

Post 16 options and College entry requirements

Study routes available after leaving school

Entry requirements for different courses

ROUTES AFTER LEAVING SCHOOL

- A Levels
- BTEC
- Apprenticeships
- T Levels
- Traineeships

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A LEVELS

- A minimum of five GCSE's grades 9-4 grades including English language or Maths, most sixth forms request two grade 6s. There are some sixth forms and colleges that do not.
- Each sixth form and college have their own entry requirements and they may have specific subject entry requirements for certain subjects, for example, if a student wants to study a Science A level, they must be achieving grades 66 in Core and Additional Science and a minimum of a grade 5 in GCSE Maths.

BTEC LEVEL 3

- 4-5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above which must include a minimum of grade 4 in English Language or Maths GCSE.
- Extended Diploma is equivalent to three A levels, national diploma is equivalent to 2 A levels and the extended certificate is equivalent to 1 A level. Some sixth forms allow students to study a Blended Pathway which is a mixture of A levels and BTEC but only if they meet the entry requirements for A levels.
- **Subject area categories available:** Business Studies, Creative Media Production, Health and Social Care, ICT, Law and Sport.

Apprenticeships

- Entry requirements for Level 2 apprenticeships are usually GCSE English Language and Maths at grade 3 or higher however this is dependent on the employer, some will ask for higher than this and some will ask for no formal qualifications
- Students will need to write a CV as they will be interviewed by an employer.
- Apprenticeships are competitive and the applications become live in April.
- The current minimum wage rate for an apprentice is £4.81 per hour. This rate applies to apprentices under 19 and those aged 19 or over who are in their first year.

T levels

- T Levels are new courses which follow GCSEs and are equivalent to 3 A levels. These 2-year courses, which launched September 2020, have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training or study.
- It is equivalent to 3 A levels
- Students can already do courses in construction, digital and education. Over the next 3 years a total of 24 T Level subjects will become available.
- For more courses please visit - <https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/>
- 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).
- Students who complete a T Level will receive an overall grade of pass, merit, distinction or distinction* and will be awarded with a nationally recognised certificate showing a breakdown of what they’ve achieved. It will also confirm that a student has met the minimum requirements for maths and English qualifications.

BTEC LEVEL 1 and 2

- BTEC level 2 is an intermediate course – most sixth forms and colleges request 4-5 GCSE's at grades 3 or higher including English Language or Maths.
- BTEC level 1 – no formal entry requirements. Colleges may accept grades 1-2 including English Language or Maths (depending on the course)

Traineeship

- A traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience that helps and prepares young people for their future careers by helping them to become 'work ready'.
- It is designed to help young people aged 16 to 24 who don't yet have the appropriate skills or experience.
- Traineeships provide the essential work preparation training, support in English, Maths and work experience in order to secure an apprenticeship or employment.

ESOL courses/Pathways to Independence/ Supported Learning courses

- There are ESOL courses at colleges for pupils that need extra support with their English language
- Pupils that have an Education, Health and Care Plan will be given extra support to apply for colleges by our school's Careers Adviser, Careers Coordinator and SENCO. The courses that are sometimes relevant are Pathways to Independence or Supported Learning courses depending on the student's ability.

How many colleges can you apply to?

- Students are encouraged to apply to at least 3- 4 colleges – min of 2 college at least.
- They can change their courses up until GCSE results. For example, if they have applied for BTEC and their results change in August – they can switch to A levels and vice versa.
- It is better for them to get a provisional place with their expected grades than not to have a place in their top two choices.
- Remember -there will always be a course for every student according to their grades and ability.
- Students are supported and guided with their applications by their Tutors, Career Advisor and Work-Related Learning Coordinator along with bespoke College and sixth form drop-in sessions.

Grades and Entry requirements

The following slides will give you an overview of the grades required for different courses that are available after GCSEs.

Example of a BTEC Level 3 application

Students achieving the following grades have a better chance to apply for BTEC Level 3 than A levels

| Board | Qualification | Subject | Estimated Grade |
|-------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| AQA | GCSE | English Literature | Grade 4 |
| AQA | GCSE | Mathematics | Grade 3 |
| OCR | GCSE | Science | Grade 4 |
| AQA | GCSE | Photography | Grade 4 |
| AQA | GCSE | Geography | Grade 4 |
| AQA | GCSE | Photography | Grade 4 |
| AQA | GCSE | Religious Studies | Grade 4- |
| AQA | GCSE | Spanish | Grade 4 |
| AQA | GCSE | English Language | Grade 4 |

Example of an A Level Application

Students achieving the following grades can apply for A levels.

| Board | Qualification | Subject | Estimated Grade |
|-------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| AQA | GCSE | English Literature | Grade 6 |
| AQA | GCSE | Mathematics | Grade 6- |
| OCR | GCSE | Biology | Grade 7 |
| OCR | GCSE | Chemistry | Grade 7 |
| OCR | GCSE | Physics | Grade 7 |
| AQA | GCSE | Geography | Grade 7 |
| AQA | GCSE | Photography | Grade 4 |
| AQA | GCSE | Religious Studies | Grade 8+ |
| AQA | GCSE | English Language | Grade 6 |

Examples of Level 1/2 BTEC Applications

Students achieving the following grades can apply for
Level 1 or 2 BTEC courses

| Board | Qualification | Subject | Estimated Grade |
|-------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| AQA | GCSE | English Literature | Grade 3 |
| AQA | GCSE | Mathematics | Grade 3 |
| OCR | GCSE | Science | Grade 6 |
| AQA | GCSE | History | Grade 2 |
| WJEC | GCSE | ICT | Grade 4 |
| AQA | GCSE | Physical Education | Grade 4 |
| AQA | GCSE | Religious Studies | Grade 2+ |
| AQA | GCSE | English Language | Grade 3 |

| Board | Qualification | Subject | Estimated Grade |
|-------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| AQA | GCSE | English Literature | Grade 2 |
| AQA | GCSE | Mathematics | Grade 2 |
| OCR | GCSE | Science | Grade 2 |
| AQA | GCSE | Photography | Grade 3 |
| AQA | GCSE | Physical Education | Grade 3 |
| AQA | GCSE | Religious Studies | Grade 2 |
| AQA | GCSE | English Language | Grade 2 |

Foundation learning/ESOL

Students achieving the following grades can apply for
Foundation level courses

| Board | Qualification | Subject | Estimated Grade |
|---------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| AQA | GCSE | English Literature | Grade 1 |
| AQA | GCSE | Mathematics | Grade 1 |
| OCR | Entry Level | Science | Entry 2 |
| Edexcel | Entry Level | ESOL | Pass |
| AQA | GCSE | Photography | Grade 3 |
| AQA | GCSE | English Language | Grade 1 |

If you have any questions about college applications, you can contact:

- **Suzanne Acton – School's Career adviser**

SActon@levenshulmehigh.co.uk

- **Mrs Qureshi – Careers Lead/Co-Ordinator**

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