

How can you help?

Post-16 options can be daunting – your child is likely to feel pressure and anxiety when making their decision. You can help by:

Discussing their grades: Asking your child what grades they are likely to get can sometimes be a good starting point for discussions about suitable careers.

Talking about their interests: Discussing your child's interests can help them identify the right choice for them; for example, if your child is particularly interested in reading, taking an English Literature A-level may be a good route.

Analysing their skills: Establishing the skills that your child has can often indicate what career they would succeed in; for example, if your child is a confident public speaker, they may consider careers in public relations, marketing, sales or hospitality. Analysing your child's skills together can help them shortlist their options.

Helping with their CV: Encouraging your child to start writing a CV can often aid decision making by clearly outlining their skills, interests and achievements. When your child has finished their CV, they should ask themselves what careers match their CV, and what they need to add to their CV to pursue their potential career choices.

Speaking to us: If you have any questions about the best route for your child, contact your child's CLT to arrange an informal discussion.

Careers Convention

Our Careers Convention in December allows students to learn about the different jobs that exist in their community and beyond, giving them the opportunity to explore possibilities they may not have previously considered.

Your child will have the opportunity to speak to lots of professionals in many different careers, and ask them questions to find out more about what different careers entail.

At our Careers Convention, there are representatives from local colleges, apprenticeship providers and local and national businesses and organisations, who can advise on the best route that your child could take to succeed in a particular industry; for example, a business owner speaking to student who envisages themselves being an entrepreneur would be able to guide them on the best routes towards their goals.



Ludlow School's Parents' Guide to Post-16 Options

It is compulsory for your child to remain in some form of education/training up until the age of 18; this could be academic, such as A levels, or more vocational, such as BTECs/T levels/Apprenticeships/Supported training



Full-time study

Your child has the option to remain in full-time study: this could be at colleges in Ludlow, Hereford or Shrewsbury, or elsewhere. There are two main pathways for full-time study:

Pathway 1: A-levels

A-levels: Suitable for students with wide ranging interests, aiming to focus on a specific subject, but who may wish to further this subject knowledge at university level.

Students are normally required to have at least five GCSEs, grades 9-4 (or equivalent), sometimes with higher grades in maths/science/languages.

A college or sixth form college may require them to have a certain grade in the specific subjects they wish to study.

A-levels are linear and studied over two years – students will be assessed by means of exams, with limited coursework. Students are required to sit exams at the end of the course.

Pathway 2: Work and vocational courses

These include National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), Business and Technology Education Council (BTEC) diplomas and others.

Work/Vocational courses:

A) **BTECs:** Single subject, modular forms of study, lasting 1-2 years focusing on specific jobs such as Health and Social Care/Engineering and many others.

These courses relate to specific jobs, sectors or subject areas, such as hairdressing or catering, and are aimed at helping students into their specific career of choice

B) **T levels:** This is a new form of study set to grow in the future, providing a technical A-level alternative, leading to skilled careers. The programme has an emphasis on developing work-place skills, and lasts two years, and includes a qualification and industry placement.

T-levels are delivered in a range of subjects and will provide students with:

- Technical knowledge and practical skills in their chosen occupation or industry.
- A placement in their chosen industry or occupation lasting at least 45 days.
- Relevant maths, English and digital skills.
- Common workplace skills.

After completing a T-level, students will have a choice between moving to a skilled occupation, higher or degree-level apprenticeship, or higher-level technical study (including higher education).

Work or volunteer while studying part-time

Your child also has the option to combine work and training. The jobs can either be paid or voluntary. Colleges and training providers offer a range of training courses that are part-time alongside A-levels and work-related qualifications, such as NVQs and BTEC diplomas. Combining work and training enables a student to develop both academic and work based skills.

Apprenticeships, traineeships and supported internships

If your child does not want to stay in full-time education, they still have many options:

Apprenticeships

As an alternative to full time education, Apprenticeships provide a mainly work-based learning programme for specific jobs. This is a good option for students who already have an idea of the career they want to pursue. In an apprenticeship, students will be employed and trained for a specific job. There are numerous apprenticeships on offer, ranging from engineering to accountancy.

Traineeships

Traineeships get students ready for an apprenticeship. They can last between six weeks and six months, and provide a combination of essential work preparation training, literacy and numeracy skills, and work experience to help students secure an apprenticeship or other job. Traineeships help to prepare students for apprenticeships by combining work experience, work preparation and improving literacy/numeracy skills.

Supported internships

This option is specifically for students with learning difficulties or learning disabilities who are seeking employment, but require additional support. Internships last for at least six months and are unpaid. During this period, the student receives a mix of training and work experience – there is also an option to study for qualifications, or other courses during the internship.