

# Where next?

## Choices for 16-19 year olds

**A guide for young people aged 14-19 and their parents.  
What are your education, work and training options?**



# Welcome

This guide will help you find out about the many learning opportunities available in Dorset for 16-19 year olds (and for those 19 to 25 SEND young people).

You may have heard that the school leaving age has gone up, this isn't quite true; you are expected to stay in education or some recognised form of education or training until you are 18, but it doesn't have to be at school.

All of these levels are available in Dorset.

Levels 1-3 will usually be appropriate to 16-18 year olds.

Level 4 is usually for over 18 year olds.

**Level 4 or higher:** Doctorate, Masters, Degree, Bachelor Degree and Higher Apprenticeships, Foundation Degree

**Level 3:** A Level, AS Level, Advanced Apprenticeship, Extended and other Diplomas at Level 3, NVQ Level 3, Foundation Diplomas and International Baccalaureate (IB)

**Level 2:** GCSE grades ♦ A\*-C, Diplomas at Level 2, Intermediate Apprenticeship, NVQ Level 2, ASDAN Level 2

**Level 1:** GCSE grades ♦ D-G, NVQ Level 1, Traineeships, Functional Skills Level, ASDAN Level 1

♦ From August 2017 the GCSE grades A\*-G will start to be replaced by a 9-1 number grading system

# Training Providers

## Training Providers

Offer a range of different courses to all ability levels. From those that do not need any GCSEs to professional qualifications and Higher Level Apprenticeships.

Most offer work-based training and apprenticeships. Many specialise in training for certain careers. Some will also offer courses to develop young people's employability skills, including Traineeships.

Most are full-time courses, but part-time and shorter courses are also available. Talk to a training provider or check details on the back page for where you can find out more.

## Training providers offer a wide range of courses including:

- Vocational courses
- Apprenticeships
- Traineeships
- English and maths
- Employability skills

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4

# Schools and Academies

There are lots of different types of schools that you can choose to study at in Dorset

## Schools and Academies

They cater for most students and offer a wide range of courses. Most offer A levels and some will offer Level 2 and vocational options.

## University Technical Colleges

The curriculum is designed in partnership with a university and combines GCSEs and A Levels with specialist technical qualifications in sectors that are growing and looking for skilled staff. Employers take an active role, regularly mentoring students and providing opportunities for work experience, and work on real-life projects. Days typically start at 8.30am and end at 5pm including time for homework.



## Studio Schools

Studio Schools work closely with local employers to offer a range of academic and vocational qualifications including GCSEs in English, Maths and Science, and paid work placements linked directly to employment opportunities in the local area, often with a specialism. They usually have a year-round opening (with some holidays) and a nine to five working day, so feel more like a workplace than a school.



## Free Schools

Free Schools are new independent state-funded schools, but they aren't run by the local authority. They have more control over how they do things. They are set up by groups of parents, teachers, charities, existing schools or other organisations to respond to a need for a new school in their community.



## Schools and Academies offer a wide range of courses including:

- Most offer **A levels**
- Some will offer **AS levels**
- Some will offer **GCSEs**
- **Most will offer** English and maths GCSEs
- Some will offer **Vocational Courses**

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4

# Further Education Colleges

## Further Education (FE) Colleges

Offer a wide range of different courses. From courses that do not need any specific GCSE grades, through to apprenticeships, degrees, and professional qualifications.

Although most full time college courses are attended by 16 – 19 year olds you will find plenty of adults studying in a college on a range of short, part-time, professional or higher education courses.

**Some colleges specialise while others offer a wider curriculum. Colleges offer a wide range of courses including:**

- GCSE or A levels
- Vocational courses
- Apprenticeships and Traineeships
- Courses that prepare people for **Higher Education**, such as Access Courses or the Art Foundation Course.
- **Vocational Higher Education courses**, such as Foundation Degrees, Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) Certificates (HNCs) and Degrees.
- **Foundation courses** to develop maths, English, study skills, confidence and employability. These courses can give students the chance to try out several different vocational areas.

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4



# Starting a career...

# Apprenticeships

## Apprenticeships

An **apprenticeship** is a great way to build your career. You learn on the job, building up knowledge and skills, gaining qualifications and earning money at the same time.

You will be employed, spending most of your time in the workplace gaining job-specific skills, but you will also be supported by a training provider or FE college to build up your knowledge and qualifications.

Apprenticeship training can take between one and four years to complete and the length of your apprenticeship will depend on its level, the industry you're training in and the skills you already have.

All apprentices under the age of 19, or in their first year of an Apprenticeship will be paid at least £3.30 per hour or £122 a week. **Many apprentices earn significantly more.**

**You must be 16 or over to start an apprenticeship and there are three levels you can study at:**

- **Apprenticeship (Level 2)**
- **Advanced apprenticeship (Level 3)**
- **Higher apprenticeship (Level 4 and above)**

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4

# Starting a career...

## Traineeships

### Traineeships

Traineeships are for 16-24 year olds who want to work but who need extra help to gain an apprenticeship or job. You won't be paid, but you will develop the skills and experience needed to get an apprenticeship or job. They are short-term courses that last between 6 weeks and 6 months.



### Traineeships have three core elements:

1. High-quality work placement to develop work-place skills and prove yourself to an employer
2. A focussed period of work preparation training focussing on CV writing, interview prep and job search skills.
3. English and Maths (if you haven't already got a GCSE grade A\*-C in these subjects)

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4



# Higher Education

## Higher Education

There are lots of different types of higher education level courses available. Higher education means any sort of nationally recognised qualification which is at Level 4 or above. A degree starts at Level 4 and progresses to Level 6, in the third year. Higher education qualifications include:

- **Higher Level Apprenticeships (Level 4)**
- **Degrees**
- **HNDs**
- **HNCs**

Although in the past higher education courses were just delivered at universities, they are now also offered by further education colleges and also by some training providers in Dorset.

So, if you have Level 3 qualifications like A Levels, Advanced Apprenticeship, or a BTEC National, then you could explore higher level study at 18/19. If you haven't, but would be interested in higher level study later, there are lots of ways in, through access courses and through study alongside work. Talk to an FE College or Training Provider for more information.

**Most young people are 18 or over when they start Higher Education.**

Level 1

Level 2

Level 3

Level 4

# Essential information

## Financial Support

If you're about to start any education beyond 16 and think you might struggle with the associated cost of full-time further education (e.g. books or equipment) or training, there are lots of different bursaries to which you can apply to get financial support.

Speak to your school, college or training provider about your circumstances. You will need to apply and each provider will have their own applications and eligibility criteria.

## Transport

There is no automatic entitlement for free home to school or college transport once a student is over 16 even if free transport has been provided in the past. Those attending post-16 education placements can apply for a seat through the Surplus Seat Transport Scheme (SSTS).

Colleges and some schools have funded the development of their own arrangements for transporting students into their school/college and helping students with the cost. Further enquiries should be made to the school or college concerned.

The transport arrangements of post 16 students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) will be considered during Year 11. It is important to note that although a student may have, or had, a statement of Special Educational Needs or an EHC Plan pre 16, this does not automatically entitle the student to travel assistance post 16. There is an application process, for more information see [www.dorsetforyou.com](http://www.dorsetforyou.com) or contact the SEN team on 01305 224888.

# SEND provision (16-25yrs)

## SEN and Disabilities Provision

If you are 16-25 and have a statement, a Learning Difficulty Assessment or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) there are lots of options to prepare you for adulthood. The aim is for young people to move into work.

For a full range of options visit [www.dorsetforyou.com/local-offer](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/local-offer)

All previous options are available including Supported Internships, they are a new type of programme specifically aimed at a young person aged 16 to 25 who has a statement of special educational needs, a Learning Difficulty Assessment, or an Education, Health and Care Plan, who wants to move into employment and needs extra support to do so. The Internship normally lasts for one year and includes an unpaid work placement of at least six months. Placements may be with one employer or several according to the young person's need.



# Next steps

## Remember

All young people are expected to stay in education or training until they are 18. This could be through any of the options we have highlighted, even a job, if it has accredited training. Accredited training will give you qualifications that will help you to progress further in your career, earn more money, and have better job security.

## Now I've read the information what do I do?

- Talk to an accredited career advisor or family and friends about your next steps.
- Find out more by researching all of the options, start with the websites below.
- Go to open evenings or to taster days
- Apply for several things to keep your options open.

### Careers advice:

[www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk)

[www.plotr.co.uk](http://www.plotr.co.uk)

### To find local schools, colleges and training providers visit:

[www.dorsetforyou.com/post16](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/post16)

### Apprenticeships and Traineeships:

Find vacancies, case studies and training providers. Remember that vacancies can change on a daily basis.

[www.dstpn.co.uk](http://www.dstpn.co.uk)

[www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)

### Volunteering opportunities:

[www.vinspired.com](http://www.vinspired.com)

### Post 16 transport support:

[www.dorsetforyou.com/post-16-transport-support](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/post-16-transport-support)

### Surplus seat travel scheme:

[www.dorsetforyou.com/surplus-seat-travel-scheme](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/surplus-seat-travel-scheme)

### Home to school transport policies:

[www.dorsetforyou.com/transport-policies](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/transport-policies)

This publication can be made available in audio tape, large print and Braille, or alternative languages on request.