



THE SUNBECK
CENTRE

POST-16 OPTIONS

A PARENT GUIDE



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WHAT ARE MY CHILD'S CHOICES?

KEY STAGE 4 (14-16)	KEY STAGE 5 (16-18)	18+	
GCSEs Functional Skills Entry Level Qualifications	A Levels & Vocational Courses in Sixth Form	Degree at University or FE College	
	A Levels & Vocational Courses at a Further Education College		
	T-Levels at Further Education College		
	Traineeship or Specialist Study Programme (Entry Level/EHCP)	Employment	
	Supported Internship (EHCP Only)		
	Intermediate Apprenticeship	Advanced Apprenticeship	Higher or Degree Level Apprenticeship
	Employment or Volunteering (minimum 20 hours per week) with recognised training		

Choosing the right path after Key Stage 4 is an important decision for your child's future. There are several options available, depending on their interests, learning style, and career aspirations. This guide outlines the key pathways and how they can support your child's development.

WHERE CAN MY CHILD GO?

Sixth Forms in our area

Richmond School – www.richmondschool.net
Stokesley School – www.stokesleyschool.org
Northallerton School & Sixth Form – www.northallertonschool.org.uk
Thirsk School & 6th Form College – www.thirskschool.org
Outwood Academy Easingwold – www.easingwold.outwood.com
Middlesbrough College MC6 – www.mbro.ac.uk
York College – www.yorkcollege.ac.uk
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College – www.qeliz.ac.uk



Further Education Colleges in our area

Middlesbrough College – www.mbro.ac.uk
York College – www.yorkcollege.ac.uk
Darlington College – www.darlington.ac.uk
Askham Bryan College – www.askham-bryan.ac.uk
Harrogate College – www.harrogate-college.ac.uk



Find an Apprenticeship...

Search and apply for apprenticeships:

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship



LET'S TALK ABOUT...

Sixth Form

In the UK, you've got two types of Sixth Form... First up, there are school sixth forms that are attached to secondary schools and allow students to stay under one roof from Year 7 all the way to Year 13 (or just hop in at Year 12 if you're a latecomer). Then there are independent sixth form colleges, where you're attached to an FE College.

School sixth forms whip 16-18-year-olds into shape for university and beyond with **A-levels**, **Applied Level 3 Courses**, and **BTECs**.

Meanwhile, the specialist sixth form colleges often offer a wider selection of subjects and qualifications. With as many as 40 A-Level choices and a sprinkle of vocational and technical qualifications, your child can mix and match like a pro!

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Five GCSEs at grade 5 or above
- A commitment to academic, self-driven learning



APPLY NOW

Applications to Sixth Form Colleges generally need to be submitted in the summer term before entry directly to the provider. There is usually a May deadline, but many people will apply for Sixth Form College at the beginning of Year 11.

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

T-Levels

T-levels are the fresh, government-approved, career-launching qualifications for students aged 16 to 19. Think of them as the superstars of education, equal to three A-levels and crafted by hundreds of UK businesses.

These courses are popping up in colleges all over England, serving as your child's golden ticket to their future career. Right now, they can pick from **20 different T-levels**, covering a wide range of sectors and interests, with more choices rolling out in September 2025!

Each two-year course is designed alongside industry pros and blends classroom learning with a **45-day work placement**, making sure your child is ready to tackle the workplace or level up with a higher apprenticeship or university.

Want to dive deeper? Head over to www.tlevels.gov.uk

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Five GCSEs at grade 4/5 or above
- A clear career direction and dedication to a sector



APPLY NOW

Applications for T-Levels are made directly to the FE College or school offering them.

Normally you can apply for these courses via the learning provider's website and your child will be invited for an interview before they are offered a place.

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

Vocational Courses

Vocational qualifications are like the superhero sidekick to your child's career dreams, geared specifically for the job market. Unlike more academic routes, these courses mix theory with hands-on fun, plus a sprinkle of work experience for good measure.

With a wide variety of courses available, from entry level to advanced, your child can choose the right course for their ability. These courses are **crafted alongside employers**, so students are learning the stuff that actually gets them jobs! They're all about rolling up your sleeves with project work, tackling real-world problems, and racking up that essential work experience.

For more details, check out our local college websites.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Vary depending on the level of study – see college websites
- An interest in the sector is key



APPLY NOW

Applications for vocational courses are made directly to the FE College, usually through their website.

Applications should be made by the end of April, but most colleges will accept late applications into the summer.

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

Apprenticeships

An Apprenticeship is a paid job where your child gets to level up their skills and soak in all the real-world experiences. While they are rolling up their sleeves on the job, they will also hit the books for at least 20% of their hours, teaming up with a college or training provider to snag a shiny, nationally recognised qualification.

Here's what they will get with an apprenticeship:

- A paycheck that comes with holiday entitlement – yes, please!
- Real-world experience in a field they're excited about
- At least 20% of their time dedicated to off-the-job training
- A formal assessment to earn that all-important qualification

For all the details on apprenticeships in our area, visit:

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- Vary depending on the level – most require grade 4 in Maths and English
- An interest in the sector is essential!



APPLY NOW



Applications for apprenticeship vacancies are often made directly to the employer in the same way you would apply for a job. Interviews are held, and the best candidate is successful.

Go to:

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

SEND Options

Students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and an EHCP may benefit from one of these tailored pathways:

- **Supported Internships:** Structured work placements with additional support.
- **Specialist Colleges:** Provide education tailored to specific needs.
- **Life Skills & Employability Programmes:** Focused on independence and work-readiness.

Where can I find these courses?

- Specialist Colleges - **Askham Bryan College** and other providers offer tailored courses.
- North Yorkshire SEND Support Services - Guidance and assistance for young people with SEND.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

- No formal entry requirements are set
- Your child may need an EHCP to access some offers



APPLY NOW

Applications methods vary. If your child has an EHCP, seek advice from the school SENCo or contact your child's SEN Caseworker for advice.

You can also seek support in navigating next steps from SENDIASS -

www.sendiassnorthyorkshire.co.uk

CAREERS QUESTIONS to ask your child

1



What are your interests?

What hobbies does your child enjoy? Do they prefer being inside or outside? Do they like people, animals, computers, books etc.?

2



What are your skills?

Think about their hard skills (things they have acquired through study e.g. cooking, I.T., mathematics) and soft skills (life skills such as team work, communication, time management).

3



What are your talents and strengths?

What is your child good at? They are more likely to be successful and happy in a career that utilises their talents and strengths.

4



What is your personality?

The way your child thinks, feels and behaves will affect their career choice. Do they feel more comfortable alone, or with others? Are they a thinker or a do-er? Are they creative or do they like structure?

5



What are your values?

What is important to your child? For example, is work-life balance key, or do they want to make money? Is it important that what they do supports the environment?

CAREERS QUESTIONS

to ask your child

6



What qualifications do you need?

What grades or qualifications will your child need to achieve their goals? Are their aspirations realistic?

7



Are there jobs available? How many?

Your child should always consider the availability of roles in a chosen sector. E.g. highly skilled construction trades are in high demand, but administrative roles are oversaturated.

8



How much money do you want to make?

Your child should consider their earning potential and what kind of lifestyle they want to live.

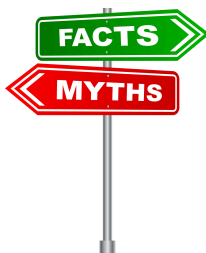
9



Where do you want to live?

In a big city? In the countryside? Close to family? Far away in a new place? This is a significant factor in your child choosing a career.

10



Why do you want to pursue this career?

What attracts your child to a certain role? Do they have a realistic perception of what it will be like? E.g. Do they want to be a Games Designer because they love art & design, or is it because they want to play computer games all day?



MAKE A CAREERS APPOINTMENT

Parents of Key Stage 4 children are welcome to make a careers appointment with Mrs Drwiega, Sunbeck's Careers Leader.

OUR SERVICE



CONTACT

MRS DRWIEGA

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www.hrprs.co.uk/careers-work-experience

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