localoffer

**Warrington Play and Sensory centre**

Warrington play and Sensory centre is a purpose built activity centre for children and adults with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. It offers a number of different areas where relaxation or play can take place. The facilities have been developed to be fully accessible, with access to a hoist and fully adjustable changing bed.

Visit www.warringtonsensorycentre.org
For further careers information, advice and guidance

If you are in School, College or attend a Private Training Provider, it is the responsibility of that educational establishment to provide you with advice and guidance on your progression options.

The Careers for Young People service is responsible for helping young people remain in education until they are 18. We are happy to work with you when you leave school or college. There are qualified staff who can help you to:-

• Find the right course/training opportunity by providing careers guidance.
• Find an apprenticeship or job with training.
• Write a CV, complete application forms and prepare for interviews.
• Search for local job vacancies and provide you with tips on how to find a job.
• Access information about welfare support, benefits and available grants.

Please be aware that Local Authorities have the legal responsibility for confirming the destination of every young person, so every so often the Careers for Young People service may contact you to confirm whether you are in learning or work. They will also offer you support if you want help to find and apply for a course, or want help to get a job.
Useful contacts
If you have any questions or would like further information on anything in this booklet, please contact the Careers for Young People service.

Tel: 01925 442211
Email: careersservice@warrington.gov.uk
Drop in: Come along to the Careers Centre in Contact Warrington, Horsemarket Street for an informal chat
Visit: www.careersforyoungpeople.co.uk

Other Useful Contacts
This list is not in order of priority and may not include all provision available in Warrington.

Colleges and School Sixth Forms in Warrington
• Birchwood Community High School (Birchwood College) - 01925 853500 www.birchwoodhigh.org
• Bridgewater High School & Appleton College - 01925 263919 www.bridgewaterhigh.org
• Future Tech Studio - 01925 494321 www.futuretech.warrington.ac.uk
• Great Sankey High School (Barrow Hall College) - 01925 724118 www.greatsankey.org
• Kings Leadership Academy - 01925 817939 www.kingsleadershipacademy.com
• Lymm High School - 01925 755458 www.lymmhigh.org.uk
• Priestley College - 01925 633591 www.priestley.ac.uk
• UTC Warrington - 01925 737067 www.utcwarrington.org
• Warrington Collegiate - 01925 494494 www.warrington.ac.uk
Look out for open days and events at all Colleges and Schools in the area

Out of Area Colleges and School Sixth Forms

- Carmel College - 01744 452200
  www.carmel.ac.uk
- Mid Cheshire College - 01606 74444
  www.midchesh.ac.uk
- Myerscough College - 01995 642222
  www.myerscough.ac.uk
- Riverside College - 0151 2572800
  www.riversidecollege.ac.uk
- St Helens College - 0800 996699
  www.sthelens.ac.uk
- Sir John Deane’s College - 01606 810020
  www.sjd.ac.uk
- Wigan and Leigh College - 01942 761600
  www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk
- Winstanley College - 01695 633244
  www.winstanley.ac.uk
- Reaseheath College - Further Education 01270 613242.
  Higher Education 01270 613284  www.reaseheath.ac.uk
- Trafford College - 0161 8867070
  www-trafford.ac.uk

Other Education Providers

- Cornerstone Training - 01925 550180
  www.cornerstone-training.co.uk
- Instant Training - 01744 26677
  www.instanttraining.net
- Power in Partnership - 01928 581459
  www.powerinpartnership.co.uk
- YMCA Training - 01925 571499
  www.ymcatraining.org.uk
Apprenticeship and Traineeship Providers

- Babcock Training 0800 7318199 www.babcock.co.uk
- Babington group 01925 415198 www.babington.co.uk
- BT www.btplc.com
- CITB 0344 994 4422 www.citb.co.uk
- Dawn Hodges Associates 0151 336 6900 www.dhassociates.co.uk
- Economic Solutions 0161 233 2656 http://economic-solutions.co.uk
- GP Strategies 01925 412840 www.gpsta.co.uk
- Learndirect 0800 101 901 www.learndirect.com
- North Lancs training Group Ltd 01254 395355 www.ntlg.co.uk
- Remit Training 0845 8399 200 www.remit.co.uk
- Total People 01606 734000 www.totalpeople.co.uk
- Training 2000 01254 54659 www.training2000.co.uk
- TTE Engineering and Laboratory Apprenticeships 01642 770337 www.tte.co.uk
- Warrington Collegiate 01925 494494 www.warrington.ac.uk
- YMCA Training 01925 571499 www.ymcatraining.org.uk

Re-engagement Activities

- Brighter Futures - youth activities 01925 851029 www.warrington.gov.uk
- Careers for Young People 01925 442211 www.careersforyoungpeople.co.uk
- Families Information Service 01925 443131 www.warringtonchildren.org
- Princes Trust programme 07748 320529 www.princes-trust.org.uk
- Warrington Youth Club and National Citizen Service 01925 581226 www.warringtonyouthclub.co.uk
Volunteering

- Do-it https://do-it.org
- vInspired https://vinspired.com
  0207 960 7000
- Warrington Voluntary Action www.warringtonva.org.uk
  01925 246880
- Brighter Futures www.warrington.gov.uk
  01925 851029

Higher Education

www.ucas.com
Higher Education

Higher education courses are usually studied at universities, university colleges and higher education institutions. However, they can be studied at specialist colleges, for example art and music, and some further education colleges, including Warrington Collegiate.

The courses studied can be degree, HND, foundation degree etc. and can be full-time for two to four years, or part-time for up to five or six years. The usual entry route is through A levels or another Level 3 qualification and you may be required to have certain GCSE grades. Each University will state their own entry requirements and it is advisable that you check the entry requirements in order to ensure your post 16 course will enable you to access your chosen University and course.

Higher education courses can look very similar and may even have the same name, but their content and structure can differ massively, some courses will include a sandwich year, work experience placement or year abroad, it is recommended that you explore the course modules and these differences to make sure it is right for you.

Choosing a university is a big decision and could be a considerable expense, so how do you pick one that is right for you? Here are a few factors to consider:

• Differences between courses at different universities
• Academic reputation and graduate employment rates
• Can they meet personal support needs
• Tuition fees, financial support and scholarships
• Location and distance from home
• Accommodation – campus, shared house, or live at home
• The cost of living and available part time jobs
• Local culture and social activities
• Sports and other facilities
• Transport links
As part of your research, ensure that you give yourself enough time to visit the universities which you are considering, take a look on the universities websites for open days or ask your college or sixth form if they are arranging a visit.

Don’t forget that your Personal Statement can be just as important as your results; ensure that you spend some of your time during the next few years obtaining relevant experience and subject knowledge to support your application. You can get help with completing your personal statement and application form via college, sixth form or by visiting UCAS or The Complete University Guide websites. It is advisable to submit your UCAS application early, if possible by the end of November for the following September intake.

**Other Higher Educational routes**

Higher educational qualifications can also be achieved through distance learning, such as The Open University. Distance learning higher education providers offer a variety of undergraduate courses which have minimal or no formal entry requirements. Courses offered are studied through supported distance learning, allowing you to study flexibly to fit around other commitments.

Further information about higher education courses and support can be found on the following websites;

- UCAS [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- Open University [www.open.ac.uk](http://www.open.ac.uk)
- Student Finance [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)
- The Complete University Guide [www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk](http://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk)

Some FE colleges also have an HE education offer, which can be found on their websites or via UCAS.
Warrington Labour Market Intelligence

Labour market intelligence is based on a collection of facts that are analysed and interpreted in order to provide insight into the potential future employment opportunities.

Warrington is an important centre for employment and has a higher job density than either the North-West or the national averages, with more than 1 job available for each resident aged 16-64 yrs (ONS, 2016). Warrington’s largest employment sector is professional, scientific and technical, followed by retail and construction.

Based on a multitude of factors, including existing skills gaps and scheduled infrastructure growth, the Warrington economic forecast predicts that the future key areas of growth by employment share in Warrington will be:

- Engineering related to energy and infrastructure (potential significant growth area)
- Health and social work (due to an ageing population)
- Business services
- Distribution and logistics
- Communications
- Computing services
- Miscellaneous services (entry level jobs eg postal activities, cleaner, warehousing)

Technological changes, including advances in artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and ensuing automation have potential far reaching consequences for the labour market. In the digital industry, emerging technologies including cyber security, mobile technologies and cloud computing may also affect the nature of future skills required.

Further detailed labour market intelligence for Warrington can be found on the www.careersforyoungpeople.co.uk website or national sector information http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/ier/ngrf/lmifuturetrends/