



HEBBURN
Comprehensive School
WORK HARD | BE KIND | ASPIRE

A Guide to

POST-16

OPTIONS

Exploring your options

Navigating post-Year 11 options can be overwhelming for both pupils and their parents / carers. With a variety of pathways available, it's crucial to have a clear understanding of the choices. This guide provides an overview of the post-16 options to help inform your decisions.

Information, Advice and Guidance

Pupils at Hebburn Comprehensive School are entitled to independent and impartial careers information, advice and guidance on a full range of post-16 options. Our external careers advisor, **Jo Cameron** (from Careerwave), is available in school on Thursdays and offers 45 minute advice sessions, as well as drop-in meetings before school, after school and during lunchtime in the Open Zone. Parents and carers can contact Jo via email at careersadvisor@hebburn.net. You can find more information at www.careerwave.co.uk.

Our school's careers co-ordinator is **Mrs Spark**. Mrs Spark is able to assist with any queries you have regarding employment and post-16 options, and can guide you to employers or service providers who can support you with these choices.

Raising of the Participation Age

Since September 2015, the government has raised the participation age, requiring young people to remain in education or training until their 18th birthday. However, this does not mean they must stay in school. Your child may choose to study or train in any of the following ways:

- Full-time study at a school, college, or with a training provider.
- Employment or volunteering combined with part-time education or training.
- Apprenticeships, traineeships, or other structured study programmes.

This policy aims to enhance young people's career prospects, as evidence shows that continued education or training significantly improves future opportunities.

Future pathways

KS4

KS5

18+

GCSEs
and
others

A Levels and vocational courses
in Sixth Form

A Levels and vocational courses
at Further Education college

Degree at
University or
FE college

T Levels at Further Education
college

Traineeship or study programme
with a training provider

Employment

Foundation courses

Intermediate
Apprenticeship

Advanced
Apprenticeship

Degree or
Higher level
apprenticeship

Job or volunteering (minimum 20 hours per
week) **with recognised training**

What are the **differences**?

Apprenticeships

are paid jobs that you have to apply for, where you'll compete against other candidates to secure a position.

Further Education colleges

offer practical courses, apprenticeships, and vocational courses at all levels covering most industries.

Training providers

offer specialised vocational courses in a smaller environment.

A **Sixth Form** allows you to continue studying in a classroom (similar to school) but with more social options.

Foundation courses

combine academic and workplace skills and provide an extra year of study before undertaking a full degree.



Find an apprenticeship

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

What are T Levels?

T Levels are an alternative to A Levels, apprenticeships and other 16 to 19 courses. They are equivalent to 3 A levels, and include an industry placement that lasts at least 45 days. T Levels focus on vocational skills and can help students into skilled employments, higher study or apprenticeships.

The local offer

Colleges and Further Education Providers

Newcastle College	www.ncl-coll.ac.uk
Gateshead College	www.gateshead.ac.uk
Sunderland College	www.sunderlandcollege.ac.uk
Tyne Met College	www.tynemet.ac.uk
St Joseph's Catholic Academy	www.stjosephs.uk.net
Whitburn Academy	www.whitburncofeacademy.org
Harton Academy	www.harton-tc.co.uk
Newcastle Sixth Form	www.newcastlesixthformcollege.ac.uk
St Wilfried's RC College	www.st-wilfrids.org
New College Durham	www.newcollegedurham.ac.uk
South Tyneside College	www.stc.ac.uk

Training Providers

Springboard North East	www.springboard-ne.org.uk
Gateshead Learning & Skills	www.mylearningskills.co.uk
Kleek Apprenticeships (Hairdressing)	www.kleekapprenticeships.co.uk
Chameleon Vocational Training (Automotive)	www.cvt-uk.co.uk
Foundation of Light Study Programme	www.foundationoflight.co.uk
Cool Blue College	www.coolbluecollege.com
PETAL (Phoenix Employment Training Academy Ltd)	www.petaltraining.com
King's Trust "Team" Programme	www.kingstrust.org.uk
Resources North East (Construction, Hairdressing, Security, Warehousing)	www.recourcesnortheast.co.uk
Seta (Engineering and Manufacturing)	www.seta.co.uk
Sunderland Training & Education Farm	www.sunderlandfarm.co.uk