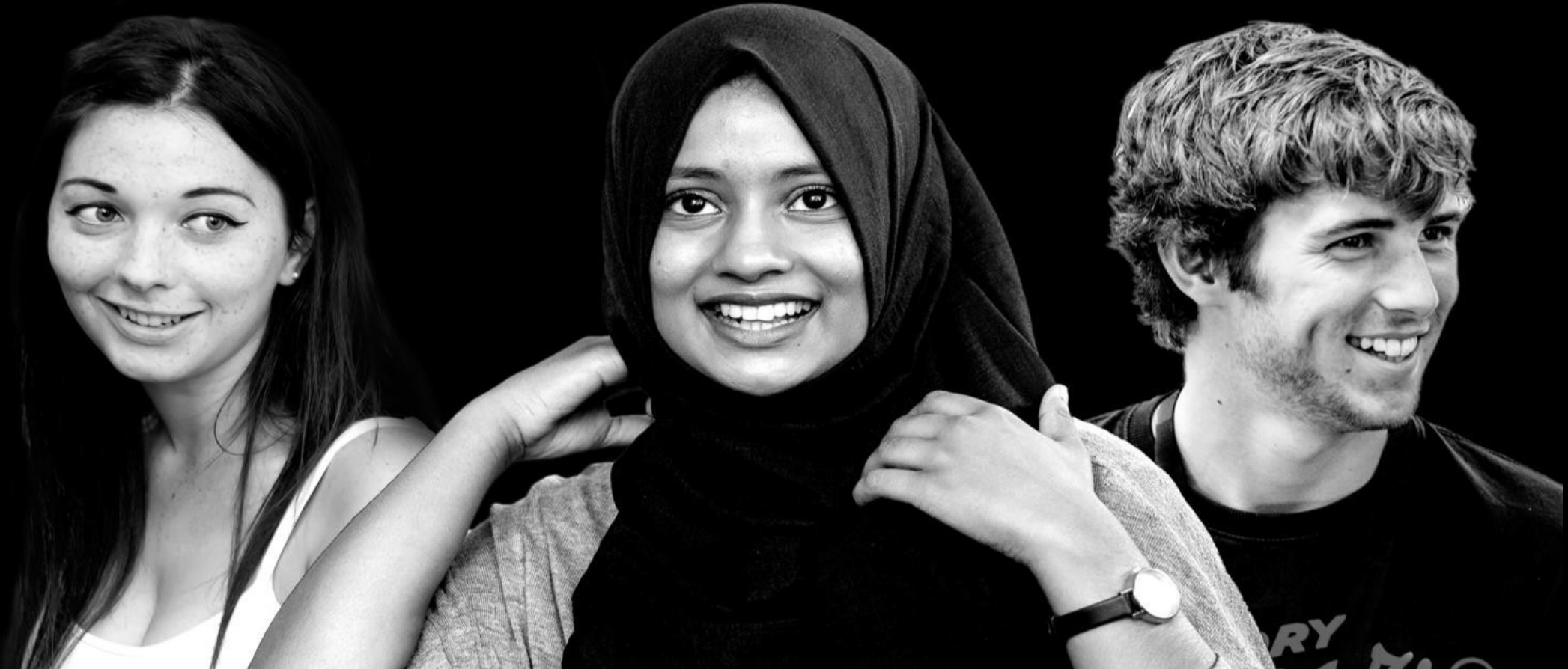
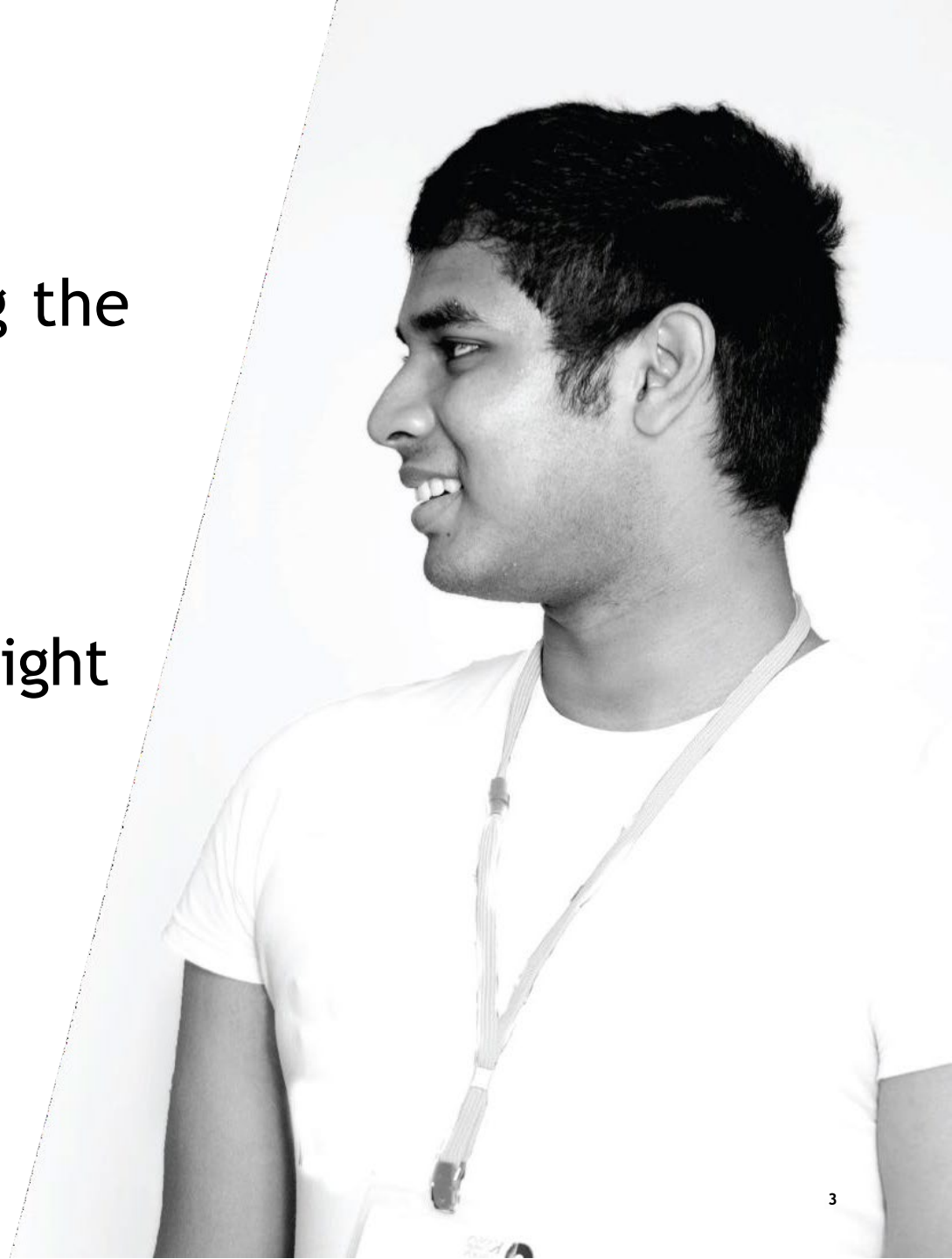


Post-16 qualifications; Access your Future



Coming up...

- Overview of post 16 options including the new T-Levels.
- A look in more detail at the different routes after Year 11.
- Supporting young people to make the right choices at age 16.



All 16-18 year old must

Stay in full-time education - for example at school, sixth form college, further education college or University Technical College.

or

Start an apprenticeship or traineeship

or

Spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering while also doing part-time education or training

Let's take a look at post 16 options

What's your next move?

Compare your options after GCSE


QUALIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	LENGTH OF TIME	ASSESSMENT	LEVEL OF STUDY	AWARDS UCAS POINTS?	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	WORK EXPERIENCE	WHAT DOES IT LEAD TO?
APPRENTICESHIPS <small>www.apprenticeships.gov.uk</small>	A real job with training and a salary.	1 Year minimum	Apprenticeship dependent (inc. demonstrations, presentations and/or exams)	2/3 With the possibility to progress to higher apprenticeships up to level 7	No	- Employer dependent - Age 16+ - Evidence of interest and ability to complete	Yes (paid job, with at least 20% off the job training)	- Higher level or degree apprenticeship - University/College - Work
A LEVELS	An academic qualification, similar in style to GCSEs, that prepares you for further study.	2 Years	Mostly exams at the end of the course	3	Yes	For individual schools and colleges to decide (commonly 5 GCSEs at grades 4 and above)	No	- Apprenticeship - University/College - Work
T LEVELS <small>www.tlevels.gov.uk</small>	A technical study programme, equivalent to 3 A levels, with an industry placement that makes up 20% of the course. T Levels are designed to give you the skills that employers need.	2 Years	Exams, projects and practical assignments	3	Yes	Set by each school/college	Yes (80% classroom, 20% work)	- Apprenticeship - University/College - Work
TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS <small>(e.g. some Pearson BTECs, Cambridge Technicals, City and Guilds Diplomas, AQA Technicals, VET Diplomas and many others)</small>	Qualifications which teach you how to do tasks specifically related to the industry and role you want to be in.	Course dependent	Course dependent (coursework & exams)	1+	Some (course & awarding organisation dependent)	Course dependent	Course dependent	- Apprenticeship - College - Work
APPLIED QUALIFICATIONS <small>(e.g. some Pearson BTECs and some Cambridge Technicals, BTEC Diplomas, AQA Certificate, AQA Applied and many others)</small>	Qualifications that prepare you for further study by combining academic learning with practical skills to give you a broad overview of working in a sector.	Course dependent	Course dependent (coursework & exams)	3	Yes	Set by each school/college	Course dependent	- Apprenticeship - University/College - Work
TRAINEESHIPS <small>www.gov.uk/government/collections/traineeships</small>	A work focused study programme that prepares you for an apprenticeship or work.	6 Weeks - 6 Months	A formal job or exit interview with written feedback. Coursework and exams are course dependent	N/A	No	Have little to no work experience and qualified below Level 3	Yes	- Apprenticeship - Work



Levels are designed to indicate the complexity of qualifications and apprenticeships, allowing people to draw comparisons and understand where they sit in relation to the other options which are available. There are 8 levels plus entry level, with the higher levels offering the highest difficulty.
 Find out more about the different levels at www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean
 Visit nationalcareers.service.gov.uk for information about careers, training and work.



Applies to England only



Level 3 academic qualifications (A- Levels)

Level 3 academic qualifications

- **A levels:** "These world renowned qualifications will be central to the study programmes of most students taking the academic pathways to progress to university"
- **Small qualifications alongside A levels:** such as Core Maths and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- **Large alternatives to A levels:** Could include creative and performing arts courses, or alternatives such as the International Baccalaureate.
- **International Baccalaureate** - This is a very well-established and widely recognised alternative to A levels. However it is uncommon for students in UK state schools to take this. Locally is taught at Bedford School, but please be aware this is fee paying.



A levels

Key points

- Specific entry requirements in order to study.
- Students choose three or four subjects, although university offers are based on three A levels only.
- Traditional linear academic way of learning taught over two years and assessed at the end by exams.
- Can lead on to university, Higher/degree apprenticeships/school leaver programmes.



Small qualifications alongside A levels

Such as...

- **Core Maths** - term to refer to a group of different qualifications. They are typically the same size as an AS qualification
- **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)** - designed to extend students' abilities beyond the A level syllabus. Students lead their own projects and carry out research on a chosen topic



Should students choose additional academic qualifications alongside A levels?

- Core Maths may be useful for students who intend to study a course with a quantitative component, e.g. psychology, social sciences, business studies, geography etc. This is offered at Wixams Academy 6th form.
- The EPQ is excellent preparation for the independent study which is required at university and some students with a good grade may receive a lower A level grade offer. This is offered at Wixams Academy 6th form.



Key points

- Students should choose subjects that they're interested in and they enjoy
- At the same time, some subjects are prerequisites for degree courses, for example Chemistry and Biology for Medicine.
- Some students may believe a particular subject choice will give them an advantage e.g. (A-level Law), but that's not necessarily the case.
- Students can try the informed choice tool on the Russell Group web-site to help make A-Level choices whether they do or don't know what degree to take. [Pick a route | Informed Choices](#)

Applications for A levels should be made directly to the school/college. Please check their websites for individual admissions processes (Some are electronic others are not)



Russell Group Informed Choices

Accounting	Ancient History	Arabic	Archaeology	Art & Design *	Bengali	Biblical Hebrew
Classical Greek	Computing / Computer Science	Critical Thinking	Dance	Design Technology **	Drama & Theatre Studies	Dutch
English Literature	Environmental Science	Food Technology	French	Further Mathematics	General Studies	Geography
History	History of Art	ICT	Italian	Japanese	Latin	Law
Music	Music Technology	Performing Arts	Persian	Philosophy	Physics	Polish

www.informedchoices.ac.uk



Level 3 Technical qualifications (T levels)

What are T levels?

- T levels are two year Level 3 courses which will be equivalent to three A levels.
- They will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days) This means students learn what a real career is like whilst they continue their studies.
- They started on a small scale in 2020, and all courses will be available by 2024.



T level subject strands - currently available

- building services engineering for construction
- design, surveying and planning for construction
- digital business services
- digital production, design and development
- digital support and services
- education and childcare
- health
- healthcare science
- onsite construction
- science

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- digital production, design and development
- digital support and services
- education and childcare
- health
- healthcare science
- onsite construction
- science

T level subject strands - coming in future

- accounting
- agriculture, land management and production
- animal care and management
- catering
- craft and design
- design and development for engineering and manufacturing
- finance
- hair, beauty and aesthetics
- human resources
- legal
- maintenance, installation and repair for engineering and manufacturing
- management and administration
- engineering, manufacturing, processing and control
- media, broadcast and production

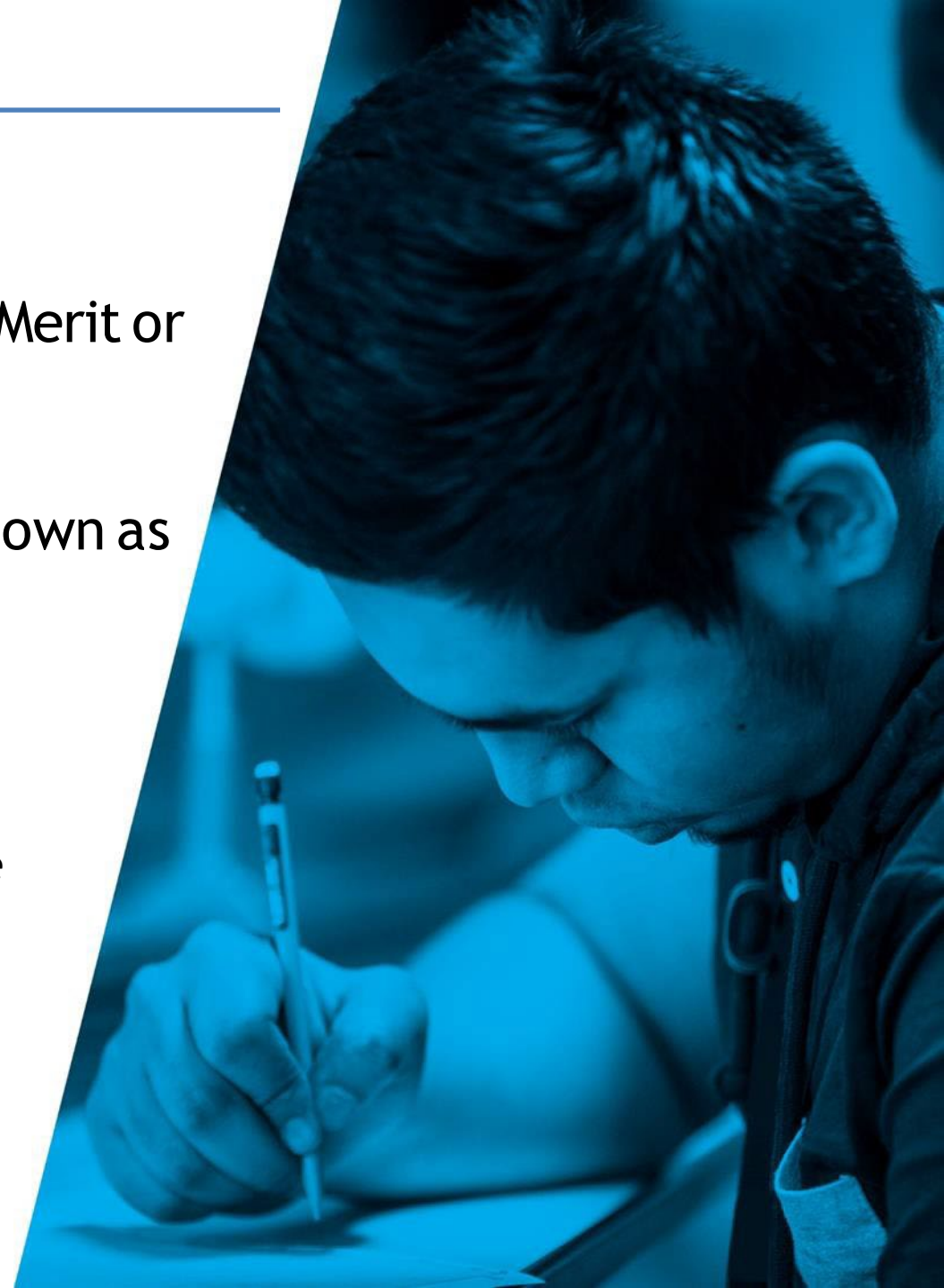
T level grading

The T Level certificate will include:

- an overall pass grade for the T Level, shown as Pass, Merit or Distinction
- a separate grade for the occupational specialism, shown as pass, merit or distinction
- details of the industry placement

For more
information use
this link:

[T Levels | National Careers Service](#)



T level local offer

Bedford College & MK College T Level offers:

BEDFORD COLLEGE:

Building Services Engineering for Construction
Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction
Digital Support Services
Education and Childcare
Health
Onsite Construction

Application for T levels is via each college website.

MK COLLEGE:

Design and Development for Engineering and Manufacturing
Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction
Digital Production, Design and Development
Digital Support Services
Education and Childcare





BTECs and vocational qualifications

Now lets look at BTEC qualifications

BTECs are a practical-based, vocational qualifications. They can be studied at a college or school and are assessed via course work and practical assessments.

BTECs provide the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in a field or subject and are related to a particular vocational area

Lots of subject areas to choose from, such as:

- Business
- Art and Design
- Health and Social Care
- Engineering
- Games Design
- Animal Care
- Public Services
- Travel and Tourism



BTEC Levels explained

BTECs are available at different levels:

- BTEC Introductory LEVEL 1
- BTEC First LEVEL 2 - (equivalent to 4 GCSEs at grade 4)
- BTEC subsidiary diploma (equivalent to one A level)
- BTEC diploma (equivalent to two A levels)
- BTEC extended diploma (equivalent to three A levels)

ENTRY requirements:

Level 1 - 3 GCSEs at grades 9-1 ideally including English and maths

Level 2 - 3 GCSEs at grades 9-3 ideally including English and maths OR a BTEC at Level 1

Level 3 - 4 GCSEs at grade 4 or above

What about other vocational qualifications?

If students are wishing to train for a specific job such as Hairdressing, Mechanics, Carpentry and Child care etc then you will need to gain relevant vocational qualifications. Vocational qualifications demonstrate that you have the skills, knowledge and behaviour to do a job.

There are many different types of vocational qualifications depending on what you are training for with different awarding bodies, such as City and Guilds and NVQs.

Where?

These can be studied at an FE college such as Bedford College or on the job as an apprentice.

Applications via college websites or an independent training provider such as SSG



Apprenticeships

What is an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study.
As an apprentice you'll:


- be an employee earning at least min wage (£4.81, for 16-18 yr olds)
- work alongside experienced staff
- gain job-specific skills and qualifications
- get time for training and study related to your role (at least 20% of your normal working hours)

Apprenticeships take 1 to 5 years to complete depending on their level. Apprenticeships range from L2-right up to L7!



Apprenticeships contd...

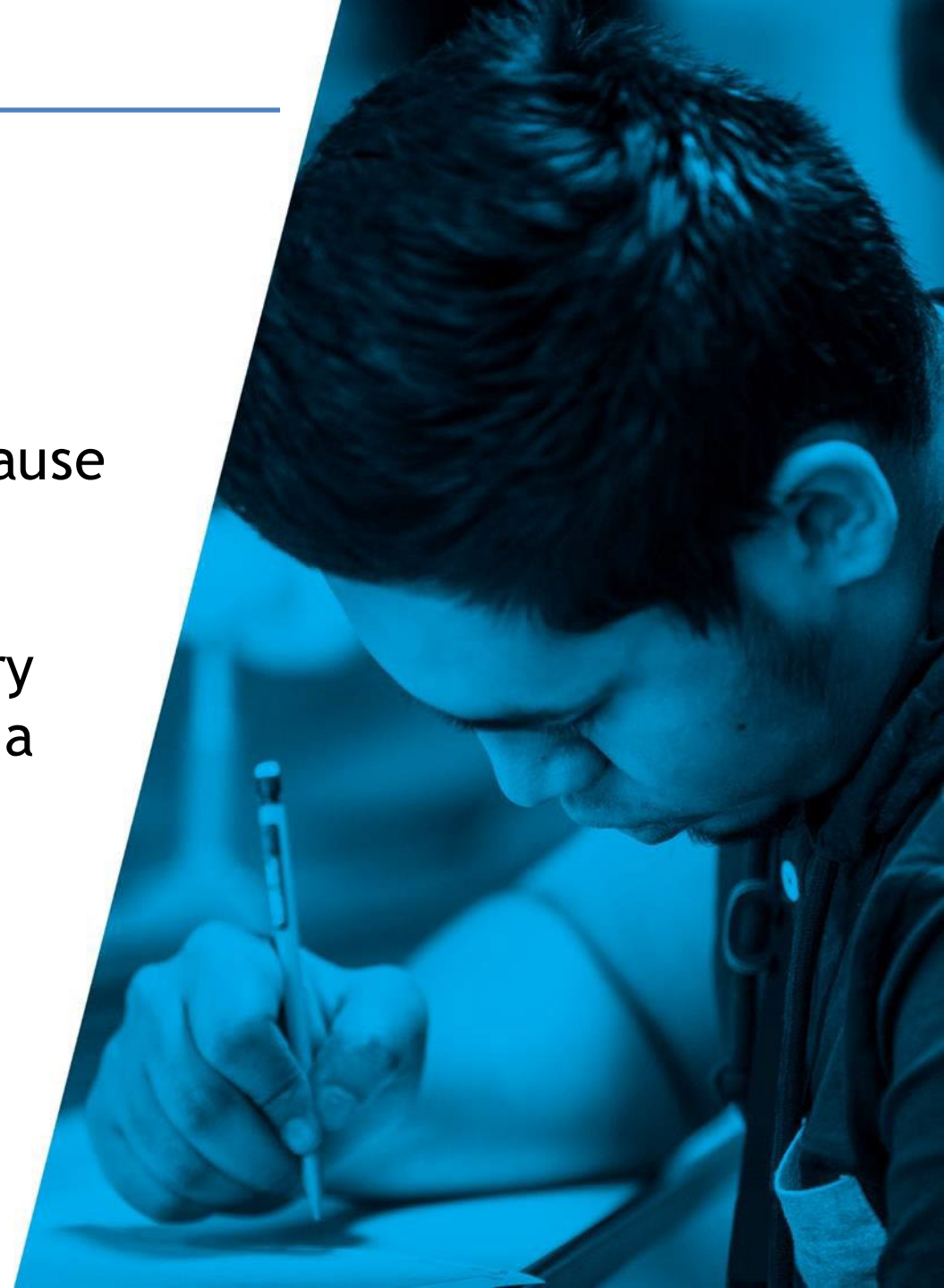
- Entry requirements depend on the level of apprenticeship the young person is applying for.
- Young people can apply through the government web-site - [Become an apprentice: Apply for an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/become-an-apprentice)
- The process of applying and interviewing can be tricky. Having a meeting with Mrs. Bastians is strongly recommended. Students will need CVs, covering letters and applications checking first in order to have a good chance at being successful.
- Apprenticeships can lead on to future employment/progressing on to the next level of apprenticeship/further study, such as FE/HE.



Helping students to
make the right
choices

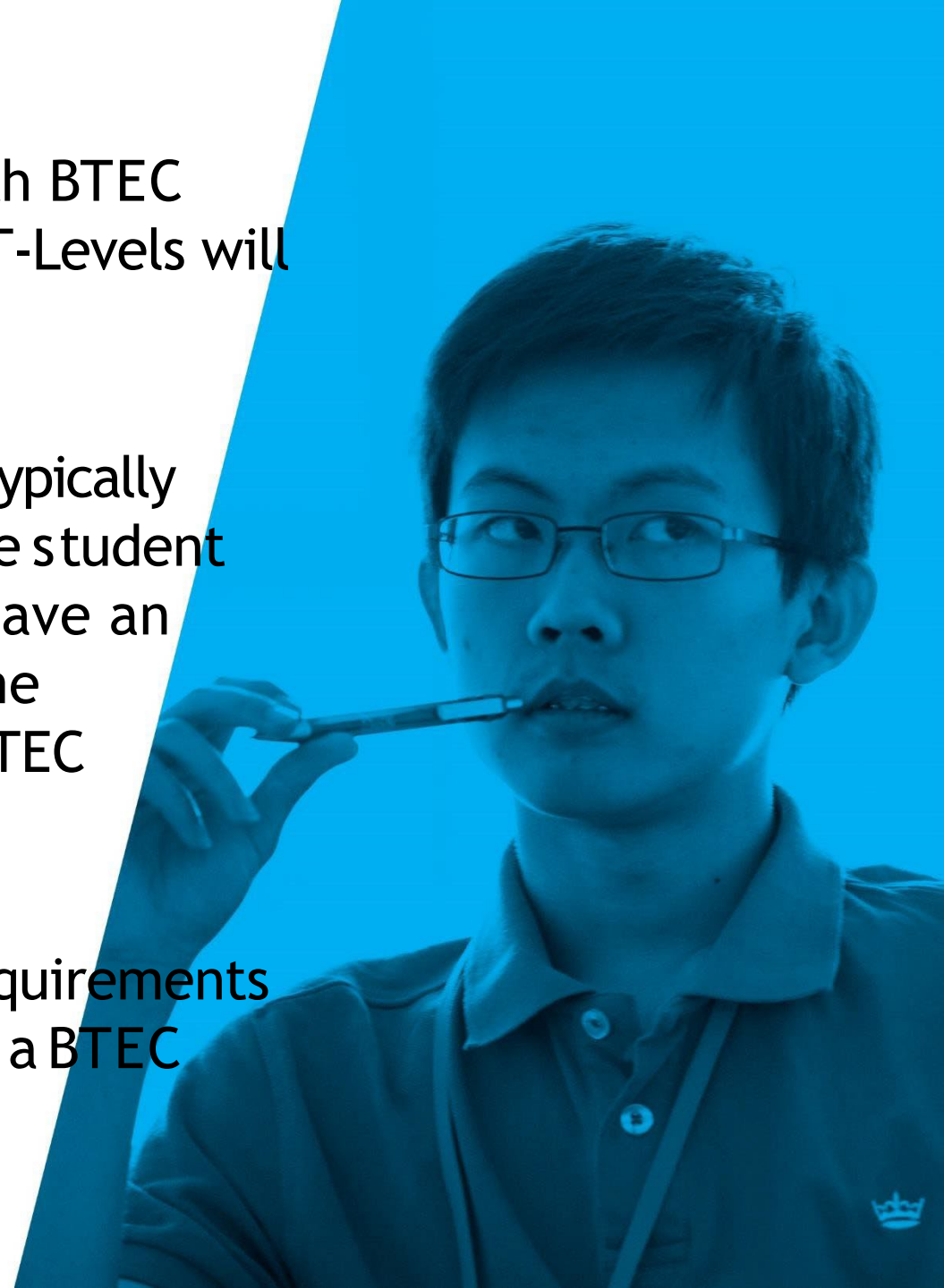
Academic or technical/vocational?

- If a student has a very particular career in mind, a specific technical or vocational qualification could enable them to reach their career goals quickly.
- However, if students specialise too early this can cause problems if they change their mind.
- Academic qualifications such as A levels can be very versatile, and students might then progress down a more technical route later if they wish to.



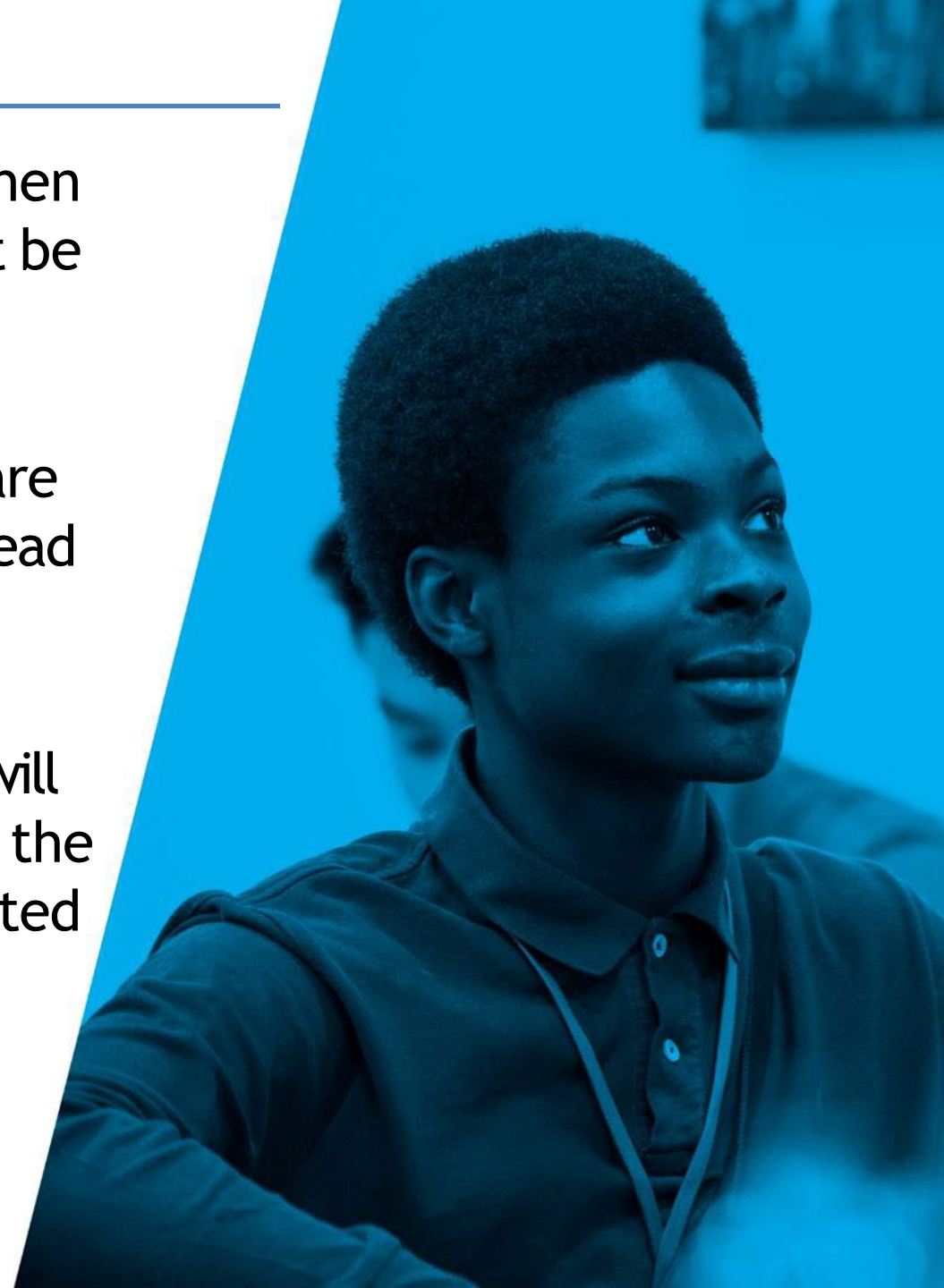
Technical qualifications and university entry

- Most Russell Group universities admit students with BTEC qualifications and the government have said that T-Levels will lead on to university or full time employment*.
- However, the content of the BTEC qualification typically needs to be related to the degree subject which the student is applying for. In some cases, you may need to have an A-Level in addition to a BTEC, for example, some universities require A-Level Maths on top of a BTEC Extended Dip to study Engineering.
- Universities may be quite specific in their entry requirements and ask for particular grades and particular units of a BTEC qualification.



Will universities accept T levels?

- If students are sure they want to go to university, then choosing an academic option such as A level might be the wisest move
- Technical qualifications(T levels) can help to prepare students for the workplace, though they can also lead to further study too
- Not all universities have been clear on how they will treat T levels in their admissions process. However the information so far suggests that they could be treated in a similar way to BTEC qualifications



T levels and Russell Group universities

“T-Levels are not considered appropriate preparation for the Cambridge Engineering degree and are therefore not accepted for entry. Applicants with a mix of qualifications should contact a College admissions office for advice.”

University of Cambridge

“Candidates with vocational or technical qualifications equivalent to A-levels (including T-Levels) are welcome to apply, although candidates may need to take additional academic qualifications to make a competitive application.”

University of Oxford

“The University of Warwick welcomes the development T-level qualifications as a new technical route into Higher Education. We believe they could be of particular interest to learners wishing to further their academic and professional development through our Degree Apprenticeship programmes. Applicants with T-levels will be given full and fair consideration when applying to Warwick and have equal opportunities to those applying with other recognised qualifications.”

University of Warwick

What guidance do the students receive?



At Wixams Academy our careers guidance starts from Year 7 and builds from exploring your own skills and dreams to understanding how to apply for a 6th form place at a college or school, interview techniques, CV writing and being aware of your digital footprint.

We hold an annual future focus day where external organisations and companies come to the Academy to share information with the students about jobs available in the different sectors and the routes needed to follow them.

Our amazing careers champions work hard to promote careers running activities during lunch time for the lower school.


All Year 11 students will receive a 1-2-1 meeting with Mrs Bastians where an action plan will be formulated so that the next steps are recorded in writing.

Year 11 also have guest speakers who talk to the them about apprenticeships.

All students in Year 11 have undertaken a trip to the University of Bedfordshire and Year 10 will be undertaking this trip on 23rd & 24th November. This is to undertake their Aim 4 Uni day, and the aim is to provide the students with an experience of what a university is like, and to inspire them to want to pursue education to the highest level.

Coming soon..... Access to Unifrog, an online portal enabling students from Year 7-13 to explore and make decisions about their future careers.

Useful web-sites to use for students/families:

- Unifrog - Students will be getting log ins soon 
- TheWayUp! - <https://www.thewayup.co.uk/>
- thinkuni - <https://www.thinkuni.org/>
- UCAS careers quiz - www.ucas.com/careers/careers-quiz
- Prospects – www.prospects.ac.uk
- Career Pilot – www.careerpilot.org.uk
- Target Careers – www.targetcareers.co.uk

TheWayUp!



UCAS

CAREERS QUIZ
Discover your ideal job

[Home](#) [About](#) [Media](#) [Schools](#) [Contact](#)

An innovative new game that helps students make better, more informed choices about their future!

Using real-world data, it gamifies important life decisions including A-levels, apprenticeships and university course choices. Based upon these decisions, the game then simulates the occupations available to players and the first five years of their graduate lives!

Funded by The Department for Education, *TheWayUp!* is a fun and engaging app that provides up-to-date information on the long-term consequences of education and career choices.



Our 6th form has now opened and we are busy preparing for our Open Evening on November 17th 6-8pm.

What students *will* experience at our sixth form...

- Excellent teaching
- A smaller, personalised approach with academic mentoring
- Small group sizes of typically 5 to 15
- Personal budget for a computer and textbooks
- Nurture and support with tutor, Head of VI and counsellors
- Common Room and Study Centre open into the evening
- Opportunities and responsibilities: Prefect system
- Being a 'founding member' to shape our Sixth Form



Applications
for our 6th
form are via
the Academy
Website