



# POST-16 DECISIONS GUIDE

## When do I need to apply and how many places should I apply to?

- Normally, applications open from late **September/early October**. You should **apply before the Christmas break**, as this is when a lot of applications will close.
- There's no limit on how many sixth forms and colleges you can apply for. **We encourage you to apply to three options.**
- **Even if you want to stay at KAA6** make sure you **think about having a 'back up' option**. This should be a sixth form or college where the entry criteria is slightly lower than your predicted grades or what you expect to achieve in your GCSEs.
- **Even if you are sure that an apprenticeship is best path for you**, 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.

# What Post-16 options are there?

## A-Levels

- At KAA we offer the following A-Levels:

A levels offered at KAA6*			A levels offered at Godolphin (female students only)
Biology	French	PE	Ancient History
Chemistry	Further Maths	Physics	Classical Civilisation
Computer Science	Geography	Product Design	History of Art
Dance	German	Psychology	Italian
Drama & Theatre	Government & Politics	Religious Education	Latin
Economics	History	Spanish	Mandarin
English Literature	Mathematics		
Fine Art	Music		

- Other Sixth Forms and Colleges may offer further A-Level subjects.
- Studying A-Levels will be similar to the study experiences you have already had at school. However, your teachers will encourage you to **think and learn like university students**.
- In order to apply for a place at **KAA Sixth Form**, you **must** meet the entry criteria:
  - 8 GCSEs at Grade 5 or above, **and** the subject-specific requirements below:
    - Arts, humanities, languages – grade 6 or above in the subject to be studied
    - Maths/Science - grade 7 or above in the subject (grade 8 for Further Maths)
    - Psychology - grade 6 or above in a science, plus grade 6 or above in English language
    - Economics – grade 7 or above in Maths, plus grade 7 or above in English Language

### Which Colleges and Sixth Forms offer A Levels?

- To explore colleges and sixth forms that offer A-Levels, you should use Unifrog as well as a simple Google search for local educational providers.  
<https://www.unifrog.org/student/furthereducation/start>
- You should already have a Unifrog login – the username is your KAA email address. If you do not know the password, please click the reset/forgotten password option

# Applied Courses

- **BTECs are the most common type of applied course.** BTEC courses are available across a range of subjects including **art and design, business, healthcare engineering, IT, performing arts, travel and tourism, service industries, land-based, sport, and science.**
- **BTEC Level 3 National are the equivalent to A-Levels.**

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

- Assessment is **mainly** (but not always!) done through **coursework or practical examinations**, so they are a good option for students who do not enjoy exams.
- **Applied Courses are predominantly offered at Colleges**, although some Sixth Forms offer these too.
- Studying an Applied Course may mean that you are at College/Sixth Form for only **a few days per week**. This is different to studying A-levels, where your timetable will be similar to a normal school day, across 5 days per week.
- **Entry requirements vary, and differ by the BTEC level you choose.** If your grades are lower than expected, you can choose to start at level 1 or 2, and then progress to the next level the following year.

## Local colleges offering Applied Courses:

- City Westminster College
- West London College
- Kensington & Chelsea College
- Westminster Kingsway
- St Charles College

To explore other colleges and sixth forms that offer Applied Courses, you should use Unifrog as well as a simple Google search for local educational providers.

<https://www.unifrog.org/student/furthereducation/start>

# Apprenticeships

- Apprenticeships combine **practical training with study**. Apprenticeships provide a great option for students who already have a clear idea about the career sector they'd like to enter and learn best from **practical, hands on training**.
- As an apprentice, you'll:
  - earn a wage and get holiday pay (like a regular employee!)
  - once you complete your apprenticeship, you may be offered permanent employment
  - study one day per week at a college (usually)
  - study for a nationally recognised qualification, such as an NVQ
- Apprenticeship qualifications are categorised according to the same levels as all other qualifications. 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**. This is common practice, as the Level 2 provides job-specific skills which you may not have developed during your GCSE studies.

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 applying for a job**, which means the application process is quite different to college/Sixth Form applications.
- **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.

## Where can I search for apprenticeships?

To explore employers that are offering apprenticeships, you can use the following websites:

- <https://www.unifrog.org/student/apprenticeships/start>
- <https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch> (Most vacancies will be advertised here).
- <https://www.bigcreative.education/apprenticeships/vacancies/>
- <https://www.justit.co.uk/vacancies/>

## T Levels

- T levels are a new set of qualifications beginning in **September 2020**, where one T level **course will be the equivalent to three A levels**.
- They will offer students a mixture of classroom-based learning and on-the-job experience. This will take place through **an industry placement**, which needs to last for at least 315 hours – approximately 45 days.
- Depending on the T-level course you select, you could study one or two occupational (job) specialisms.
- T levels will equip students with the knowledge, experience and skills that are needed to lead to skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.
- T levels are particularly **suited to students who know what job they'd like to pursue**, want to earn a wage and learn at the same time, and are ready to enter the workplace.
- As T levels are new, there are only a small number of providers offering them.

Provider Offering T Level:	Digital Route	Construction Route	Education and Childcare Route	Health and Science Route
Barking & Dagenham College	X	X		
Mulberry UTC			X	X
New City College				
Newham College of Further Education	X			X
Newham Sixth Form College		X	X	
Richmond Upon Thames College	X	X	X	X
Stanmore College			X	X
The WKCIC Group	X		X	X
United Colleges Group	X	X		
Cranford Community College	X		X	
HCUC	X		X	
La Retraite RC Girls School	X		X	
Ursuline High School	X			

- The majority of the initial T level providers will require students to have obtained a grade 4 in their English and maths at GCSE. The **entry requirements are provider-specific**.

# Frequently Asked Questions:

## Is it compulsory to apply for a post-16 pathway?

In short, the answer to this question is **YES!** Until you are **18**, you are **legally obliged** to do one of the following:

- stay in full-time education, for example at a college
- start an apprenticeship or traineeship
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training

Read more here: <https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school>

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## What is the difference between a College and a Sixth Form?

1. A **school Sixth Form** is exactly what it says. It is a Secondary school which also offers Year 12 and Year 13 after Year 11. Attending this type of Sixth Form will be similar to the school routine you're currently used to. School Sixth Forms tend to offer mainly A-Level subjects, although some will offer applied courses too.
2. **Sixth Form colleges** cater their support to the 16-19 age group. They tend to have a larger number of students and **offer a broader range of qualifications** than school Sixth Forms. **William Morris is a 16-19 Sixth Form.**
3. Other **further education colleges** cater for learners aged 16+, including adult learners. 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. FE Colleges also have shorter timetables, so it's likely you'll only attend college a few days per week.

**Both Sixth Form and Further Education Colleges offer a range of qualifications, including BTECs, and may include A-Levels too.**

Here are some examples of colleges in the local area:

- William Morris Sixth Form - [www.wmsf.ac.uk/](http://www.wmsf.ac.uk/)
  - Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College - [www.wlc.ac.uk](http://www.wlc.ac.uk)
  - City of Westminster College (United Colleges Group) - [www.cwc.ac.uk](http://www.cwc.ac.uk)
  - Kensington & Chelsea College - [www.kcc.ac.uk](http://www.kcc.ac.uk)
  - St Charles Sixth Form College - [www.stcharles.ac.uk](http://www.stcharles.ac.uk)
  - Westminster Kingsway - [www.westking.ac.uk](http://www.westking.ac.uk)
  - College of North West London – [www.cnwl.ac.uk](http://www.cnwl.ac.uk)
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## Are there pathways exclusive to those with Special Educational Needs/EHCP?

If you have specific learning needs (an EHCP) and are unsure about the post-16 pathways previously mentioned, there are educational providers that provide pathways to support personalised learning. **KAA will support you in applying to these**, so do not worry.

Our **nearest provider is the Hammersmith Campus of West London College** – this college is well-known for its support, both through their various applied courses and the following SEND-specific programmes:

- **Inclusive Learning & SEND Pathways:** <https://www.wlc.ac.uk/courses/inclusive-learning> - These pathways are entry-level into different career areas, such as:
  - 'Multimedia' (ICT, Art & Business)
  - Sports & Nutrition
  - Preparation for Work & Retail
  - Enterprise, Gardening & Animal Care
  - Performing Arts & Music
- **Supported Employment Internships:** <https://www.wlc.ac.uk/courses/inclusive-learning/inclusive-learning-hammersmith/pathways-to-supported-internships-and-employment-entry-level> - This course is a vocational training programme supporting students to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed for paid work and volunteering. Students will have an opportunity to access internal and external work experience and work with employers to support their transition into Supported Internship or Supported Employment.

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## Next Steps:

1. **Research the four different pathways and decide which you prefer.** You may find that you have two choices that you like the sound of, e.g. both A Levels & BTECs, or A Levels & Apprenticeships.
2. **If you have any questions, email Miss Haddad** ([m.haddad@kaa.org.uk](mailto:m.haddad@kaa.org.uk)), who is our Careers Coordinator.
3. **Complete the 'Post-16 Initial Interest' Google Form** which has been shared with you. Here is a link to the form: <https://forms.gle/Htr7oYDf3RuxEqxL8>. The answers you provide will help your tutors, teachers and Careers Coordinator to support you during Year 11. It's OK if you change your mind later, as there will be many opportunities in Year 11 to discuss this.

