

POST 16 – OPTIONS FOR THE END OF YEAR 11



This booklet aims to provide those who are considering leaving Walsall Academy with an overview of options available to you at the end of Year 11 which include:

- A Levels
- T Levels
- BTecs
- Apprenticeships
- Employment

Once you have decided your course options, you will then need to look at local provisions to see which one offers the courses you want to study. This may be a local Sixth Form, College or Independent Training Provider.

We have provided a useful flowchart and timeline informing parents and students of what needs to be done and when, in order to ensure to secure your chosen destination at the end of your time here with us here at Walsall Academy.

MEET THE TEAM



Mrs T Dingle
Director of Careers



In school every day 8:15 am – 5:15 pm

Contact via email tdingle@walsallacademy.com



Mrs N Rattenberry
Careers Co-ordinator

In school Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:15 am – 4.30 pm

Contact via email nrattenberry@walsallacademy.com



Mrs S Lloyd
Careers Co-ordinator

In school Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8:15 am – 4.30 pm

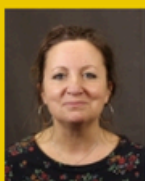
Contact via email slloyd@walsallacademy.com



Mrs C Ward (Currently on Maternity Leave)
Careers Co-ordinator

In school every day 9.00 am – 3.00 pm

Contact via email cward@walsallacademy.com



Ms A Hunter
Careers Co-ordinator

Contact via email
ahunter@walsallacademy.com



Ms. J Challenor
Independent Careers Advisor

Contact via email
jchallenor@walsallacademy.com



Timeline for Post 16 Options

Log onto [Morrisby](#) and complete the questionnaires; Aspirations, Personality, Priorities and Study Interests. Carry out some research at [National Careers](#).

STEP 1
Sept - Dec 2025



Find out about, book onto and attend college/training providers Open Days/Evenings
Use college and training providers websites to find the most current and up to date information quickly. [Walsall College](#), [In-Comm](#), [Nova Training](#), [Juniper Training](#), [City of Wolverhampton College](#).

STEP 2
Sept - Dec 2025



Talk to family, teachers or other adults whose opinions you value and ask them about what they see are your strengths and abilities. Think about what you enjoy doing and what you do well.

STEP 3
Oct - Dec 2025



Take part in a one to one interview with a Careers Advisor at Walsall Academy. An appointment will be made for you by the Careers Team but you can also request one through your PT.

STEP 4
Oct - March 2026



Apply to your chosen option or options. This must be done before the end of December for college or from March/April onwards for apprenticeships.

STEP 5
Oct - Dec 2025



Attend interview with College/Training/Apprenticeship Provider
Make sure you have a back up plan!
Attend Compulsory Taster Day and Compulsory information Day and secure college place.

STEP 6
Jan - March 2026

Levels of Education

In order to understand what Level 3 options are available to you, it is important to see the bigger picture and know the different levels of education we have here in the UK.

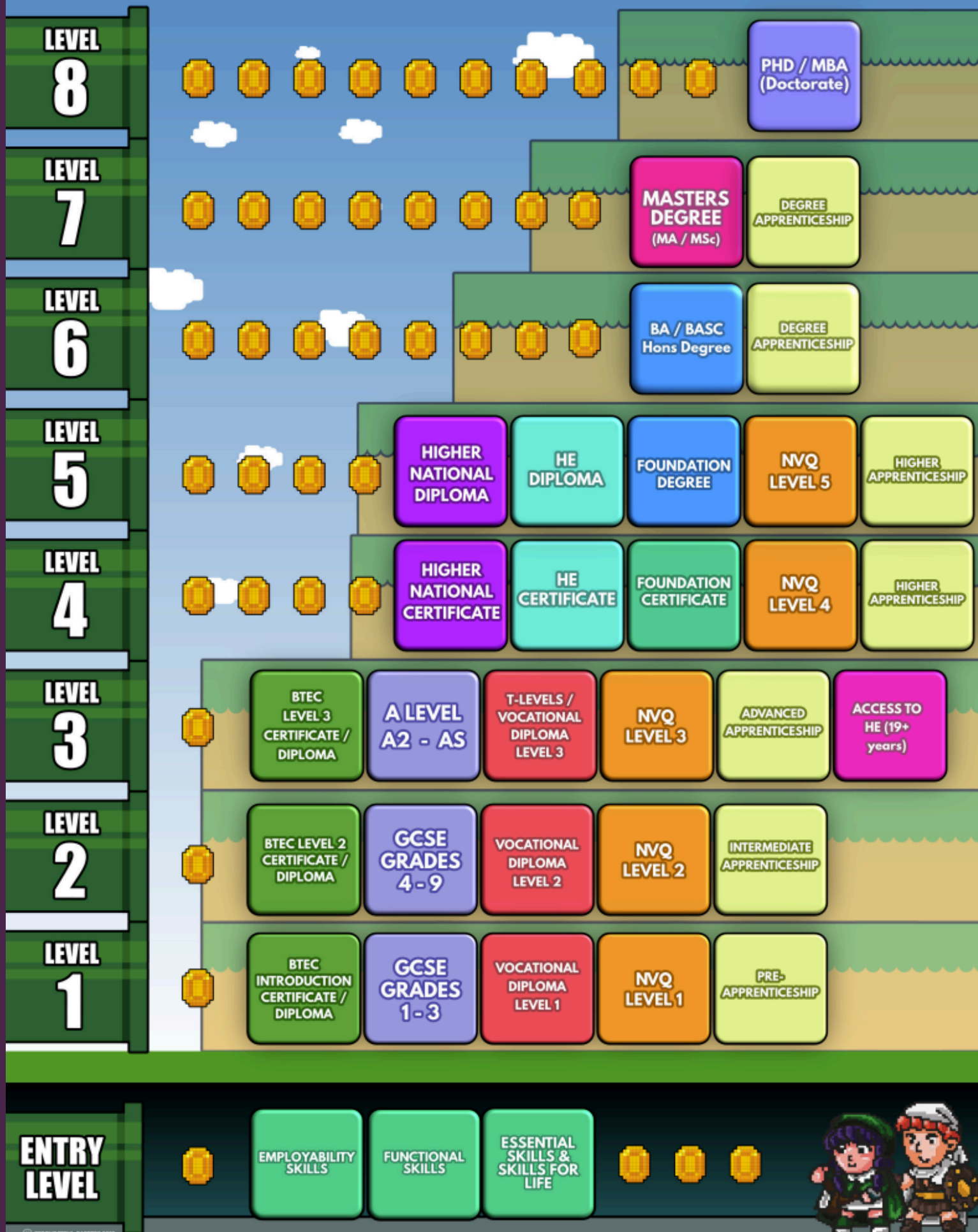
The image on the next two pages shows what different qualifications fall within each level. Please note that the information on the diagrams are the same, there are just two different layouts.

These images have been kindly donated to us by [Resourceful Careers](#).

Did you know...

On average, someone with a Level 6 qualification earns £12,000 more than someone educated to Level 3.

LEVEL UP



VOCATIONAL LADDER



ACADEMIC CAREER LADDER

APPRENTICESHIP CAREER LADDER

PHD	LEVEL 8	PHD
MASTERS, POST GRADUATE CERT/DIP	LEVEL 7	MASTERS APPRENTICESHIP
BACHELOR DEGREE	LEVEL 6	DEGREE LEVEL
FOUNDATION DEGREE, HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA (HND)	LEVEL 5	HIGHER LEVEL
HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (HNC)	LEVEL 4	HIGHER LEVEL
A LEVEL, T LEVEL, BTEC	LEVEL 3	ADVANCED LEVEL
GCSE, BTEC	LEVEL 2	INTERMEDIATE
GCSE, BTEC	LEVEL 1	PRE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME
ENTRY LEVEL AWARD	ENTRY LEVEL	PRE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

A Levels



A Levels are the most popular qualification to study in the UK. There are currently 85 different subject areas.

A Levels follow a similar format of learning to GCSEs. Course content is taught in a classroom setting for two years and sitting exams at the end of Year 13.

Results are expressed in grades with A* as the highest and E as the lowest.

The idea of A Levels is that they are preparing you for further academic study via university or a degree apprenticeship.

There are around 80 different subjects available to study at A-level. However, the options available to you will depend on what your school or college offers. Here are a selection of popular subjects:

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Drama
- Economics
- English Literature
- English Literature & Language
- English Language
- Further Maths
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Journalism
- Law
- Maths
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish

You can pick A Levels based on your future plans, what you have enjoyed at GCSE and new subjects that sound interesting.
Don't pick subjects because someone else has told you to or because your friend is taking it!

T Levels are new technical qualifications that are equivalent to three A Levels. T Levels were introduced in September 2020 and there are currently over 20 different courses available to study.

As part of a T Level qualification, students study in the classroom approximately 80% of the time and spend the remaining 20% on an industry placement, allowing them to gain insight into a career they may be interested in. Students are assessed using a variety of different methods.

T Levels are graded in four tiers: Distinction*, Distinction, Merit and Pass. Currently 163 universities accept T Levels for entry Sept 2026.

The large majority of UK universities accept T Levels. but some do not, so make sure you do your research to ensure they will lead you to where you want to go in the future.

The idea of T Levels is that they are preparing you for the workplace.

T Levels

Scan to read more
about T Levels



Scan to see a list of T
Level Subjects



BTECs (British Technology and Education Council) are work-related qualifications which include classroom-based learning and are completed over the course of two years.

Currently, there are over 2,000 different BTEC course options that span 16 sectors.

There are three levels of a BTEC qualification: a BTEC Extended Diploma, equivalent to three A-Levels; a BTEC Diploma, equivalent to two A Levels; and a BTEC Subsidiary Diploma, equivalent to one A level.

You could choose to do just a BTEC extended diploma instead of A Levels or a combination of one A Level and a BTEC diploma or two A Levels and a BTEC subsidiary diploma.

BTECs are graded on a scale from Distinction* to Pass.

The idea of BTECS is that they are preparing you the workplace or an apprenticeship programme, although they are widely accepted by universities.

Scan to read more
about BTECs



An apprenticeship is a paid job where the employee learns and gains valuable experiences.

Alongside on-the-job training, apprentices spend at least 20% of their working hours completing classroom-based learning with a college, university or training provider which leads to a nationally recognised qualification.

An apprenticeship includes:

- paid employment with holiday leave
- hands-on-experience in a sector/role of interest
- at least 20% off-the-job training
- formal assessment which leads to a nationally recognised qualification

You have to be 16 to do an apprenticeship and there is no upper age limit. There are over 600 different types of apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships are harder to find and apply for than college or sixth form. You have to attend interviews and assessments with the employers you apply for before they offer you an apprenticeship.

The national minimum wage for an apprentice under the age of 19 is £ 7.55 per hour however, many employers pay more than this.

There are different levels to apprenticeships, check the "level up" page and look at levels 2-6 to see the names of different apprenticeship levels.

Scan to read more about
Apprenticeships



Scan to read
Apprenticeship FAQs



Apprenticeships

All Year 11 students have the opportunity to take part in a six – week Apprenticeship Academy at no cost to participants!

This will take place Sept 2025, Feb and June 2026

Week 1:

What apprenticeship am I looking for?

Week 2:

Where can I find apprenticeships?

Week 3:

How can I write successful applications?

Week 4:

What will the application process be?

Week 5:

What to expect at interviews and assessments

Week 6:

How to manage my applications

There are a choice of timings available, after school to choose from with recordings sent to those who have registered.

**REGISTER
YOUR
INTEREST WITH
A MEMBER OF
THE CAREERS
TEAM TODAY!**

This is when you leave the education system entirely and decide to go into employment. There is no formal training programme, however you may have the opportunity to take part in work based training offered by the employer.

These are usually certificates such as Health & Safety at Work, Customer Service or industry specific certifications.

This is the least common option for people to choose at the end of Year 11 as most want to continue to train within an industry by going onto further study via college, sixth form or an apprenticeship.

Joining the workplace without having a formal training programme often means the job role you do is lower paid with less opportunity for development.

If you're considering going straight into employment at the end of Year 11, you will need to prepare a CV, know how to apply for job roles and be ready to attend interviews.

You can speak to your careers team at school about this or contact the National Careers Service for support.

Scan to read more about the
National Career Service



We wish you the best of
luck on your journey.

If you need any support
or advice, please
contact the Careers
Team at school.

