Department for Education

Amazing Apprenticeships

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

WHAT IS TECHNICAL EDUCATION?

FAQS

Supporting you to answer questions about apprenticeships, T Levels, Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQS) and the new post-16 pathways



V4: OCT 2026

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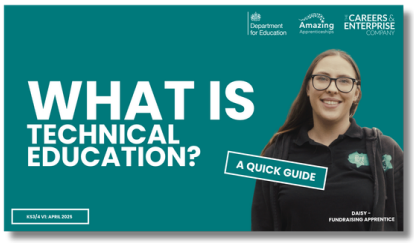
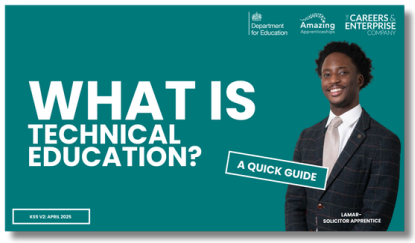
This document has been designed to support you to answer questions that may come up during the delivery of the *What is Technical Education?* slide decks and T Levels slide decks, or during conversations with students (or anyone else).







resources.careersandenterprise.co.uk/resources/digital-ate-resources-teachers-and-careers-leaders

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APPRENTICESHIPS

Accessing apprenticeships

Q. What is an apprenticeship?
A. An apprenticeship is a real job with an employer. The apprentice will work and earn a salary, as well as undertake learning via a training provider. An apprenticeship allows the individual to gain valuable qualifications and experience without incurring any training costs.

Q. What age do I have to be to do an apprenticeship?
A. Anyone aged 16 and over* and not in full-time education (or 15 years of age if the apprentice's 16th birthday is between the last Friday of June and 31 August) can become an apprentice. Apprenticeships are a popular route for young people as a post-16 or post-18 option. Lots of adults also use apprenticeships to upskill or re-skill during their career.
*Certain apprenticeships have funding restrictions for example foundation apprenticeships, and level 7 apprenticeships are only for those aged 16-21 or 22-24 meeting certain eligibility criteria.

Q. Do apprenticeships have entry requirements?
A. The entry requirements will vary for each apprenticeship, depending on the level of apprenticeship and the requirements of the apprenticeship employer, but they should be clear about this in their adverts. Some employers won't have any qualification requirements at all, but some will ask for qualifications and particular grades too, especially for higher and degree level apprenticeships. However, if you don't quite have the right qualifications, but do meet their other criteria, it's worth getting in touch with them because lots of employers value who you are over which qualifications you have.

Q. What if I don't have GCSE English and/or maths at grade 4?
A. If you don't hold grade 4+ GCSE English and/or maths, entry requirements could vary depending on your age, the apprenticeship level and any additional needs you may have.

- Aged 16-18: If you are aged 16 to 18 when you start your apprenticeship, you are required to achieve English and maths qualifications at level 2 (such as Functional Skills qualifications) to complete your apprenticeship. Your training provider will support you to achieve these qualifications and the cost of taking them is funded for you.
- Aged 16-18 Foundation Apprentice: If you are studying at foundation level, you will be required to work towards achieving the qualifications and funded to do so. Due to the shorter programme design, you are not expected to achieve them in this time.
- Aged 19+: Apprentices aged 19+ at the start of their training are not required to achieve English and/or maths at level 2 to complete their apprenticeship, but some employers may decide it is still the required level they want you to achieve. The cost of taking them is also funded in this case.
- Additional needs: If you have any additional needs, your training provider will discuss the flexibilities with you that mean you may be eligible to work towards a different level of English/maths.

APPRENTICESHIPS

Q. Do I need to be a UK National to be eligible for an apprenticeship?
A. In order to receive funding from the government for an apprenticeship, there are eligibility criteria that apply. For queries on eligibility, you can contact the National Apprenticeship Helpdesk by email: nationalhelpdesk@findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk or by phone: 0800 015 0400

Apprenticeship levels and training

Q. What are the different apprenticeship levels?
A. Apprenticeship levels range from level 2 (foundation and intermediate), level 3 (advanced), levels 4 & 5 (higher) and levels 6 & 7 (degree-level). For context, GCSEs are level 2, A Levels and T Levels are level 3, a bachelor's degree is level 6 and a master's degree is level 7.

Q. Which level should I start at?
A. The level that you start at will depend on a combination of the job role that the employer is offering, and any relevant prior experience or qualifications that you may hold. It's important to remember that even if you've completed a level 3 qualification, like A Levels, it doesn't mean you can't start with a level 2 or 3 apprenticeship if it's the right one for you.

Q. Who picks the training provider?
A. The employer is responsible for selecting the training provider. They will choose a provider that aligns with the skills they want their apprentices to develop and who offers a delivery model and the expertise that best meets the needs of their business.

How to search and apply for apprenticeships

Q. Which employers offer apprenticeships?
A. Apprenticeships are offered by a wide variety of employers across England, including small, medium and large employers, across every sector. Their apprenticeship vacancies and/or programmes will typically be detailed on their website, for example on their Early Careers page.

Q. Where are apprenticeship vacancies advertised?
A. Apprenticeships are advertised on different platforms and websites. A good place to start is the Government's Find an apprenticeship website findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk which has thousands of live vacancies with employers across the country.
Use this guide to help you set up a Find an apprenticeship account here: amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/how-to-register-on-find-an-apprenticeship-guide
Answer continued on the next page...

APPRENTICESHIPS

You can also look at employer careers pages, job sites, local colleges, training providers and university websites. Also, look at social media platforms and let friends and family know you are looking as they may be able to help. LinkedIn is a great place to hear about apprenticeship vacancies.

Q. How do I find a higher or degree level apprenticeship?
A. Higher and degree apprenticeships are advertised in the same way as other level apprenticeships - on different platforms and websites, including the Government's Find an apprenticeship website findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk, as well as employer careers pages, job sites, local colleges, training providers and university websites. Higher and degree apprenticeship vacancies can often be found on LinkedIn too.

In addition to the above, a great place to find higher or degree level apprenticeships is the Higher and Degree Vacancy Listing, produced by Amazing Apprenticeships and now released three times a year in October, January and the summer term.
amazingapprenticeships.com/higher-degree-listing
UCAS is also a good source of some higher and degree apprenticeship vacancies.

Q. When is the best time to apply for apprenticeships?
A. Recruitment cycles vary depending on the employer. Some will have apprenticeship vacancies all year round, depending on how the business works and when they need more staff, e.g. if they get a new contract or if a member of staff leaves. Other employers will recruit in line with the academic year so apprentices can finish school or college and start their apprenticeship in September for example. This is often the case for higher and degree apprenticeships. It is best to research the apprenticeships you are interested in and look well in advance at when different employers recruit for their roles.

Q. Can you apply for university and apprenticeships at the same time?
A. Yes, you can apply for university and apprenticeship roles at the same time, allowing you to keep your options open. If you prepare a personal statement for your UCAS application and get support with that at school or college, it will help with apprenticeship applications too, especially the three questions you now structure your UCAS personal statement around. Apprenticeship applications are separate from any UCAS university applications and do not count as one of your five choices.

Q. How many apprenticeships can I apply for?
A. There is no limit to the number of apprenticeships you can apply for, but you need to be mindful of managing the application processes, which can be quite demanding.

Q. What are the skills and qualities apprenticeship employers are looking for?
A. These will vary depending on the needs of the employer. We know that employers look for a genuine interest in the role and industry, and most will value this more than experience. It's important to research employers thoroughly and look at the values they say they want.

APPRENTICESHIPS

Q. What is the best way to stand out from other candidates?
A. It is important to show who you really are, so you need to be yourself. Employers aren't just looking for qualifications, they want curious, motivated individuals who bring energy and enthusiasm to the role. Use real-life examples to demonstrate your strengths - maybe you led a school project, supported a friend/peer or solved a difficult problem. It is also a good idea to mirror the language they use in the job description in your application/interview to show you understand what they're looking for and explain why this apprenticeship in particular interests you. Highlight both your skills (like coding or communication) and your strengths (like creativity or determination). Keep your application clear, professional and mistake-free (paying particular attention to spelling and grammar). Many employers will share their company values and will expect you to align your application with these, setting out examples of how you can demonstrate that alignment with the attributes they are seeking.

Q. Can I use AI to help write my application?
A. Employers want to hear who you are and what you could bring to their organisation in an authentic way, so whilst using AI can be useful for proofreading, and checking spelling and grammar, it is important that you don't use it to create the content for you. Employers see lots of applications and are likely to be able to spot those applications that are created using AI. Some will even use software that will filter out applications that are written using AI. If you get to the interview stage, you need to be able to speak in person about yourself, without the use of AI. Some employers will set out their AI policy within the careers section of their website, explaining what they will (and will not) accept, and where AI software and/or human-led interactions are used within the shortlisting process.

Q. How can I best prepare for an assessment centre?
A. It is important that you have fully researched the employer - not just top-level facts about when the company was founded etc., but detailed research - looking at their company website and social media, their values, recent news, awards, priorities and what their employees say. You also need to have fully researched the apprenticeship itself - what it involves and how they structure the delivery of apprenticeships within their organisation.

Q. What are common mistakes candidates make during assessment and interview?
A. Apprentice candidates can make simple but avoidable mistakes during assessments and interviews if they're unsure about what's expected of them. Things like arriving late, appearing under-dressed (check the dress code you're given in advance and if you aren't given one, ask what the dress code is), using overly casual language or failing to ask questions that show genuine interest. Some candidates struggle to explain why they want the role or how they have researched the company and why they see themselves as a good fit for the organisation. These mistakes can all be avoided with preparation.

APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeship salaries and bursaries

Q. What do you earn as an apprentice?
A. Apprentices will be paid at least the National Minimum Wage for Apprentices which varies depending on their age and how far along they are in their apprenticeship.

Apprentices are entitled to the apprentice rate if they're either:
- aged under 19
- aged 19 or over and in the first year of their apprenticeship

Apprentices are entitled to the minimum wage for their age if they:
- are aged 19 or over
- have completed the first year of their apprenticeship

Apprentices who have completed their first year are paid the National Minimum Wage. These are the legal minimum wages, but many employers will pay more.
Apprentice salaries can depend on the sector, location and level of responsibility.
gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates

Q. I am a Care Leaver/Care Experienced - am I entitled to any additional support on an apprenticeship?
A. You may be entitled to the £3,000 Apprenticeship Care Leavers' Bursary. Also, Local Authorities often have additional bursaries and grants that you may be able to access through their 'local offer'. They may be able to support you with travel expenses, with clothing before you attend interview or support in paying for any documentation needed e.g. a passport.

Q. What is the Apprenticeship Care Leavers' Bursary?
A. The Apprenticeship Care Leavers' Bursary is a payment of £3,000 that the government gives to young people meeting the criteria. If you are eligible for the £3,000 bursary, you will receive this in three instalments. Your training provider will receive your bursary from the government, and pass these payments on to you.
You can find more information about the Apprenticeship Care Leavers' Bursary here:
apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/support-care-experienced-apprentices

APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeship support

Q. What support is there during an apprenticeship?
A. Apprentices will have a line manager and mentor to support them on the job. They will also benefit from support via their training provider.

Q. What support is there for individuals with additional needs?
A. Apprentices with additional needs will have a personalised support plan to ensure that any reasonable adjustments and additional learning support are in place. The Department for Work and Pensions can provide Access to Work funding to contribute to support beyond reasonable adjustments for people with a disability, health condition or mental health condition that affects their ability to work.
You can find out more about Access to Work here gov.uk/access-to-work.

Completion and progression

Q. Is there a guaranteed job when the apprenticeship ends?
A. Many employers will offer permanent roles to apprentices who successfully complete their apprenticeship, however a permanent role is not always guaranteed. If an apprentice is on a fixed-term contract of employment, the employer will usually support the apprentice to secure a position within the company, if available, before their apprenticeship ends. If this is not possible, the employer and the apprenticeship training provider will support the apprentice with their next steps.

Q. What do I get for completing an apprenticeship?
A. Apprentices will gain a nationally recognised qualification and a certificate upon completion of their apprenticeship. They will also benefit from work experience and a salary.

Q. Do apprenticeships carry UCAS points? **Updated - Oct 26**
A. Yes, advanced apprenticeships at level 3 now carry UCAS points, helping learners use their apprenticeship as a route into higher education. The number of points depends on the planned duration of the apprenticeship. Further information can be found on the UCAS website ucas.com/providers/overview-ucas-tariff-points-apprenticeships

T LEVELS

Accessing T Levels

Q. What is a T Level?
A. A T Level is a level 3 technical alternative qualification to A Levels, designed for 16-19 year olds after year 11, combining classroom learning, alongside a 45-day industry placement.

Q. What are the entry requirements for a T Level? Updated - Oct 26
A. Many providers require GCSEs including English and maths at grade 4 or above. You will need to check the specific entry requirements for the course you are interested in and also get in touch with the provider if you are worried about your GCSE grades.
Some T Level providers offer a course to prepare you for a T Level. The Foundation Year is a level 2 programme that gives you a year to build your confidence, strengthen your English and maths, and develop the study skills you need before moving on to a level 3 course. It's designed to help you feel ready for options like A Levels, T Levels or V Levels. Over the next few years, the Foundation Year will gradually be replaced by the new Further Study pathway, which is another level 2 route that helps you prepare for level 3. The Further Study pathway includes a qualification called a Foundation Certificate and gives you a clear, structured way to build the knowledge and skills you need for the next step. See page 16 for more information on Further Study Pathways.

Q. Do I have to pay to study a T Level?
A. No, you do not have to pay to study a T Level. It is fully funded by the government.

Q. Can I take a T Level alongside A Levels?
A. No, you cannot usually take a T Level alongside A Levels, as a T Level is a full two-year qualification equivalent to three A Levels.

Finding T Level courses

Q. How do I find a T Level course?
A. Visit the government website tlevels.gov.uk/students/find and enter your postcode to find your local college or school offering T Levels.

Q. Can I study a T Level at school?
A. Yes, some schools offer T Levels alongside other year 12 and 13 qualifications. You can find out which settings offer T Levels near you by visiting tlevels.gov.uk/students/find and entering your postcode.

T LEVELS

Applying for a T Level

Q. When should you apply for a T Level?

A. The application window for T Levels generally opens in the autumn of Year 11, leading to a September start the following year, so begin your search and applications in the autumn before you plan to start. Each T Level provider will have their own specific dates, so it is important to check with each one individually.

T Level subjects and content

Q. Which T Levels are available? Updated - Oct 26

A. A wide range of T Level subjects are available across 10 different sectors. You can view the full list at tlevels.gov.uk/students/subjects. The government has also committed that a new Occupational Specialism in Low Carbon Heating Engineering will be added to the T Level in Building Services Engineering for Construction, ready for delivery from September 2026. Additionally, two new T Levels will be introduced from September 2028: Social Care T Level and Sport, Physical Activity and Health T Level.

Q. How is a T Level structured?

A. 80% of the qualification is classroom-based and 20% is spent undertaking an industry placement with an employer (or two) in the workplace.

Q. What does the classroom-based qualification include?

A. The classroom-based qualification is a technical qualification, which includes:

- A core component covering concepts, theory and skills relevant to an industry area. It is assessed through written exams and an employer-set project. This gives students a broad understanding of the subject area.
- One or more occupational specialist components focussing on specific knowledge, skills and behaviours relevant to a role. It is assessed through a series of tasks undertaken during an assessment window. This is a chance for students to delve deeper into their chosen subject.

Q. What is the industry placement?

A. The industry placement lasts at least 45 days working with an employer in a real-world setting. It is designed to give you hands-on experience in your chosen industry and help you develop job-ready skills. Industry placements can be tailored to suit individual circumstances and align with employer working practice. Examples of this include: splitting placement hours between multiple employers, completing a proportion of placement hours remotely and using existing part-time work, where this is relevant to the T Level course.

Q. Who finds the industry placement?
A. Your training provider will be responsible for finding the employer(s) that will provide your 45-day industry placement.

Q. What support is typically in place during the industry placement component of T Levels?
A. Support for T Level industry placements ideally includes dedicated employer liaisons and tutor check-ins for progress and welfare, a designated line manager and workplace mentor at the employer's site, and pre-placement induction and learning goals.

Q: What happens if a student faces difficulties during the course?
A. If a T Level student faces difficulties, their course provider should offer support, such as learning support, pastoral care, or alternative assessments to address issues with complex topics, time management or personal circumstances. Students should discuss challenges with their tutors, who can access appropriate resources to help them succeed and ensure their learning is not negatively impacted.

Completion and progression

Q. What do I get at the end of a T Level?
A. At the end of a T Level, you receive a nationally recognised certificate with an overall grade of Pass, Merit, Distinction, or Distinction*, a breakdown of your achievements in core and occupational components, and confirmation of a completed industry placement. The T Level certificate also includes UCAS tariff points, allowing progression into higher education.

Q. What can you do after a T Level?
A. There are lots of options available after a T Level:

Skilled employment
T Levels are designed to equip you with the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to access entry-level employment.

Apprenticeships and Technical Education
You could also move on to a relevant apprenticeship or degree apprenticeship. If you want to continue your technical education, T Levels prepare you for study at levels 4/5, for example Higher Technical Qualifications.

Higher Education (HE)
T Levels carry UCAS points in the same way as A Levels, to allow you to progress to Higher Education and study a relevant degree.

T LEVELS

Q. Do all universities accept T Levels?
A. More than 200 UK Higher Education Institutions accept T Levels for at least one course, including the majority of Russell Group universities. 97% of T Level students who applied to university in 2023 and 2024 received at least one offer.

You can view the full list of institutions that accept T Levels here:
gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-providers-with-t-levels-in-entry-requirements/list-of-higher-education-providers-that-accept-t-levels-for-entry

Q. How do employers view T Levels compared to A Levels or apprenticeships when hiring for entry-level positions, and are there specific industries where T Levels give candidates a competitive advantage?
A. Employers have told us that they face a skills shortage which could affect the future success of their businesses. In response, the government has worked alongside hundreds of employers to design T Level courses that deliver the skills organisations need.

Employers are increasingly recognising T Levels as a strong alternative to A Levels and apprenticeships, especially in sectors where technical skills and hands-on experience are valued, such as construction, digital, science, healthcare, engineering, manufacturing, education and childcare.

The T Level Ambassador Network is a vibrant community of over 1,000 members dedicated to promoting technical education and strengthening the link between industry and education. Members include employers (from SMEs to large corporations), colleges, schools, universities, students and organisations such as Employer Representative Bodies (ERBs). T Level Ambassadors use their influence and personal experience to inspire employers and young people to explore the opportunities offered by T Levels and technical education.

Q. Do industry placements lead to employment?
A. T Level industry placements can be a great way for employers to build their future workforce - around a third of T Level students who progress into employment get jobs with their T Level industry placement employer.

T Levels Week

Q. When is T Levels Week 2027? Updated - Oct 26
A. T Levels Week 2026 took place from Monday 19th - Friday 23rd October 2026.
A wide range of resources was made available amazingapprenticeships.com/t-levels
The dates for 2027 have not yet been confirmed by the Department for Education.

HTQS

Accessing HTQs

Q. What is an HTQ?
A. HTQs are level 4 and level 5 qualifications that have been developed and approved by employers as teaching the skills they want their employees to have.

Q. What age can you do an HTQ?
A. HTQs are for post-18 learners, with no upper age limit.

Q. What is the duration of an HTQ?
A. An HTQ will usually take 1 or 2 years to complete, depending on the level.

Q. What are the entry requirements?
A. Most HTQs will require a level 3 qualification (such as A Levels, a T Level or a BTEC) and GCSE English and maths at level 4 and above, however you will need to check with the HTQ provider to see which specific entry requirements they have for the course you are interested in. It is worth having a conversation with them if there is a course you are interested in and you are concerned about your qualifications.

Finding HTQ courses

Q. Where can I study an HTQ?
A. You can study HTQs at colleges, universities and Institutes of Technology.

Q. How do I find an HTQ?
A. You can search for HTQs via the Skills England qualification finder, by looking at providers you are interested in and via the UCAS website.
skillsengland.education.gov.uk/qualifications

HTQ subjects and content

Q. Which HTQs are available?
A. HTQs are available across a wide range of sectors. You can view the HTQ subjects available now and in the future via the Government website.
gov.uk/government/publications/higher-technical-qualification-overview/higher-technical-qualification-an-introduction#available-subjects

Q. What is the structure of an HTQ?
A. HTQs are typically delivered in a classroom setting in further education colleges, universities and Institutes of Technology, but there is often a practical element depending on the course.

Q. Can an HTQ course be taken online or part time?
A. HTQs are flexible and can be studied full time or part time, with online options, but this will vary a lot depending on the course and the provider. However, lots of providers are willing to be flexible if they can.

Q. Is there a work placement in an HTQ?
A. Work placements are not a standard requirement of an HTQ and they are delivered primarily in a classroom setting.

HTQ finances

Q. How much does an HTQ cost?
A. A full-time HTQ costs up to £9,790 per year. Costs will vary from one provider to another and it's really important to discuss this with the providers.

Q. Is student finance available for HTQs? Updated - Oct 26
A. You can pay for an HTQ yourself, your employer might fund it, or you can use student finance through the new Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE), which starts on 1 January 2027 and gives people flexible funding to learn, retrain or upskill at different points in their life. If you live in England and start studying from 2027, you'll apply through the LLE for loan funding for full courses at levels 4–6 or short modules, whether you are progressing from school, returning to study later, retraining while working or fitting study around other responsibilities. The LLE can fund full level 4–6 qualifications, modules of approved HTQs, modules from level 6 courses in priority skills areas and some postgraduate level 7 courses, with tuition fee loans worth up to four years of full-time study and maintenance support if you study in person. Even if you already have a degree, you may still get funding for priority skills areas such as medicine, nursing or social work, and you can choose individual modules to build skills gradually or work towards a qualification over time. Applications open in late October 2026 for courses and modules starting from 1 January 2027.

You can find out more about the LLE here: skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk/pages/lifelong-learning-entitlement

Q. Who pays for the HTQ if the student is employed?
A. If the student is in employment, the employer will often pay for all, or part of the costs of studying.

Completion and progression

Q. What could an HTQ lead on to?
A. An HTQ can lead to employment, further study (such as topping up to a full degree) or could prepare you well for an apprenticeship.

NEW POST-16 OPTIONS

Q. What are the new post-16 pathways announced by the Government?
A. The Government has announced three new routes: V Levels, the Occupational Pathway and the Further Study pathway. They are intended to simplify the post-16 choices available and bring academic and technical options into one system. The first qualifications are expected to be available from 2027, with more subjects rolled out each year until 2030/31.

V Levels

Q. What are V Levels?
A. V Levels are new level 3 vocational qualifications designed for young people aged 16-19 as an option following GCSEs and will be taught in schools and colleges.
Key facts:

- They last for 2 years.
- They are similar in size to one A Level.
- Students will be able to take V Levels in multiple subjects and in combination with other qualifications such as A Levels and/or level 2 English or maths if required.
- Learning is designed around real jobs and the skills employers need.
- Content is linked to the occupational standards set by Skills England.
- A significant proportion of a V Level will include non-exam assessment.
- Students will receive a nationally recognised qualification.
- They attract UCAS points.

Q. Who are V Levels for?
A. V Levels are aimed at students who would like to explore sectors without specialising. They will provide the opportunity to pursue their interests further through a range of progression outcomes, whether that is higher education or work with training, including apprenticeships.

Q. What is the difference between A Levels and V Levels?
A. A Levels are primarily an academic pathway which focus on theory and deep subject knowledge. V Levels are designed as a vocational pathway and are closely linked to industry needs and practical application.

Q. Which V Levels are available?
A. V Levels will be available to students from September 2027 in the following subjects:

- Education
- Accounting and Finance
- Digital Systems and Data

Q. What can a V Level lead on to?
A. There will be lots of options available after a V Level. Students will be able to progress into level 4+ study whether they take A Levels or V Levels and progression options will include skilled employment, apprenticeships and Higher Education.

NEW POST-16 OPTIONS

Q. What if someone isn't ready for V Levels?
A. The Further Study pathway will provide one year of study to support students who aren't quite ready to progress onto V Levels, T Levels or A Levels yet.

Further Study pathway

Q. What is the Further Study pathway?
A. The Further Study pathway is a level 2, classroom-based option for students who want to, and are capable of progressing onto further study on a level 3 pathway (whether T Levels, V Levels or A Levels) after one year of additional study at level 2. It will be delivered in schools or colleges.

Q. What will the Further Study pathway include?
A. There will be a strong focus on English and/or maths, alongside other enrichment activity and exposure to level 3 study. It includes a Foundation Certificate, a vocational qualification that will focus on applied and practical learning, with content aligned to the level 3 options they support progression onto. Students are required to continue studying maths and/or English if they have not reached grade 4 at GCSE by the end of Key Stage 4.

Occupational pathway

Q. What is the Occupational pathway?
A. The Occupational pathway is a level 2 classroom-based option for students who want to enter a particular level 2 occupation and need to develop their technical knowledge and skills over two years, with the aim of progressing into skilled employment in relevant level 2 roles. It will be delivered by FE colleges and other training providers.

Q. What will the Occupational pathway include?
A. It will be tailored to support progression to work, including activity that builds employability skills, confidence and resilience, as well as enrichment activities that prepare them for work. There will be a strong focus on English and maths. It includes a single Occupational Certificate, a technical qualification, with broad introductory content based on the occupational standards, as well as occupation-specific content. In addition, students are required to continue studying maths and/or English if they have not reached grade 4 at GCSE by the end of Key Stage 4.

Q. Where can I find out more about these new post-16 options?
A. Teachers and careers professionals could watch this short film that explains the changes: youtube.com/watch?v=jKvuekl25a8 or by visiting the Qualifications Reform page: support.tlevels.gov.uk/hc/en-gb/sections/16829562632850-Qualifications-Reform

OTHER SUPPORT

Support to keep you informed

Amazing Apprenticeships delivers three, termly update webinars each academic year, designed to keep you informed about the latest developments in apprenticeships and technical education. These webinars provide practical ideas, useful resources and updates that you can share with students, parents and colleagues.



Register for the webinars here:
Tuesday 12th January 2027 15:30 - 16:15
amapps.uk/navigate-termly-jan27

Wednesday 21st April 2027 15:30 - 16:15
amapps.uk/navigate-termly-apr27

Useful CEC links

Resource directory

The CEC's carefully curated Resource Directory makes it quick and easy to find trusted, high-quality resources you need to make a difference to careers education in your setting.
careersandenterprise.co.uk/educators/digital-products-and-resources

Support for educators

Find out more about how the CEC supports educators here:
careersandenterprise.co.uk/educators

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

The Careers & Enterprise Academy

The Careers & Enterprise Academy is the online home of careers leadership for Careers Leaders and all those who work with them to plan and deliver strategic, progressive careers programmes.
careersandenterprise.co.uk/educators/the-careers-enterprise-academy

Finding external speakers

Contact the Apprenticeship Ambassador Network (AAN) to find out if an apprentice ambassador can visit your school or college and share their experience:
apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/yaan-regional-networks

Contact the T Level Ambassador Network (TAN) to find out if an ambassador can visit your school or college and share their experience. Email: hello@tlevelambassadors.co.uk

If there are any questions you would like us to add to this guide, we'd love to hear from you: hello@amazingapprenticeships.com