



Lewisham
Virtual School

Y.11 CAREERS GUIDE

NEXT LEVEL



LET'S TALK ABOUT YOU

You are now in Year 11
and if you haven't already,
you should certainly
be starting to think
about **WHAT NEXT?**

Year 12 should be an exciting year in terms of your study, with subjects or courses of your choice being applied for. You could even look at it as the start of your chosen career, in a new setting with a fresh start!

If you have received this information from the Virtual School, it could be that you have not yet made your choices in terms of next steps but have spoken to the career's advisor.

Please read this information and if you feel that you need to speak to us again, do get back in touch.

Whatever
you decide,
we're here
for you.

APPLYING TO COLLEGES AND SIXTH FORMS



01

You can apply to as many colleges or sixth forms and as soon as you are able.

02

You don't have to decide where you are going until after you get your GCSE results.

03

Always research the courses / subjects and check the entry requirements.

04

Attend any Open Days to gather more information on the courses on offer.

05

Even if you want an Apprenticeship, you **MUST** apply to college or sixth form with a view to starting in Y12!

POST-16 EDUCATION OPTIONS



A-Levels (Sixth Form)

- Academic subjects
- University-focused
- Study 3-4 subjects



BTECs

(College or Sixth Form)

- Practical, hands-on learning
- Industry-related training
- Great for careers needing specific skills



T-Levels

(College or Sixth Form)

- Mix of classroom learning and work experience
- Career-focused
- Includes employer placements



Apprenticeships

(Workplace / College)

- Work while you train and earn a wage
- Combines study with real job experience
- Apply directly to employers



You must still apply to at least one of the other options as you'll need an educational offer for Y12 should you not be successful in securing an apprenticeship.

STEP-BY-STEP PLAN



Research careers using websites like National Careers Service – Start now!



Find colleges and sixth forms that offer courses you are interested in



Apply to at least 2-3 options. Initially on-line then in person when invited in for your interview



Visit Open Days to explore and ask questions about the courses on offer



Regularly check your email address that you provided when making any applications

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER

- ▶ Research careers first, then the courses and colleges
- ▶ Apply early to avoid missing out. The popular courses get booked up quickly!
- ▶ Use a professional email and check it regularly

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ **A-Levels and T-Levels:** Usually 5 GCSEs at grades 4-9 (including English and Maths)
- ▶ **BTECs:** May not need GCSEs but might require basic literacy/numeracy checks.

FAQs

When do I need to apply?

- ▶ You need to apply to college or sixth form as soon as you are able in Y11
- ▶ Some colleges may have later deadlines, but applying early gives you the best options

How do I apply?

- ▶ Directly through the college/sixth form website
- ▶ Apprenticeships are applied for with employers

What if I don't get the grades I need?

- ▶ You are entitled to FREE education until the end of Year 13
- ▶ There will always be an option available for you regardless of your grades

Can I apply to multiple colleges?

- ▶ YES! The more, the better!

Can I change courses later?

- ▶ Not usually, but changes may be possible in the first few weeks of your chosen course

I have an EHCP, is the process different?

- ▶ Yes, the process is different, but you will still need to visit colleges and explore courses that interest you
- ▶ Your carer and school will support you through the process remembering that there is a Y11 deadline of March 31st for your chosen college or sixth form to be consulted by (don't worry too much if you have missed this date, your social worker will know what this means and you simply need to know what you might like to do and where)



HELPFUL WEBSITES

- ▶ **National Careers Service** – nationalcareers.service.gov.uk
Careers advice – job profiles, information and resources
- ▶ **Become** – becomecharity.org.uk
Support for care-experienced
- ▶ **Prospects** – prospects.ac.uk
Job roles, industries and universities
- ▶ **Care leavers | Catch22** – catch-22.org.uk
Support young people leaving care
- ▶ **Skills for Careers** – skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk
Careers, skills, guidance, education and opportunities

GET IN TOUCH

For help, contact:

Lottie Ormerod

07548 952 812

lottie.ormerod@lewisham.gov.uk

Simone Woodward

07384 235 507

simone.woodward@lewisham.gov.uk

