



6 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Post-16 Options

As students in Year 11 get closer to the end of Key Stage 4, they should be exploring and deciding their post-16 options. This letter is designed to help you, as parents and carers, in assisting with this process. The statutory guidelines are that young people must stay in some sort of education or training until the age of 18. This education can take the form of the following options, as adapted from the National Careers Service website:

Continue your studies

- A-levels - usually a choice of 3 or 4 from a broad range of academic subjects.
- Technical & Vocational Qualifications - e.g. BTEC Level 2/3 in career-specific subjects.
- T-level - 1 career-centred subject, equivalent to 3 A-levels, including work placement.

These can be studied at a sixth form or college. Many education providers offer a variety of qualification types, so students should make sure to check that their preferred course or course combination is available. St Martin's Sixth Form offers both A-levels and BTEC Level 3 qualifications in a number of combinations.

Combine work and study

- Apprenticeships – 80% salaried workplace, 20% classroom learning.
- Traineeships – courses designed to improve basic employability.
- Supported Internships - for students with an EHC plan.

These qualifications shift the balance from the classroom to the workplace, focusing on getting ready for the world of work through experience and certified training. Apprenticeships have varying levels of qualification, and can also be chosen as a post-18 option with or without taking this option now.

Career Paths

It is always worth thinking about the bigger picture when making these choices. For example, if students already know what course they would like to study at university, research the entry requirements to make sure viable post-16 options are chosen, or, if a student already knows the career they would like after education, a vocational qualification or apprenticeship may be a more fitting route. Students have access to Unifrog, a careers website which can help with finding career paths for specific subjects or careers.

Preparing to make your choices

Attend open evenings where possible, and take the time to read up on different options, subjects and education providers. I have collated the details for some of our local open evenings. Please note that you often need to register in advance to attend, and that many education providers will still have virtual open evenings, from 2020, accessible online:

- St. Martin's Sixth Form – 10 November

Be The Best You Can Be

- Chelmsford College – 11 October
- South Essex College, Thurrock – 12 October
- Harlow College – 14 October
- Colchester Institute – 16 October to 6 November
- New City College – 20 November

Further Research

I recommend the following websites for more information about post-16 options:

- [Career Pilot – Parent Zone](#)
- [National Careers Service](#)
- [UCAS](#)
- [Unifrog](#)

Yours sincerely

Mr A Williams
Careers Leader