

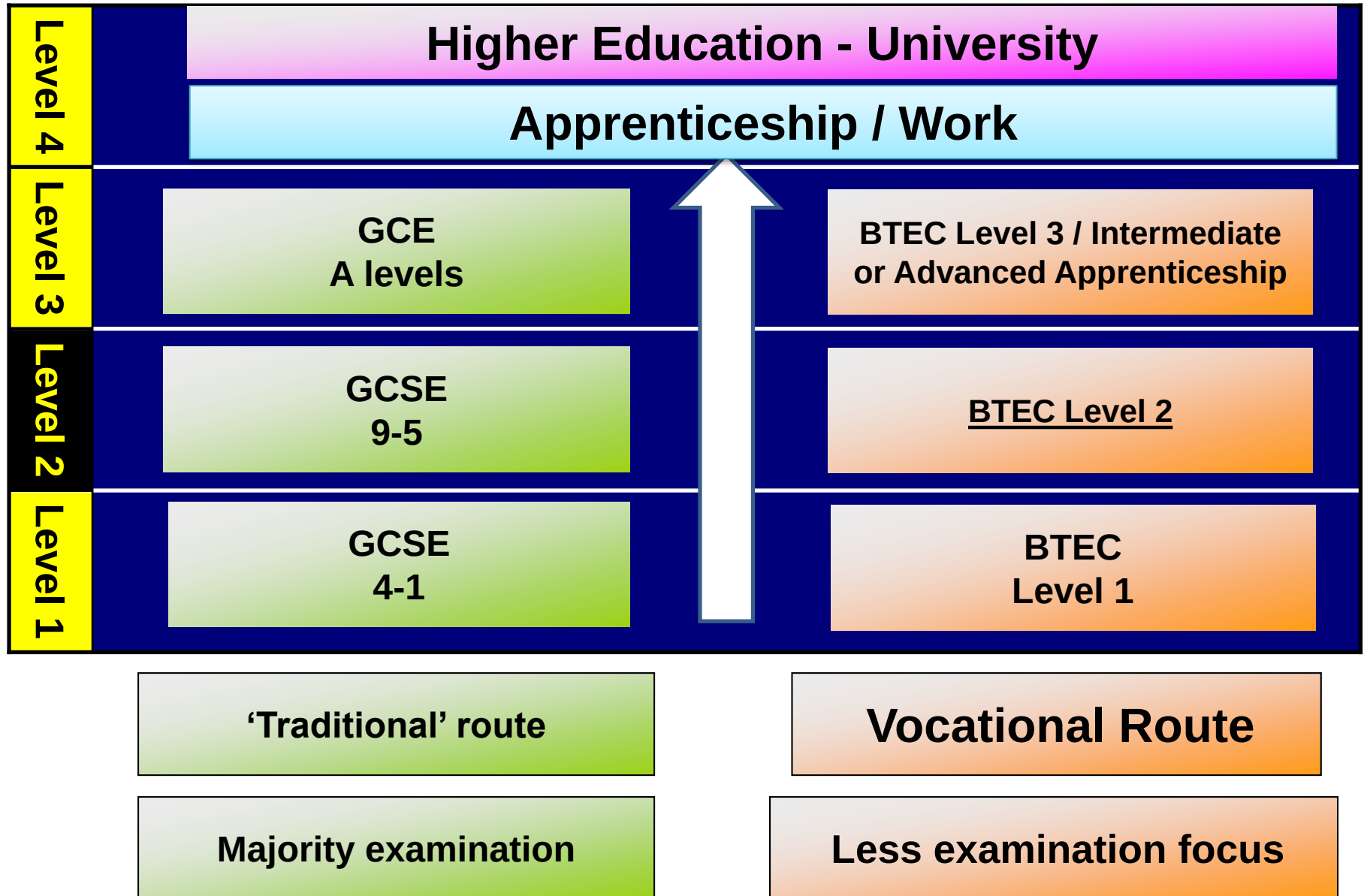
Year 11 Information, Advice & Guidance session

Aims:

- To understand what different qualifications mean
- To understand what you need for different courses/an intro to what Uni's look for
- To have the opportunity to speak to a member of staff about your specific plan
- To have some time to research your own options

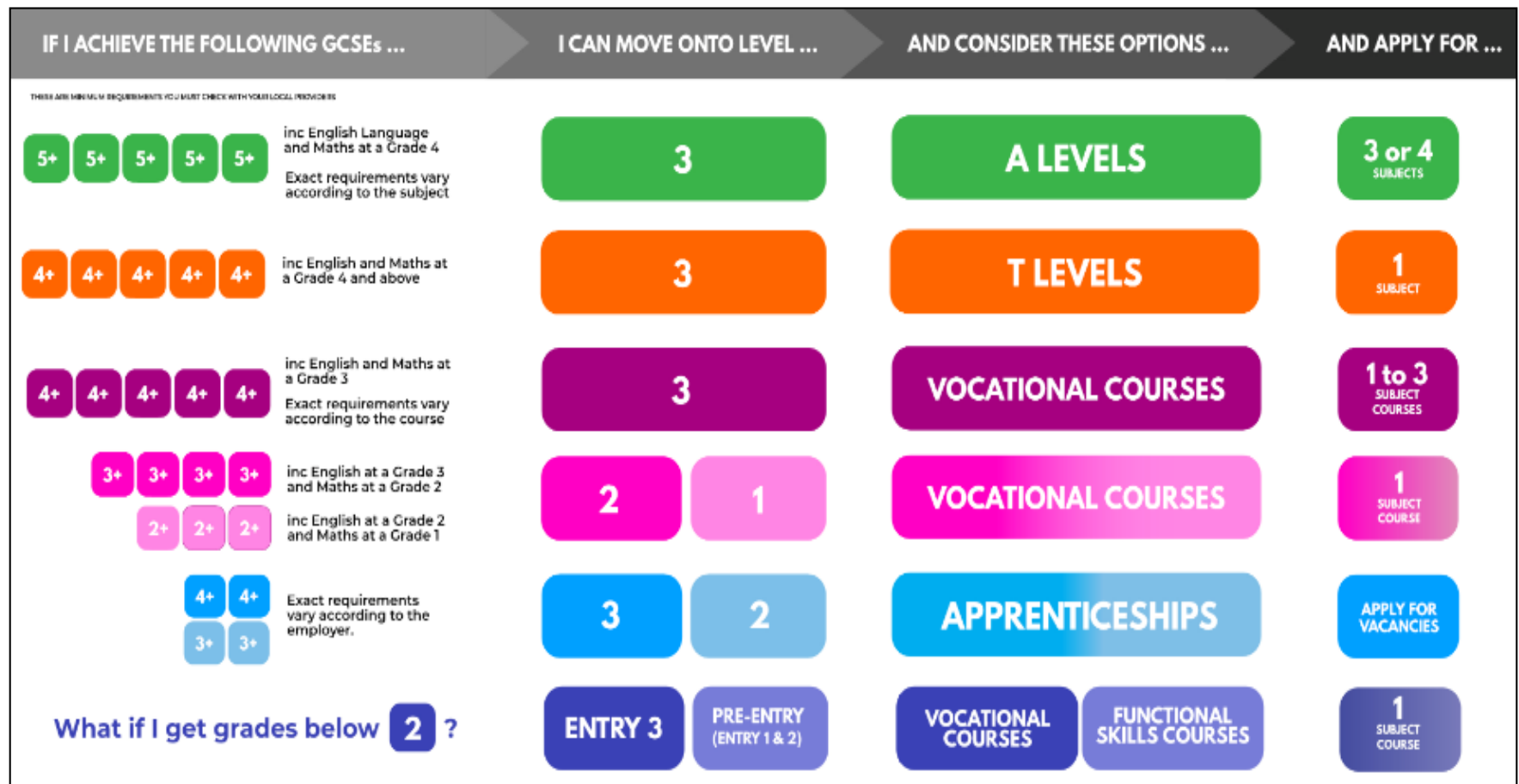
Discuss with your partner – Imagine yourself in 10 years time – what would you like to be doing?

Different pathways



Access to pathways

Different education or employment providers will have their own entry requirements onto their courses however generally the following is a good guide



Swakeleys Sixth Form entry requirements

Academic Requirements

To study A Level subjects (or a combination of A level and vocational subjects) we expect a student to achieve a minimum of five GCSE grade 5s or above (including a 5 in either Eng Lang or Lit)

To study vocational subjects only we expect a student to have achieved a minimum of four GCSE grade 4s or above.

Each subject also has its own entry requirements

Subject	GCSE minimum grade
A LEVEL	
Art and Design	Art 5
Art and Fashion (Textile Design)	Art 5
Biology	Science 7-7 & Maths 6
Business	Maths 5 & Business 5 (if studied)
Chemistry	Science 7-7, Maths 6
Computer Science	Computer Science 6 & Maths 6
Economics	Maths 6
English Literature and Language	English 5-5
English Literature	English 5-5
Geography	Geography 5 (if studied)
History	History 5 (if studied)
Mathematics	Mathematics 7 & entrance exam
Mathematics – Further – <i>This can also be chosen as an AS level</i>	Mathematics 8
Media Studies	Media 5 (if studied)
Photography	Art 5 (if studied)
Physics	Science 7-7, maths 7
Politics	Citizenship or History 5 (if studied)
Psychology	Psychology 5 (if studied)
Religious Studies	RE 5
Sociology	Sociology 5 (if studied)
LEVEL 3 Vocational	
Early Childhood Development Ext Cert BTEC	4 GCSEs at 9-4
Health & Social Care Ext Cert BTEC	4 GCSEs at 9-4
Professional Cookery Ext Cert CTH	4 GCSEs at 9-4

How to choose the right pathway?

Whether you choose to do A levels, BTEC courses, college diplomas or an apprenticeship after school will largely depend on what you may want to do after you have finished your next stage of education.

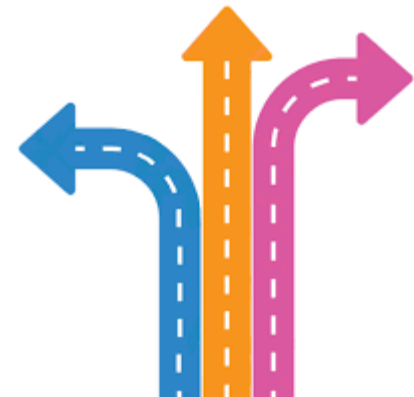
When making a decision, it is important to consider your future and what you need to make that a reality.

Do you think you may want to...

Go to University?

Secure an apprenticeship?

Get a full time job?



Higher Education - University



Knowledge Check

How many Universities are there in the UK?

166

2. How many university courses are offered each year

Over 50,000

3. How many years does a typical degree course last?

3 years

University

If you wish to attend university you will need in the majority of cases to have completed Level 3 courses (Like A levels).

Depending on which university you might want to go to and/or what course you wish to study will have an impact on what level 3 courses you should take

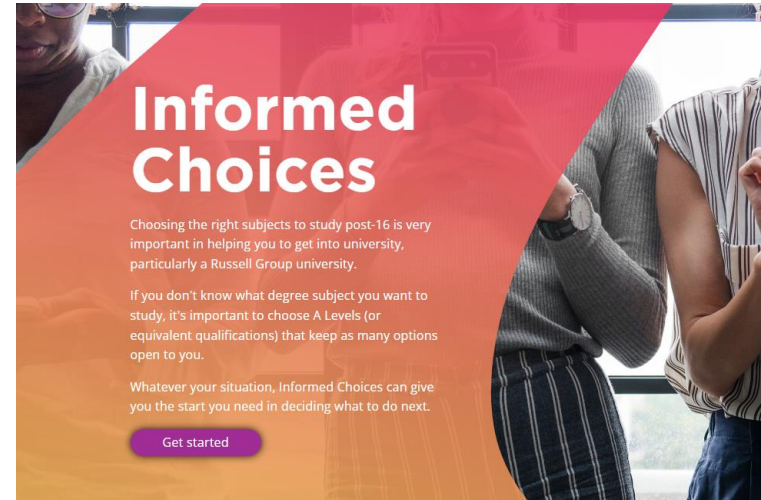
For example:

- Engineering and technology require maths and physics.
- Medicine often requires chemistry, plus at least one other science – preferably biology.
- Computer sciences needs maths and sometimes further maths.
- Health care professions such as physiotherapy look for biology.
- For many degrees such as English, history, French and maths you will normally need an A level in this subject.
- For others like Law, psychology, or economics for example, no prior knowledge is required, though it is useful to study a similar subject to show your aptitude and interest.

How do you choose?

To explore what Level 3 subjects you may need to study (and what grades you need to achieve) for a certain course, one excellent resource is a website - 'Informed choices'

Another good resource is <https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/a-level-explorer>

A screenshot of the UniGuide A-level Explorer website. The header includes the UniGuide logo, a search bar, and navigation links for 'Find a course', 'Where to study', 'Get advice', and 'Log in'. The main heading is 'A-level Explorer'. Below this, a text prompt asks users to enter their A-level choices to see where they will take them. The form includes three input fields for 'Enter A-level option 1', 'Enter A-level option 2', and 'Enter A-level option 3', along with a '+ Add another subject' button and a 'Get results' button.

How do you choose a subject?

It's important you choose a subject you enjoy and will help you reach your goals. Here are some things to help you choose the right subject for you:

- Think about what you enjoy day-to-day – maybe this could be part of a future job role?
- Explore different job sites and graduate career options to look for ideas on what you'd like to do once you've finished your studies.
- Think about your career goals and the qualifications required as part of a person specification.

How do you choose a subject?

Unifrog is an excellent resource to help you start to consider what course or career you may wish to pursue.

The image displays a screenshot of the Unifrog website interface, which is designed to help users explore career and subject options. The interface is organized into two main sections: 'Quizzes' and 'Exploring pathways'.

Quizzes Section:

- Interests profile:** A blue card indicating 'Quiz not taken' with a 'Start >' button.
- Personality profile:** A pink card indicating 'Quiz not taken' with a 'Start >' button.
- Work environments profile:** A dark blue card indicating 'Quiz not taken' with a 'Start >' button.
- Skills profile:** A purple card indicating 'Quiz not taken' with a 'Start >' button.

Exploring pathways Section:

- Careers library:** A yellow card indicating 'Careers favoured' with a 'Go to tool >' button.
- Subjects library:** A purple card indicating 'Subjects favoured' with a 'Go to tool >' button.
- Know-how library:** A red card indicating 'Guides favoured' with a 'Go to tool >' button.

Types of University

Russell Group - made up of the 24 UK world-class, research-intensive universities. Often the most selective universities requiring the highest grades (e.g. A*AA)



However this does not mean other universities are not worth considering. For example the top ranked University in the UK is NOT in the Russell Group – St Andrews in Scotland

How do you choose a Uni?

In regards to a Uni You need to think about:

- Location - how close to home do you want to be?
- Type of University -city or campus?
- Subject – do they offer your course?
- Entry requirements – do you stand a realistic chance of getting in?
- Rating – how well rated is the uni and course?

There are different ways you can compare courses and universities – One is the TEF - The TEF is a measure introduced by the government in England, to assess higher education providers' levels of excellence in terms of teaching and ensuring students get good outcomes



Comparing Universities

You can also use comparison sites such as <https://discoveruni.gov.uk>, which will allow you to compare similar courses at different universities on a range of factors

National Student Survey results	+
Entry Information	+
After 1 year on the course	+
Earnings after the course	+
Employment 15 months after the course	+
Graduate perceptions	+
Information on the uni website	+

Comparing Universities

You can also use league tables produced by certain newspapers like the Guardian. It is always best to compare by subject rather than overall

UK universities ranked by subject area: **politics**

[Go to overall league table](#)

2024 ▾	Institution ▾	Guardian score/100 ▾	Satisfied with teaching ▾	Satisfied with feedback ▾	Student to staff ratio ▾	Spend per student/10 ▾	Average entry tariff ▾	Value added score/10 ▾	Career after 15 months ▾	Continuation ▾
1	 Oxford	100	n/a	n/a	9.6	10	203	7	94	99.1
2	 Cambridge	95.5	n/a	n/a	11.3	10	192	7	92	98.8
3	 London School of Economics	86.7	84.8	60.4	11.6	10	189	8	89	96.6
4	 King's College London	85.9	88	69.4	13	10	182	7	83	96.9
5	 Glasgow	83.9	89	61.3	12.4	6	209	8	81	96.3
6	 Strathclyde	81.1	89.6	67.4	15.7	10	215	6	74	95.5
7	 Warwick	80.9	90.9	73.8	17.8	6	178	5	89	96.4
8	 Stirling	79.8	87.3	75.4	20.4	2	188	9	76	97.3
9	 Aberdeen	74.1	92.2	65.9	21	4	191	8	78	93.9
10	 Loughborough	73.4	86.4	62.4	14.3	4	148	4	83	99.1

UCAS Points

Most Universities will require 3 grades (e.g AAB). However some Universities may also display entry requirements as UCAS Points.

UCAS points tariff

A LEVELS		BTEC		AS LEVELS		EPQ	
A*	56	D*D*	112	A	20	A*	28
A	48	D*D	104	B	16	A	24
B	40	DD	96	C	12	B	20
C	32	DM	80	D	10	C	16
D	24	MM	64	E	6	D	12
E	16	MP	48			E	8
		PP	32				

UCAS points can also be gained from other qualifications such as Music and Dance grades.

However many Universities are likely to only take UCAS points from the top three qualifying subjects

Apprenticeship / Work



Knowledge Check

1. What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is an opportunity to work and study at the same time. Most of your time is spent doing on-the-job training, and the rest is spent working towards a qualification. You'll get paid a salary and be part of a team, just like a standard employee, but you'll also get dedicated study time throughout the week.

2. How many people aged 16-19 in 2022/23 started an apprenticeship?

77,000

3. What percentage of apprentices continue on into a full time paid employment?

93%

Levels of apprenticeship

Apprenticeship Type	Value of qualification	Equivalent to academic study	Typical entry Requirements
Degree Apprenticeship	Level 6 & 7	Bachelors degree or Masters degree	A Levels (UCAS points score)
Higher Apprenticeship	Level 4 & 5	Certificate of Higher education or Diploma of Higher Education	A Levels (UCAS points score)
Advanced Apprenticeship	Level 3	2 A Levels or IB	GCSE A - C
Intermediate Apprenticeship	Level 2	5 GCSEs A*-C	GCSE pass at D - G

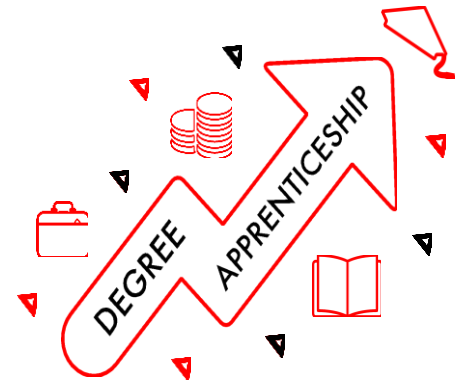
Degree apprenticeships

They offer many of the benefits of higher education without the cost as tuition fees are paid for by the employer and the Government. You will not only be learning, but earning a salary, from day one.

Universities offer their degree apprentices exactly the same student experience as other students, so they will still have access to the student union, sports facilities, student discounts etc.

With an apprenticeship, you gain the competitive advantage of gaining at least 3 years' work experience whilst completing a degree.

But remember – it's hard work as a degree apprentice. An apprentice will be working full time **and** fitting in the equivalent of a full time degree alongside it. It might take a bit longer, 4 years instead of 3.



What can I do an apprenticeship in

There are 16 different sectors of industry that have apprenticeships.

Overall there are more than 1500 different apprenticeship roles available in England



Agriculture, environmental, and animal care



Business and administration



Care services



Catering and hospitality



Construction, architecture, and the built environment



Creative and design



Digital and IT



Education, teaching, and childcare



Engineering and manufacturing



Finance and accounting



Hair and beauty



Health and science



Law and legal studies



Protective services



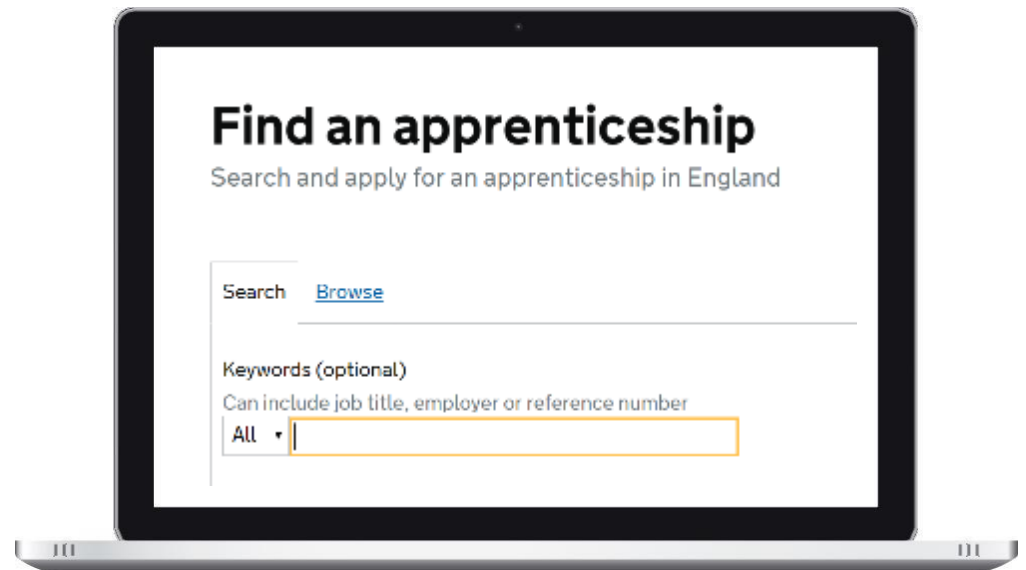
Sales, marketing, and procurement



Transport and logistics

How do you find an apprenticeship?

1. Register on **Find an apprenticeship** - <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
2. **Research** and search for jobs
3. Start **applying**
4. Manage **alerts**
5. Make **contact** with the companies



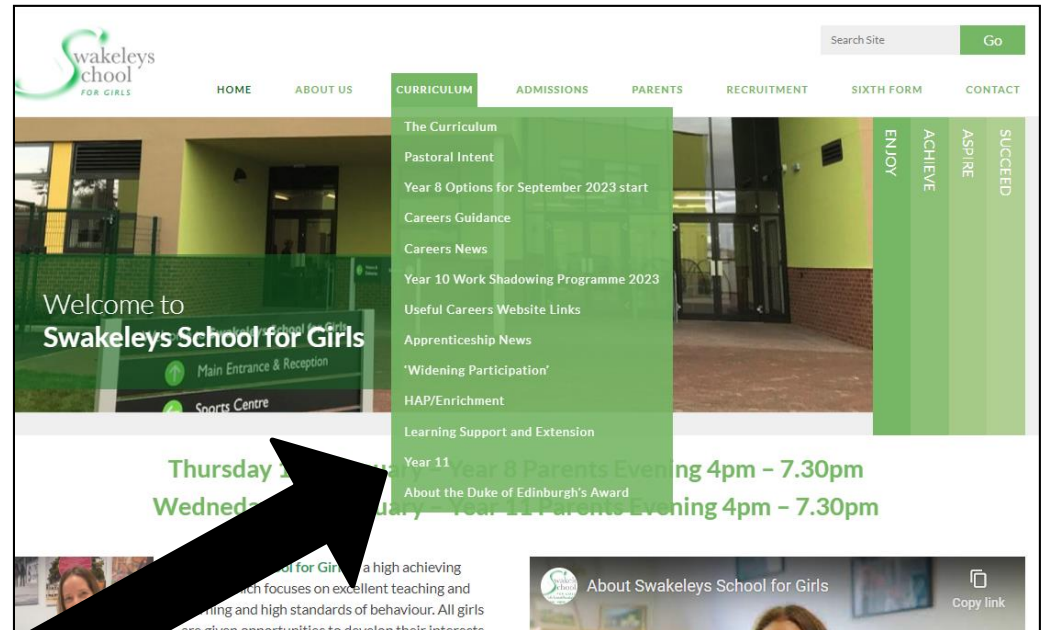
Interested in Apprenticeships?



There are many online resources to support you in learning more and finding opportunities. Look out for more info during National Apprenticeship week

Independent Research

You will now have time to do some research using the online resources we have talked about. The links to the resources are on the Yr11 google classroom and the school website – Curriculum > Year 11



Independent Research

No idea what you want to do in the future?

Start with [Unifrog](#) Quizzes to get an idea of careers and courses that might suit you.

Interested in university but not sure of the course?

You can start by using the [unifrog subject guides](#) tool or the [UCAS Ultimate guides](#) – Picking your degree

Have an idea of the course you might want to study?

Use informed choices or A level explorer to check what subjects you will need to choose, then use the [discoveruni](#) or [league tables](#) to compare the subject at different universities.

Considering an apprenticeship?

Go to the [apprenticeships.gov.uk](#) website to explore more about what they can offer and the different levels. Then go on to [UCAS Ultimate guide to finding an apprenticeship](#) and use the [careers finder](#) to look for different roles. You can also register on the Gov website for apprenticeship alerts if you are serious about this pathway