



Louth Academy

Aspirational Education



CAREERS

NEWSLETTER



Proud to be part of the
Lincolnshire Gateway
Academies Trust

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WELCOME MESSAGE



We welcome you to the first of our new termly careers newsletter!

I am Mr Agorini, and I am the Careers Advisor here at Louth Academy. I hope to get the chance to meet all of you when you have a careers meeting. It's our vision that all students will have the skills, confidence and inspiration to make the most of their life choices and follow the career path that best allows them to shine brightly beyond Louth Academy.

As a staff body, we all take responsibility for the development of careers education in order to aid students with their educational and career pathways and to improve meaningful encounters with external partners.

We hope that you enjoy this first issue!

Mr Agorini
Careers Advisor





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POST 16

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WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

► FULL-TIME STUDY

This could be a qualification taken at a sixth form, college or training provider, totalling 540 hours of learning time per year, or around 18 hours per week.

► APPRENTICESHIPS

This involves working for an employer while studying for a qualification as part of your training. Usually, work makes up 80% of an apprenticeship and at least 20% (or one day a week) should be dedicated to studying.

► TRAINEESHIPS

This is an option for students who would like to do an apprenticeship but may not have the experience, skills or qualifications to do so yet. Traineeships can last up to six months and involve a work placement, Maths and English qualifications and support with finding an apprenticeship.

► PART-TIME STUDY WITH EMPLOYMENT OR VOLUNTEERING

This could be working in a full-time job (classed as any work that takes place over more than two months and is over 20 hours per week) or volunteering (again, over 20 hours per week) while studying part-time at a college or training provider (totalling 280 hours of learning per year).



HOW DO I PAY FOR POST-16 EDUCATION AND TRAINING?

Education and training in the UK are free for young people until they turn 19. In addition, there is a 16-19 Bursary Fund to help students from low-income families pay for things like transport, food and stationery, which can be accessed at any sixth form, college or training provider you attend after Year 11 many organisations also have their own financial support for students, so check first.

APPLYING FOR POST-16 HOW DOES IT WORK?

You should begin applying for post-16 options in Autumn 2025, most sixth forms will have a deadline so do your research. Colleges usually do not have a deadline, however the earlier you apply the more likely you will get your chosen course. You can apply for an apprenticeship throughout the course of the academic year, however the best time to apply is in March/April.



SIXTH FORM

➤ A-LEVEL

Sixth form colleges typically focus on A-Level (Advanced Level) qualifications – two-year courses that end in an overall examination and a grade from A*-E, with a similar structure to GCSEs but looking at the subject in a lot more depth.

Students can study: Traditional A-Levels – Subjects like Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Geography, History, Languages, Religious Education, Music, Art
Alternative A-Levels – Subjects like Photography, Law, Sociology, Psychology, Business Studies, Film Studies, Media Studies, Economics, Politics, Sports
Science BTEC L3 Diplomas – Some sixth form colleges offer BTEC qualifications that can be taken alongside A-Levels.

➤ EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

Sixth form colleges also offer something called the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an independent project that can provide students with UCAS points to put towards university.

➤ ABOUT A-LEVELS

These are usually made up of a number of separate modules and include practical assessments and coursework, as well as exams. Subjects can include Health and Social Care, Applied Science, Travel and Tourism and Engineering. Students studying A-Levels usually select three or four subjects (depending on their GCSE grades) that they want to study at sixth form and if they study four, can choose to drop one subject after their first year of sixth form.

➤ LEVEL 1 AND 2 VOCATIONAL COURSES

At some Sixth forms you can also study level 1 and 2 vocational courses. Entry requirements most ask for at least 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/5 and 6 plus in the subjects you intend to take in order to demonstrate a deeper understanding of the subject





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COLLEGE & TRAINING PROVIDERS

Colleges offer a whole range of different courses and study programmes from those that do not need any specific GCSE grades such as Entry Level courses through to apprenticeships, A Levels, Higher Education degrees, and professional or technical qualifications.

Most full-time college courses are attended by 16–19-year-olds, but you will find plenty of adults studying in a college on a range of short, part-time, professional or Higher Education courses.

You can study the following types of courses at college: GCSE or A levels: The GCSE offer at each college will vary but all English and math will be offered to those who have not achieved a 4 yet.

Vocational Subjects: An example of these is Applied General Qualifications and They are related to a broad subject area such as creative and media. Vocational Courses: These include both courses that lead to broad subject areas such as Health and Social Care and also courses that are related to specific jobs such as plumbing.

Apprenticeships: A student is based predominantly or completely with a paying employer and is assessed either in that workplace by a visiting assessor or by attending a college for a day or week at a time

T Levels: Offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.

Foundation Courses: Develop Math, English, study skills, confidence and employability.



APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships involve working for an employer in a specific role while being trained to do the job by experienced staff, in a combination of on-the-job and off-the-job training at a college or training provider (this must be at least 20% of the apprenticeship).

Apprenticeships must be at least one year long and all apprentices must be paid a minimum of £4.15 per hour (although many companies pay more!).

Apprenticeships can now be undertaken in a variety of industries, including Engineering, Graphic Design, Software Development, Hair and Beauty and Catering (and can be started as soon as an individual turns 16 and has left full-time education, although you can apply beforehand).

Apprenticeships come in four different levels: Intermediate/Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE) – usually requires Maths/English at GCSE

Advanced/Level 3 (equivalent to A-Level) – usually requires 5 GCSEs at Grade 4+

Higher/Level 4-5 (equivalent to Foundation Degree) – usually requires L3 or A-Levels

Degree/Level 6-7 (equivalent to University Degree) – usually requires 3 A-Levels or similar Traineeships –

Traineeships involve a programme of up to six months of study, including a work placement, qualifications in Maths and English and support with finding a job or apprenticeship once the course is completed.

Find an apprenticeship – [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk) The government's apprenticeship portal, which allows students to make an account and search and apply for apprenticeships in their area.



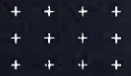
Apprenticeships





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CHOOSING THE RIGHT OPTION FOR YOU

When deciding what to do it is important to think about:

What grades you are likely to get/What job or sector you might want to work in in the future?

Your preferred way of being assessed, for example do you prefer coursework or exams? If you prefer coursework then BTECs or vocational qualifications may be right for you.

Thinking about going to university? If you are thinking of going to university then you will need a level 3 qualification and some courses may specify which subjects they accept as entry requirements.

Some points that you need to take in to consideration; You will usually be asked for 3 A levels or equivalent, such as a BTEC level 3 Extended Diploma, each university or college will have their own entry requirements, including the grades you will need at GCSE and level 3.

Some universities will not accept BTEC qualifications for certain courses or may require at least one A level alongside it. If you are taking a BTEC qualification you may have a choice of optional units – which units you take may impact on your choice of future course.

Where can this option take me in the future? If you are thinking about a destination after post-16, such as university or higher/degree apprenticeships, it is important to know whether the qualifications you are taking from 16-18 can help you to progress on to these pathways.

Use websites such as [Find and Compare the Best University & Degree Courses – The Uni Guide](#) to find out whether the course you want to do after Year 11 will allow you to progress on to what you want to do afterwards.

Or speak firstly with Mr Agorini the schools Careers Advisor who can be found in room 50E Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, staff at the sixth form, college staff or the apprenticeship you are applying to in order to get further details!

For example: - If you want to study Dentistry at university, you usually need to take A-Levels in Chemistry and Biology/Maths/Physics. - Some universities do not accept BTEC L3 Extended Diplomas (although 95% do!)

Apprenticeships have varying entry requirements – some ask for 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above while others ask for 2-3 A Levels.



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HOW DO I MAKE MY FINAL DECISION ABOUT POST-16?

Making a decision about where to go after Year 11 can be tricky, particularly while you are busy revising for your final GCSE exams, so it is important to consider the following that might help with decision making:

What will doing this option be like? Whatever you choose to do after Year 11, you will probably be doing it for at least one year, so it is important that you know that the learning environment and style of learning will be right for you.

Why not... - Speak to sixth form or college staff and students at one of the many Open Days or Open Evenings that take place throughout the year – the websites for each sixth form or college will have these dates on.

Research more about the sixth form, college or apprenticeship provider online to find out about what you would study as part of your qualification or what support the organisation can provide you with while you are studying e.g., help finding work experience, financial support like a free bus pass or food allowance, assistance from the careers team to help you move on after finishing your course etc. Sixth form and college websites have all the information you need!

Want to get prepared? Search for courses you are interested in doing after Year 11 and check the entry requirements. Search and apply for apprenticeships online. Learn more about the options available after finishing school, including sixth form, college, apprenticeships and university – [Careerpivot : Plan your future work & study](#) is a useful resource for this.

Read about how your subjects link to different careers – [Where your option choices can take you](#) | [My World of Work](#) can help with this. Think about your skills and qualities, what jobs might suit you? The Buzz Quiz [Buzz quiz - icould](#) is a good starting point for this. www.barclayslifeskills.com Think about how you can improve your employability skills – see [LifeSkills | Developing work and life skills \(barclayslifeskills.com\)](#) for more information.

QUESTIONS I MAY NEED TO ASK AT AN OPEN EVENING?

1. How does the course timetable fit in with arrival/departure times of the transport?
2. When will I hear whether I have an interview or are to be offered a place?
3. Which days of the week do students attend – every day or on specific days of the week?
4. What are the pass rates for particular courses and what are the average grades that students achieve on the programme?
5. What is the balance between taught and independent study time e.g. lectures, classes and self-study?
6. What opportunities are there for work experience as part of the course?
7. If, once I have started the course, I feel that it is not right for me who should I speak to?
8. What help will the sixth form/college give me to find a suitable placement?
9. What is the usual class size for the course?
10. What financial help is available if I cannot meet the costs associated with the course e.g. transport, trips, uniform, equipment etc.?
11. If I apply, what happens next?
12. What careers guidance is available to help with my next steps?
13. Do you need GCSE grades in particular subjects and what happens if I do not achieve particular entry grades?
14. What will happen if not enough people apply for the course? What do students typically progress on to after completing the course?
15. What opportunities are there for work experience as part of the course?





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LOOK OUT FOR NEXT TERMS **CAREERS NEWSLETTER**



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