



Hitchin Girls' School Careers Education and Guidance

Post-16 Choices

Young people must stay in education or training until they are 18. There are many options available and these are discussed individually with each student in Year 11 and in Year 12. Appointments are with an independent qualified Careers Adviser. Year 11 are offered appointments in the Autumn term before they have to decide on their Post-16 route. Year 12 are offered appointments in the Spring Term.

Some of the choices for students are:

- SIXTH FORM COLLEGE/SCHOOL

Students may stay on at Hitchin Girls' School and enter the Sixth Form to do A Levels and/or applied and vocational qualifications (subject to entry requirements). For further information visit: [Hitchin Girls' School - 16 – 19 Study Programme \(hgs.herts.sch.uk\)](http://hgs.herts.sch.uk)

Other sixth form colleges or schools will also offer a wide range of A Levels and other vocational qualifications.

- FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGE

Further Education (FE) refers to study that takes place after a student leaves secondary school and which is not part of Higher Education (undergraduate or graduate degree).

FE colleges offer a wide range of courses and different qualifications, such as T levels (see below). Here are links to our local colleges:

<https://www.nhc.ac.uk/>

<https://www.oaklands.ac.uk/>

www.barnfield.ac.uk

<https://bedfordcollegelgroup.ac.uk/colleges-and-campuses/shuttleworth-college/>

T levels

T Levels are an alternative to A Levels, apprenticeships and other 16 - 19 courses. Equivalent in size to 3 A Levels, a T Level focuses on vocational skills and can help students into skilled employment, higher study or apprenticeships.

Visit this website to find out more: <https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/>

- AN APPRENTICESHIP

An apprenticeship is a paid job that combines practical training on the job with study. Apprentices spend around 20% of their working hours completing classroom-based learning with a college, university or training provider. This leads to a nationally recognised qualification.

An apprentice will:

- Obtain paid employment with holiday leave
- Obtain hands-on experience and job-specific skills
- Gain a nationally recognised qualification
- Work alongside experienced staff

The levels offered in an apprenticeship can range from Intermediate (Level 2) through to Degree Apprenticeships (Level 7), which is equivalent to a Master's Degree.

If you want to find out more about apprenticeships visit:

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/what-is-an-apprenticeship#>

- HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher Education (HE) refers to qualifications and courses which may be taken after 18. It includes diplomas, foundation years, bachelor degrees and graduate degrees. HE offers a huge range of courses and includes any qualification at Level 4 and above. A degree (BA or BSc Hons) is a Level 6 qualification.

Students learn through lectures, seminars, group projects and independent study. Degrees normally take 3-4 years of study. Universities set their own entry requirements. You will normally need A Levels or equivalent qualifications.

For more information visit: <https://www.ucas.com/>

There is usually funding or student loans available to support students. Information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/education/student-finance>