



BHASVIC



**Careers Guide -
Researching Your Options
at 16**

For Parents/Carers and Students

Choosing your options after school:

There are a variety of different options available to you after you finish school. This guide gives you some information and resources to help you to start researching and planning your next steps.

What is Raising the Participation Age (RPA)? (source: www.parentalguidance.org)

The government has increased the age that all young people in England are required to continue in education or training. Young people are still allowed to leave school at 16, but must continue in some form of learning until the age of 18.

What counts as learning?

- stay in full-time education, for example at a college
- start an apprenticeship or traineeship
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training

What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship involves working whilst gaining training. They provide you with the skills you need for your chosen career that will also lead to nationally recognised qualifications. As an apprentice, you earn while you learn. There are a variety of levels available from level 2 up to degree level.

What is a traineeship?

Designed to help young people who don't yet have the appropriate skills or experience, traineeships provide the essential preparation to secure an apprenticeship or employment. They are unpaid but expenses such as travel/food are often covered by the employer. They are aimed at students who are working at below level 3 and designed to help students become work ready.

College course choices - what you'll need to consider (source: Career Pilot; Which? University):

If you are thinking about studying at college, you need to choose subjects:

- you will enjoy
- you believe that you will do well in
- that will help you get to where you want to go in the future.

You need to make sure that your choice of qualifications and subjects allows you to keep your options open if you haven't got a specific career in mind or will help you get the career or job you would like to do.

Do your research using some of the resources in this document so you can make an informed decision, based on accurate up-to-date information - but remember, the final choice is yours as you are the one that will have to put the hard work in!

Things to consider:

- College courses can be a big step up from GCSEs so choose your subjects wisely. Your career or degree ideas may change so make sure you choose subjects which you like and can do well in.
- If you have no idea about your choice of career or choice of degree subject at this stage, (many students are in this position!), then make sure you choose a combination of subjects that will keep your current preferred options open. Some subjects are accepted by a majority of universities. These are sometimes known as ‘facilitating’ subjects such as Maths, English, Physics, Biology or Chemistry, History or Geography or a language. Some universities are stricter than others on this issue than others. Please refer to The Russell Group ‘Informed Choices’ guide for further information:
<https://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/media/5457/informed-choices-2016.pdf>
- Additionally, if you have a talent for Art, Design or Music and think it could be an avenue you’ll pursue, taking the relevant qualifications will help that to happen.
- If you have a specific career in mind, check to see if you will need specific qualifications. Look at the job profiles on The National Careers Service site to find out more.
- If you have a specific degree course in mind, you need to check the entry requirements. Some university courses are very specific about the subjects/qualifications required – other degree subjects are very flexible. Check entry requirements on the UCAS website or on individual university’s websites including GCSE requirements and A level/BTEC requirements. Don’t be afraid to email the universities during Year 11 to ask for their advice about the subjects required for a course you are interested in– either email the Admissions Tutor or the Course Tutor.
- If you are taking a science qualification, you should consider whether you need to look at taking another science or maths, particularly if you are interested in scientific careers or courses as some universities require two sciences/maths for particular courses.
- If you are unsure of your career choice or degree choice, then think carefully about your combination of subjects. It is hard to pick up 3 or 4 new subjects that you have never studied before.

Top tips when choosing college courses:

- 1. Research each subject thoroughly** – talk to your teachers to find out what is involved in the course. Use open evenings to talk to students who are already taking that subject. Find out how the course will be assessed and whether this will suit you and your strengths/learning style.
- 2. Make sure you have thought carefully about your combination of choices** and if they meet the requirements of any possible careers/universities/apprenticeships that you are interested in (your ideas may change and that is fine too!). Please note: there are other options available if you need different subjects to progress after BHASVIC through university Foundation Year courses or Access to Higher Education courses.
- 3. Take subjects if you are good at them and really interested in studying them further.** You will be studying these subjects in depth for up to two years so it is important to have an enthusiasm and motivation to explore it.

Researching careers/options with different subjects



<https://successatschool.org/>

Success at School is the place for young people to explore careers, get the lowdown on top employers, and search for the latest jobs, courses and advice.



<https://icould.com/>

From accountants to zookeepers, get a first-hand view of jobs and ideas for your future through videos and short summaries of different possibilities.



<https://www.ucas.com/what-are-my-options>

Confused about your options after school, college, or sixth form? Here's all you need to know about the routes available to you, to help you decide what to do next. You could apply to university, go on a gap year, take on an apprenticeship, find an internship, or start your working career.










<https://targetcareers.co.uk/>

TARGET careers helps young people to make smart decisions about their future. Investigate careers that interest them and decide whether to do an apprenticeship or go to university. There is a list of UK undergraduate courses and advice on choosing between them, or you can search for apprenticeships with some of the country's biggest employers.

Apprenticeships/World of Work/College Employer Schemes

	<p>https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship Search and apply for an apprenticeship in England</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship Search and apply for a traineeship in England</p> <p>Skills Training UK http://skillstraininguk.com/ Skills Training UK is an innovative skills and employability provider offering Traineeships to young people aged 16-24 who do not have the qualifications or industry experience to start a full-time job. We also support individuals into Apprenticeships with local employers.</p>
	<p>http://www.apprenticeships-in-sussex.com/ This site will help you search for apprenticeship, traineeship and pre-employment training in Sussex.</p>
	<p>https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/ Find apprenticeships in Not Going to Uni, the online apprenticeships guide that offers you advice on how to become an apprentice, find traineeships and college employment schemes.</p>
	<p>https://www.allaboutschoollleavers.co.uk/ At AllAboutSchoolLeavers, our mission is clear: to help school leavers get jobs and understand the career paths available to them.</p>
	<p>https://www.barclayslifeskills.com/ Interview skills and more to prepare young people for the 21st century workplace</p>
	<p>https://sacu-student.com/?page_id=5619 SACU offers a great independent & impartial source of careers information to students, parents and teachers We provide access to a comprehensive range of opportunities in line with Ofsted requirements</p>
	<p>https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/ Search & apply for apprenticeship schemes and school leaver jobs. Read reviews from previous apprentices and find excellent career advice for young people</p>

University

	<p>https://www.ucas.com/ UCAS connects people to university, post Uni studies including teacher training, apprenticeships & internships. Find all the information for your next step.</p>
	<p>https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/courses https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/a-level-explorer The Uni Guide is a useful site for students wishing to start their research and refine their university and course choices, the students can do this by adding in their predicted grades to determine their eligibility for specific courses. There are also several helpful articles to support students in their decision making.</p>
	<p>https://sacu-student.com/?page_id=5203 The only place to match your subjects to a personalised degree cloud. See where students with your A-levels were placed in 2015 See actual A-level combinations by course, by subject and by university group.</p>
	<p>https://www.whatuni.com/ Compare the best University & degree courses for free - Degree course rankings, university reviews, degree course details, university profile to help you decide.</p>
	<p>https://discoveruni.gov.uk/how-to/ The official website for comparing UK higher education course data Includes official data for undergraduate courses on each university and college's satisfaction scores in the National Student Survey, jobs and salaries after study and other key information for prospective students.</p>
	<p>https://www.prospects.ac.uk/</p>
	<p>http://www.centralcareershubs.co.uk/longitudinal-education-outcomes-data/?mc_cid=8ab4097596&mc_eid=0d23894eae Outcomes data, by degree discipline.</p>

The BHASVIC Careers service

As a BHASVIC student, you will receive support with your progression planning via the tutorial programme, and from the resources which can be found on the VLE.

However, in addition to this, we also have two fully-qualified and experienced Careers Advisers who can help you explore your options during a one-to-one appointment. This individualised service is open to all students and appointments can be booked via the Student Services reception desk.

One-to-one guidance is designed to support students' aspirations, challenge preconceptions and open their eyes to the range of opportunities available to them. Our advisers are skilled in helping individuals assess their own skills, values and interests and how these may match future careers.

A key aim for us is to ensure that all students have the self-awareness and research skills they need for their future progression. We hope to equip all of our students with skills that will take them from BHASVIC onto the next stage of their education or career and beyond.

Our VLE page provides up-to-date information about colleges and universities, career options, apprenticeships, gap years, voluntary work, working abroad and a variety of other possibilities. This is backed up by our annual Futures Fair where we have approximately 100 exhibitors available to guide our students in their choices.

Whether you're looking for advice and guidance on your transition from College to Higher Education or the world of work, exploring longer-term career ideas, updating your CV or brushing up on interview techniques, our careers service will answer your questions and help you develop the required skills.

Widening Participation at BHASVIC

Widening Participation is a government initiative aimed at supporting social mobility and ensuring that all students have access to high quality information, advice and guidance in order to help them make appropriate decisions regarding their future.

BHASVIC works closely with a number of organisations, both locally and nationally, to encourage students from all backgrounds to consider Higher Education. We will help students to conduct research and consider the most appropriate route for them. Widening participation offers free, no risk opportunities for students to ensure they understand what is involved in undertaking a university undergraduate degree. Students are able to apply for whichever opportunities they feel are appropriate.

The work we undertake is intended to enable students to make informed decisions about their future; if a student does not feel that Higher Education is for them then we will support them in their search for employment or other progression routes of interest to them e.g. gap years, college leaver schemes or apprenticeships.

The opportunities offered to Widening Participation students are varied and can include subject-specific taster days, one to one careers support, advice in making university choices and support with personal statements and interview preparation.

Over half our first year intake qualified for some sort of Widening Participation scheme in previous years, and we have an outstanding reputation for our work in this field, leading the way in best practice and sending regular newsletters home to ensure there is support for parents and carers too.

We have issued a survey to parents as part of our initial correspondence in order to assess the eligibility of new students and will contact those who are able to register for the scheme. Emails will be sent at the beginning of September when students have enrolled.

Our Widening Participation scheme is managed within our Student Services department and for further information or questions, please email wp@bhasvic.ac.uk or go to the Parents and Carers page of the BHASVIC website where you will find Widening Participation under the heading "Our Support Services".