



A brief guide to options beyond TKASA

'T' levels, diplomas & BTECs. Ideal for students with one specific subject or vocational area in mind, with a practical learning style and an emphasis on work experience. Courses run at level 1, 2 & 3 so entry can accommodate all GCSE results **but** BTECs and diplomas are being phased out and replaced with 'T' levels and 'T – Level transition programmes', so please read the college prospectuses carefully to understand the subject and progression route. You can progress to a degree or apprenticeship with **some** of these qualifications.

'A' levels. Ideal for students with clear aspirations for university, those who do not have one specific subject area in mind, or those who feel more secure in a school based environment. You can progress to a degree or an apprenticeship with these qualifications. Our local colleges offer 'A' levels and several schools offer 'A' levels at their 6th forms. We recommend that students visit as many as possible to explore how different they can be.

Apprenticeships. Ideal for students who are looking to leave classroom activity behind and enter the world of work. Apprenticeships are a full time job and additional portfolio work as well as some required day release. Apprenticeships require a high level of maturity to apply for vacancies, be interviewed and secure a role. Many apprenticeships do not require any college time but all will involve working with an Assessor to check on progress. Many apprenticeships have entry requirements, so please check.

Traineeships. A pre-apprenticeship programme in place to support students who would like to be an apprentice but may be lacking the grades, confidence or experience.

International Baccalaureate (IB). An alternative to A Levels that is highly regarded by universities including Russell Group and Oxbridge, and employers worldwide. As with A Levels the IB is very much an academic route, unlike A Levels where 3 subjects are chosen, when studying the IB you choose to study 6 subjects, giving students a broader pathway through FE.

More facts & suggestions...

- All colleges and 6th Forms offer additional learning support if required and additional enrichment activities.
- We recommend visiting and applying to several Colleges and 6th Forms for several course options. You will be invited to attend interviews to obtain more information about each course and reserve a place on each. You can make your final decision much later in the year.
- Apprenticeships? Register on <https://www.gov.uk/become-apprentice> Start browsing vacancies and get a feel for the website now but don't apply for them until spring time of year 11 – they are live jobs that have closing dates in the near future, you will still be at school!

Colleges and 6th Forms in the area include-

- Weston College – www.weston.ac.uk
- Bridgwater & Taunton College - www.btc.ac.uk
- City of Bristol College - www.cityofbristol.ac.uk
- South Glos and Stroud College - <https://www.sgscol.ac.uk/>
- King Alfred 6th Form - <https://www.tkasa.org.uk/new-index>
- Boomsatsuma - www.boomsatsuma.com
- Access Creative College - <https://www.accesscreative.ac.uk/>
- Robins Foundation (Bristol City Football Club) - <https://www.bcfco.uk/robins-foundation/education/>

Next steps-

All year 11 students will be invited to a progression 121 to talk through ideas and plans. We will circulate a pre-interview questionnaire before the 121 to start the process. In the 121s, we will have prospectuses for students to take home. Please feel free to contact us if you would like more 121s....we are more than happy to help as much as required.

Please look out for the monthly careers bulletins that are emailed home and posted online. These will contain details on college and 6th form open events to help you explore your options further as a family.

Many 6th forms usually ask that you apply before Christmas. Although the colleges are more flexible, they would like you to apply by January. As we have said before, you can apply to several different destinations and make your final choice closer to the summer. They will ask that all applications will be made online.

We hope you have found this information useful, and please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

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Travel is an important factor when choosing next steps beyond school. We are very fortunate to have some outstanding colleges and 6th forms nearby. This guide has been created to help you consider your travel options-

- Train: Train Link – 16-17 Saver Card costs £30 per year and saves you 50% on all train tickets.
- Bus: Most Colleges sell a reduced rate bus pass. Contact Colleges / 6th forms for further information.