

Post-16 Progression Booklet

2018 - 19



September 2018

Dear Student,

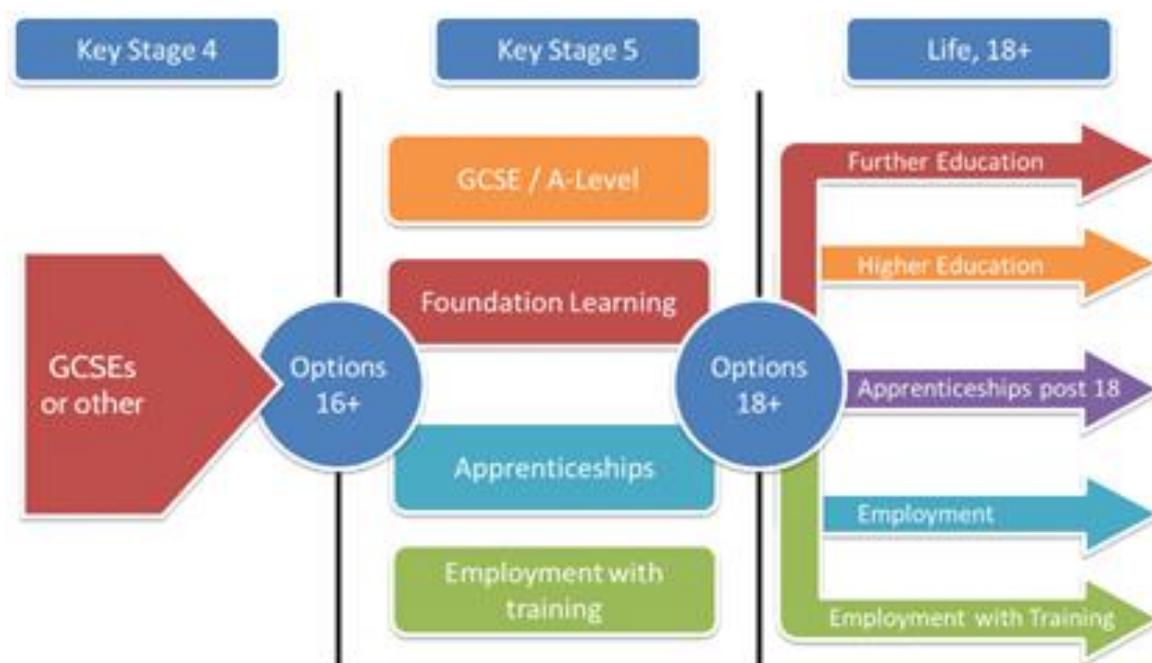
Welcome to the **Post-16 Progression Booklet**.

The next few years are a big chapter of your life, and although you'll mainly be focusing on your GCSEs at the moment, it is also time to start thinking about the future.

At KAA we are here to support you with the transition from Key Stage 4 to Key Stage 5 as much as possible and make sure you find a pathway that is right for you.

Although most people automatically think of A levels when it comes to your post-GCSE options, there are other pathways to success, and there are many different ways to reach your aim of attaining a valuable and stimulating career.

The following Post-16 booklet is designed to provide you with an overview of the available Post-16 options and how they link together.



There are also a range of suggested websites which will provide useful advice and guidance. As always, your teachers are also here to support you, so start thinking about your options and ask questions when you have them.

Pathway I – KAA Sixth Form

At KAA, we're incredibly proud of our Sixth Form: it was rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted in 2017, and exam results indicate we are in the top 10% of schools in the UK in terms of the progress our students make from GCSE to A-Level. Our first cohort of Sixth Form students achieved 62% A*-B grades and 99.6% A*-E. In addition to our fantastic results, we offer an experience that is totally unique in the state sector, and it is our great hope that a large majority of you will aspire to study here.

As our founder cohort of students, you will know first-hand what fantastic and dedicated teachers we have here at KAA. At A-Level, your teachers will encourage you to think and learn like university students, through pre-reading, subject tutorials and setting ambitious targets. We also place great importance in creating a holistic learning experience for our students. This includes creating opportunities for development outside the classroom. In addition to timetabled lessons, all students at KAA take part in weekly Academic Societies, designed to broaden subject knowledge and promote 'degree-level thinking', in addition to our extensive programme of enrichment activities.

Alongside the A level courses offered by KAA - which can be found in a table at the end of this section - we have partnerships with Charterhouse and Godolphin & Latymer. These two institutions are among the best private schools in the UK, with a rich history in educating this country's future leaders. Through these partnerships, students are offered the following: additional A level courses; Classical Civilisation, Economics, Latin, History of Art, Italian and Mandarin, as well as additional support with UCAS applications and mock interviews for Oxbridge candidates.

Getting into university or onto a higher level apprenticeship is competitive. At KAA we are committed to fully preparing our students for life after Sixth Form. During Year 12 and 13, students develop their employability skills through tutor period activities, PSHE and workshops delivered by external partners. This is combined with our Sixth Form lecture series, aimed at broadening students' horizons and providing an insight into the world of work. Last year, our speakers included: Baroness Shami Chakrabarti, shadow Attorney General and former director of Liberty; Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London; Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Nobel Peace Prize winner; and subject-specific speakers from Oxford, Cambridge, KCL, UCL and Imperial. Our extensive UCAS support programme will also ensure you are given the best possible chance at securing a place at a top university. Out of our first cohort of Sixth Form students, 75% received offers from a Russell Group university.

Finally, our students are encouraged to find work experience placements during Year 12, with assistance from our dedicated careers advisors. Last year's placements included: The Bank of England; Barts Cancer Institute; School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Ashurst Law Firm; and Dancing Ledge Productions. This is additional to the university visits and Oxford residential trip organised by KAA.

In order to apply for a place at KAA Sixth Form, you **must** meet the entry criteria listed below:

Overall Entry Requirements

- 8 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above, **and** the subject-specific requirements below.

Subject Specific Requirements

- Arts, humanities, languages – grade 6 or above in the subject to be studied
- Essay subjects - grade 6 or above in English Language
- Maths - grade 7 or above in Maths (grade 8 for Further Maths)
- Science: triple award - grade 7 or above in the science to be studied
- Science: dual award - grade 7-7 or above
- Psychology - grade 6 or above in a science, plus grade 6 or above in English language

Godolphin Entry Requirements

- Please see KAA Sixth Form Prospectus for more details.

We have these **ambitious requirements** because our A level courses are a big step up from GCSEs, and higher academic standards are demanded from our students. We'd love to keep all our students on after Year 11, but this just isn't possible in practice. We won't accept students onto A-Level courses who could be thriving on another pathway elsewhere, as there are other pathways that can lead you to success. Our main aim is to make sure each student chooses the correct pathway for their needs. However, if you maintain good attainment and work hard consistently all year you have an excellent chance of meeting our criteria.

We will be having two open evenings to look around and have any questions answered. These will be:

- Thursday 11th October 2018, 5pm-8pm
- Thursday 8th November 2018, 5pm-8pm

If you are interested in attending one of our upcoming open evenings, please complete the registration form on the KAA website. If you would like to apply to study elsewhere, other sixth forms offer similar courses.

New grades	Old grades
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5 (strong pass)	
4 (standard pass)	C

A levels offered at KAA	A levels offered at Godolphin (female students only)
Biology	Ancient History
Chemistry	Classical Civilisation
Computer Science	Economics
Dance	History of Art
Drama & Theatre	Italian
English Literature	Latin
Fine Art	Mandarin
French	
Further Maths	
Geography	
German	
Government & Politics	
History	
Mathematics	
Music	
PE	
Physics	
Psychology	
Religious Education	
Spanish	

Pathway 2 - Applied Qualifications

The following qualifications are considered, both by the recent Wolf review of further education and latest government guidance, to be high quality courses of equivalent value to A Level.

Applied General Qualifications such as BTEC and some OCR Cambridge courses are designed to give students the skills they need either to move on to higher education or go straight into employment. These qualifications are available in a wide range of different subject areas, including Applied Science, Health and Social Care, Engineering, Information Technology and Art & Design, to name a few. Students undertake a number of different units related to their chosen subject area over the course of 1 or 2 years, depending on the course type. Assessment is mainly done through coursework or practical examinations, so may be a good option for those students who prefer continuous assessment rather than end of year exams. Applied courses are also a great option for students wanting an alternative to traditional A Levels, but who still want to progress on to higher education. Students who already have a good idea about their post-18 career pathway may also be particularly suited to studying applied courses, because of their focus on a particular career sector.

Choosing an applied course can sometimes be a bit confusing, as there a number of different qualifications on offer. BTEC is the most widely offered applied course for 16 – 19 year olds, but you may see other applied courses being advertised, such as OCR Cambridge Technicals. The difference is essentially to do with which exam board is delivering the specification for the course, so what and how you study will be broadly similar across both types of qualification.

When deciding on an applied qualification, it's important to choose the length and type of applied course that is right for you. Courses are usually either 1 or 2 years in length, and the qualification you get at the end depends on the amount units undertaken.

The table below shows the different types of BTEC, their differing lengths and how they equate to A Levels. One course unit is normally equivalent to 10 credits, so a student studying a BTEC Extended Diploma would expect to complete 12 units over the course of the 2 years. The reason there is a variety of different types of BTEC on offer is to give students choice in either studying one subject in depth throughout the 2 years, for example through taking an Extended Diploma, or combine different qualifications, for example combining BTEC National Diploma with 1 or 2 A Levels.

Level 3 BTECs explained

BTEC course type	Equivalent to	Credits	Length
Certificate	1 AS Level	30	1 Year
Subsidiary Diploma	1 A Level	60	1 Year
90-credit Diploma	1.5 A Levels	90	1 Year
National Diploma	2 A Levels	120	2 Years
Extended Diploma	3 A Levels	180	2 Years

Colleges in the local area offering applied courses

Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College - www.wlc.ac.uk

City of Westminster College (sometimes referred to as United Colleges Group) - www.cwc.ac.uk

Kensington & Chelsea College - www.kcc.ac.uk

Saint Charles Sixth Form College - <http://www.stcharles.ac.uk/>

Many school Sixth Forms or Sixth Form colleges in North West London also offer BTEC courses. This may be a good option if you would like to study a BTEC alongside 1 or 2 A Levels.

Further Education and Sixth Form Colleges

Unless you choose to go to a school Sixth Form offering BTEC, you'll likely study for your applied qualification at a Sixth Form or Further Education College.

If you feel you could benefit from having more independence in a place where support is solely focused on the 16-19 age group, then you might like to go to a Sixth Form college. These colleges tend to have larger numbers of students and offer a broader range of qualifications than school Sixth Forms.

Further education colleges cater for learners aged 16+, including adult learners, with some even offering higher education qualifications. These colleges tend to be large, with thousands of students studying a variety of different qualifications and subjects, sometimes across multiple campuses. If you like being an independent learner and meeting lots of new and different people, then a Further Education College might be for you.

Both Sixth Form and Further Education Colleges tend to have later application deadlines than school Sixth Forms. Usually deadlines are during the summer term, however, it is advisable to still get your application in as early as possible. This is to ensure you have a course place secured for September prior to starting your GCSE exams.

Pathway 3 – Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study, are available to anyone over the age of 16 and usually require at least grades 4 in GCSE maths and English. Apprenticeships provide a great option for students who already have a clear idea about the career sector they'd like to go into and learn best from practical, hands on training.

Following recent government recommendations, employers are being given financial incentives and extra support to take on apprentices, so the number of apprenticeship opportunities available to young people is increasing rapidly. The idea that apprenticeships are only offered in certain manual trades is also changing. These days, young people can undertake apprenticeships in a wide range of sectors, including accounting and finance, software development, business, pharmacy and healthcare, amongst many others.

As an apprentice, you'll:

- work alongside experienced staff
- gain job-specific skills
- earn a wage and get holiday pay
- be given time for study related to your role (the equivalent of one day a week)
- study for a nationally recognised qualification, such as an NVQ

All apprenticeships include elements of on-the-job and off-the-job training, leading to industry recognised standards or qualifications. The time spent on off-the-job training should be at least 20% and should be included as part of your hours. Some apprenticeships also require an assessment at the end of the programme to assess the apprentice's ability and competence in their job role.

Understanding Apprenticeship Levels

Apprenticeship qualifications are categorised according to the same levels as all other qualifications. So, for example, a Level 3 'Advanced' apprenticeship is roughly equivalent to 2 A Levels or a BTEC National Diploma.

Despite Level 2 apprenticeships being equivalent to GCSEs, employers will often require you to complete a Level 2 apprenticeship after Year 11 before moving onto the Level 3. Don't be discouraged by this! It is common practice, as the Level 2 provides lots of job-specific skills which you may not necessarily have developed during your GCSE studies. Whilst it may feel like a step back, or sideways, in the employer's eyes you have just become vastly more employable by completing a Level 2.

Apprenticeship	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grade A*– C or 9 – 4
Advanced	3	2 A level passes/Level 3 Diploma/ International Baccalaureate
Higher	4, 5, 6, and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

When applying for an apprenticeship you are essentially apply for a job, which means the application process is quite different to college or Sixth Form applications. You can expect apprenticeship opportunities starting in September 2019 to be advertised from around April onwards, with some advertised as late as the summer holidays.

Securing an apprenticeship is by no means guaranteed, so students choosing this pathway **MUST** also apply for an alternative qualification such as A Levels or BTEC. This is to ensure that you have a study destination confirmed for September even if your apprenticeship applications aren't successful.

The main way you can find out about apprenticeship opportunities is through Unifrog, which you should have become familiar with last year and during the summer holidays. Unifrog allows you to search for apprenticeship opportunities within different 'frameworks', so you can find an apprenticeship most relevant to your interests.

More information about apprenticeships can also be found here:

- getingofar.gov.uk
- gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
- amazingapprenticeships.com
- nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk
- apprenticeshipguide.co.uk

Case Studies

Student A

Student A knew that they wanted to go to university, but by Year 11 wasn't sure exactly what degree they'd like to apply for. Because of this, they decided to study a broad range of subjects at A Level, choosing Geography, Biology, Psychology and Art. They felt that this combination would give them a good mix of essay-writing, analytical, numerical and creative skills. At the start of Year 12, they chose to take part in the psychology academic society, as this was a subject they hadn't previously studied at GCSE and wanted to broaden their knowledge of the subject. Through attending the society, studying the subject at A Level and learning about the wide range of career opportunities available for psychology graduates, they decided that this was the subject they would like to study at degree level. In particular, they felt a psychology degree would provide a good mix of analytical and numerical skills, much like their A Levels. When it came to completing their UCAS form, the student decided they would like to stay in London whilst studying, so applied to a mixture of Russell Group and non-Russell Group London universities. They chose King's College as their first choice, with an offer of ABB, and Goldsmith's as their insurance choice, with an offer of BBC. The results they got at the end of Year 13 surpassed this offer, achieving two A grades and one B grade, therefore enabling them to study at their first choice university.

Student B

Student B initially studied AS levels in Year 12 at KAA, because of their ambition to study paramedic science at university. However, after some research on Unifrog, and their one-to-one discussion with our Careers Advisor, they decided they would be better suited to a more coursework-based qualification, so started researching alternative course options. They found that the vast majority of paramedic science courses accepted BTECs as well as A Level qualifications, with grade requirements ranging from 3 Distinction to 3 Merit grades. Confident that they would still be able to achieve their ambition of becoming an ambulance paramedic with an alternative qualification, they applied to study a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Applied Science at an external College. The student started the course in September 2017, is achieving Distinction level grades and plans to apply to their chosen paramedic science courses this Autumn.

Student C

Student C knew that A Levels weren't for them, and started researching possible alternatives. Supported by the Senior Leadership Team and our Careers Advisor, they applied for several apprenticeships to become a qualified electrician, and a few BTEC courses as a Plan B. In September 2017 they started a Level 2 Electrical Installation apprenticeship delivered by Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College and are now progressing onto Level 3. In the future, they hope to become an Electrical Project Manager, coordinating electrical installation for large scale construction projects. For this role, they could expect to earn between £30,000 - £55,000 per year, depending on experience.

Helping You Decide

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 – what 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, young people 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.

Useful Websites

Career Pilot - www.careerpilot.org.uk

Careers Advice for Parents - www.careersadviceforparents.org