

STOKE HIGH SCHOOL ORMISTON ACADEMY



A Post 16 Guide for Students in Year 11

2020-2021

This booklet is intended as a guide to support students and parents/carers in understanding the process and timeline involved in the progression from Year 11 into Further Education and the Information, Advice and Guidance that is available.

How many GCSEs will you be getting ?	Type of learning	How long will it take?
At least 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above or equivalent	<p style="text-align: center;">LEVEL 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A level courses; BTEC National and other vocational Level 3 course Apprenticeships</p>	2 years
At least 4 GCSEs at grade 3 or equivalent	<p style="text-align: center;">LEVEL 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 2 courses Apprenticeships</p>	1 - 2 years
Some GCSEs at grades 1/2/3 or equivalent	<p style="text-align: center;">LEVEL 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Level 1 courses Pathway programmes Traineeships</p>	1 - 2 years
No GCSE passes	<p style="text-align: center;">ENTRY LEVEL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Foundation courses Pathway programmes Traineeships</p>	1 - 3 years

This chart explains the options that will be available to you depending on your GCSE grades. The higher the GCSE grades you get, the higher the level of course you can start on.

Your Choices at 16

Young people are required to stay in education or training until the age of 18. What this means is that Year 11 leavers will have the following options:

1. Full time education such as sixth form or further education college to study either A Levels or Diplomas/BTECs.
2. Work-based learning such as an apprenticeship or traineeship.

1. Applying to Sixth Form or Further Education College

Can I only apply to one College? NO. It doesn't matter how many Colleges/Sixth Forms and courses you apply for during Year 11 but you will need to make your final choice by Results Day in August 2021 and this choice might be affected by your GCSE grades.

What is the difference between A Levels and Diplomas/BTECs? Essentially the difference between A Levels and vocational/technical qualifications such as Diplomas/BTECS is that if you are intending to study A Levels you will select three A Level subjects to study, with the workload being more academic than GCSEs and involving a fair bit of written work and research and with exams at the end of the course. If you are interested in a vocational or technical course, you will choose one Diploma/BTEC course to study and assessment will be by observed assessments, discussions and written work/assignments. Diplomas/BTECs can take one year or two years, depending on the level (Level 1 and Level 2 Diplomas/BTECs will be one year courses, Level 3 will take two years). From September 2020, Colleges offering vocational and technical courses will be introducing a few T Level qualifications which are two-year courses, equivalent to 3 A Levels, combining classroom theory, practical learning and a three month industry placement. A Levels, T Levels and Level 3 Diplomas/BTECs will give you the option to go on to University.

How do I apply? The important thing to remember is that you need to research the different Sixth Forms/Colleges online, attend Open Days (or virtual Open Events depending on Covid guidelines) or talk to Sixth Form/College staff when they come into school. Once you have decided on the College(s) and courses you would like to apply for, you will need to complete an online application form and you will need your predicted grades to do this. Don't panic if you don't hear back immediately after submitting your application. Be sure that you check your emails regularly, answer your phone and listen to voicemails. Also make sure that you open your post as this is a common way that Colleges will invite you to interview!

Will I need to do an interview to get into Sixth Form/College? Not all Sixth Forms or Colleges carry out interviews but this is a good opportunity to discuss your application and find out a little more about the College. These interviews are very informal and are a great opportunity for you to ask any questions about the College and your chosen courses. If you come out of the interview and feel that the College/course isn't right for you, that's ok. Speak to Mrs Toogood at school who will support you with further applications and choices. It is likely that you will be offered a place at your interview and this may be confirmed to you by letter too. Remember – nothing is finalised until you get your GCSE results so don't worry – you are allowed to change your mind.

What happens after I receive an offer from Sixth Form/College? Towards the end of your GCSE exams (June/July) the Sixth Form/College will invite you in for a day to experience some

elements of your chosen course. It is a good idea to go as you may decide the course you have chosen is not for you. If this happens, speak to the College and they may be able to squeeze you into another Taster Day to try out something else you're interested in.

What happens on Results Day & how do I enrol at Sixth Form/College? At the time of printing this booklet, GCSE Results Day which is when you will go into school to collect your certificates is scheduled for August 2021 but the actual date has yet to be confirmed by the Department of Education, and you will be notified as soon as this information is available. Whatever is inside the envelope you collect, it is something to be proud of and something that is incredibly relevant to your next steps. Most importantly, even if your grades do not match what your chosen College has asked for, you **MUST** still go along to the Sixth Form/College with your results for enrolment, or enrol online (depending which method of enrolment your College is using next year) so you can discuss with them what they are going to offer you and they should offer a reasonable alternative. If you have not achieved Grade 4 in English and Maths, you will be continuing to study these subjects alongside your chosen College course. Once you have enrolled with your chosen College and course, you will be invited in for your induction day to meet your tutors and classmates, get your timetable and make sure you are ready to start your course. If you are not enjoying your course as much as you thought you would, speak to the College and see if you can change your course. Normally Colleges are happy to do this as they would rather you study something that you enjoy.

2. Apprenticeships/Traineeships

What is an Apprenticeship? An apprenticeship is a work-based training programme for people who want to develop their skills and get experience in a particular job sector. Apprentices spend most of their time in work and training on the job, receiving an apprenticeship wage, and a small amount of time studying to gain a qualification that is relevant to their work. The length of each apprenticeship placement varies depending on each employer but an apprenticeship will last a minimum of 12 months and your employer will arrange your qualification and place of study. The requirements for GCSE qualifications will vary from job to job but if you do not achieve Grade 4 in English and Maths, you will continue to study these subjects alongside your training qualification.

What is a Traineeship? If you have neither the qualifications nor the work experience to take your next step after school, a Traineeship is a skills development course that includes work experience which will prepare you for an apprenticeship. Vacancies can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>.

How do I find an apprenticeship? You will need to register on the national apprenticeship websites to look for vacancies at [apprenticeships.org.uk](https://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

You could also search for vacancies in Suffolk at thesource.me.uk

Most vacancies have very short time frames, in that they are looking for somebody to start within the next month, so May/June/July is the best time to be looking through vacancies to start in September 2021. Make sure you check regularly for vacancies as they change all the time and you don't want to miss something that interests you.

How do I apply for an apprenticeship? Remember that other school leavers will be applying for these vacancies too so make sure that you apply for more than one vacancy to increase your chances of being successful. Some employers will ask for a CV and covering letter but most applications will be via an online application form. You will find a good template for a CV at the following link: thesource.me.uk

Will I have to have an interview for an Apprenticeship? If your application has been successful, you will be invited to an interview (often done by phone or Zoom during Covid restrictions), but please don't worry. It is a chance for the employer and you to get to know each other and to see if the job is right for you. Ask questions to show that you are keen, so make sure you think about appropriate questions you could ask and practice these beforehand with a family member or friend. The following link gives some useful tips on interview techniques: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/interview-advice>

What happens next? If you haven't heard back in two weeks after your interview, ring the company for an update. If you haven't been successful in getting the job, ask for feedback to improve for next time and keep looking for vacancies – don't give up! The employer will either email you or ring you if you have been successful, so make sure you check your emails regularly and keep your phone charged and to hand.

If I have an apprenticeship placement what do I do on GCSE Results Day? Inform your employer about your results so they can make sure that you are going to be studying at the right level for your qualification. If you didn't get the grades you needed, you will need to discuss with your employer what your options are.

What do I need to know about starting work? Your first day should be an induction process where you get to meet members of staff and find out more details about your job. You will need to tell them your National Insurance number which you will receive in the post around your 16th birthday. Make sure that you keep this number somewhere safe as you will need it for the rest of your working life. You will now be one of the employees and earning money, so make sure you arrive for work on time and let your employer know if you will be late or are feeling too unwell to go to work.

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What if I don't know what I want to do after Year 11? Don't worry – there will be lots of people and information around to help you. If you're not sure what you want to do then please speak to Mrs Toogood in Room 017 (at top of Dance Drama stairs) at any time during lunch or break to book an appointment with her or just ask her some questions. Or ask your Form Tutor to email Mrs Toogood that you would like to make an appointment with her. It can also be helpful to speak to parents, teachers, friends, older brother and sisters and make sure you do your research on the different colleges and courses by visiting the websites listed on the next page so that you can make an informed decision on what is the best choice for your future. When it comes down to it, the choice has to be yours and it is important that whatever choice you make is one you're happy with. And don't forget – you can apply to several different places if you want to and wait until Results Day to make your final decision. It is also a good idea to have a back-up plan in case you change your mind or you are unsuccessful in getting the grades required to progress on to the college/apprenticeship/course of your choice.

Useful Websites

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk	Government website with information on making career choices
thesource.me.uk	Information and advice site for young people in Suffolk including a good CV template and apprenticeship vacancies
apprenticeships.gov.uk	National website with apprenticeship vacancies which can be filtered by area and job sectors
army.mod.uk raf.mod.uk royalnavy.mod.uk	Careers information for the Armed Forces
suffolkone.ac.uk	Website for Suffolk One - Sixth Form College offering A Levels, BTECs at Level 2 and Level 3, Foundation Learning
suffolk.ac.uk	Website for Suffolk New College including Suffolk Rural which was Otley College - Further Education College offering BTECs at Levels 1,2 and 3, T Levels and Foundation Learning
northgatesixthform.co.uk	Northgate Sixth Form – offering A Levels and some L3 BTECs
kesgrave.suffolk.sch.uk	Kesgrave Sixth Form – offering A Levels and L3 BTECs
colchsfc.ac.uk	Colchester Sixth Form offering A Level courses
wsc.ac.uk	West Suffolk College, Bury St Edmunds offering BTECs at Levels 1,2 and 3 and Foundation Learning
icanbea.org.uk	Social media styled careers website based on career opportunities in Suffolk & Norfolk
copleston.suffolk.sch.uk	Website for Copleston Sixth Form offering A Level subjects

College Open Days

We strongly advise that students should attend Sixth Form/College Open Days to find out more about the different Colleges and the many different courses they offer – College prospectuses containing all this information can be found on their websites. The dates of these Open Days are listed in this leaflet, on the Careers Notice Board, Form Room Notice Boards and the school website. By the end of the Autumn Term, we **strongly recommend** that all students should have attended the College Open Days that are relevant to them and completed their applications to their chosen College(s). Students can make as many applications as they like.

Once the colleges have received applications, students can then expect to be invited for interview. **January 31st 2021 is the final deadline for applying to most colleges, but please be aware that some Sixth Forms could have an earlier application deadline.**

Listed below are the scheduled dates for Open Days but whether these will be virtual or not will depend on the latest Covid guidelines so please check the website beforehand:

Suffolk New College

Thursday 15th October 2020 - 17:30 - 20:00 (virtual online event)

Tuesday 1st December - 17:30 - 20:00

Saturday 27th February - 09:30 - 12:00

Wednesday 5th May - 17:30 - 20:00

Suffolk One

Saturday 10th October 2020 - 9.30am-12.30pm (likely to be virtual online event – check website)

Thursday 15th October 2020 - 5pm-8pm

Wednesday 11th November 2020 - 5pm-8pm

Tuesday 9th February 2021 - 6pm-8pm

Ipswich High School

Friday 2nd October (please see website for timings)

Northgate Sixth Form

Wednesday 14th October (Virtual Event only and application deadline is Friday 29th January 2021).

Colchester Sixth Form

No Events planned. Refer to their website.

Copleston Sixth Form

No details available at time of going to press. Please refer to their website.

Kesgrave Sixth Form

Virtual Event only available October onwards - See website. Application deadline is Friday 29th January 2021.

West Suffolk College

Saturday 7th November (see website for timings)

Thursday 19th November

Thursday 26th November

Further Support

Mrs Toogood is always available to support students and parents throughout this very important year with any careers-related queries and helping to complete application forms, preparing students for interviews, chasing up applications etc. The most up to date careers information can be found on the Academy website and Careers Notice Board which is located in the main corridor leading to the canteen.

Key dates in Year 11

Pre Public Exams (PPEs)	16 th -27 th November 2020
BTEC Childcare Exam	7 th January 2021
BTEC Travel & Tourism Exam	8 th January 2021
BTEC Hospitality & Catering Exam	14 th January 2021
BTEC Engineering Exam	1 st -5 th February 2021 (includes 4 day practical)
BTEC Digital Information	4 th February 2021
BTEC Health & Social Care	5 th February 2021
College application deadline	31 st January 2021 (some Sixth Forms have earlier deadlines)
Pre Public Exams (PPEs)	22 nd February–5 th March 2021

The GCSE summer exam period and the date for GCSE Results Day have yet to be confirmed by the Department for Education.



The information in this booklet is correct at time of going to press but could be subject to change.