

NEXT STEPS

TRINITY ACADEMY LEEDS

Training & Qualifications Guide for young people, careers professionals teachers, parents and carers.



Welcome

As you reach your final year of school, it's time to start thinking seriously about what comes next. Whether you already have a clear idea or you're still exploring your options, this guide is here to help you make informed, confident decisions about your future.

You've got several pathways to choose from — sixth form, college, apprenticeships, training, or entering the world of work. This guide explains each option clearly, with tips on how to research, apply, and stay on track. We know it can feel like a lot to take in, but you don't have to do it alone.

There's no single 'right' route. The best option is the one that suits you — your interests, your goals, and how you like to learn. Some people thrive in the classroom, others prefer hands-on experience. What matters most is finding a pathway that helps you grow and sets you up for the future you want.

Throughout the year, you'll have support from your teachers, tutors, and our careers team. There'll be open evenings, taster days, guidance interviews, and opportunities to meet employers and training providers. I'll be here to guide you through the process, answer your questions, and help you navigate your next steps.

Use this guide to get started. Make notes, have conversations at home, and don't be afraid to ask for help. Whatever you choose to do next, this is the beginning of an exciting new chapter.

Let's make it count.

Warm wishes,



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YOUR BEST NEXT STEP



There are numerous career progression routes available, each tailored to suit different individuals. The key is selecting the most suitable path to reach your goals.

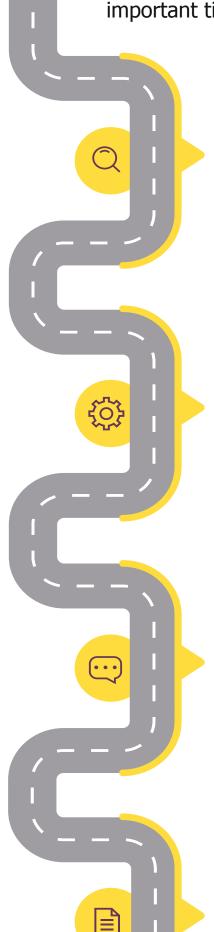
For instance, you may opt for BTEC's T Levels or A Levels to pursue a university degree, or alternatively, consider apprenticeships, which offer the opportunity to combine work and study.



PREPARATION TIMELINE



Follow the timeline to keep track of key dates and important times throughout the year.



SUMMER TERM YEAR 10

- Think about your future strengths and favourite subjects.
- Find out more about careers that interest you.
- Think about how your strengths might fit with your career ideas.
- Discuss your ideas with people whose opinions you value.
- Do some online research into the local college and training options.

AUTUMN TERM YEAR 11

- Build confidence in strengths and favourite subjects.
- Go to information events and learn about all the different options.
- Book some taster sessions.
- Check college application deadline, Some colleges might require an application this term.
- Make contact with employers if seeking an Apprenticeship.

SPRING TERM YEAR 11

- Complete applications (key dates will be given out in Y11) but most application are complete by the end of January.
- Attend interviews.
- Attend additional taster events.
- Work hard to secure an apprenticeship placement.
- Make sure you have a back-up plan.

SUMMER TERM YEAR 11

- Concentrate on exam prep.
- Finalise your placement if intending on starting an Apprenticeship.
- Attend any summer transitions days (after exams)
 Many college run welcome events.

What is Post 16 Education?



There is a lot more choice for education after year 11. This is called post-16 education.

All young people <u>MUST</u> take part in education or training up until they are 18.

This education could include:

Full-time education

like school, college or independent training providers.

Work-based learning

like an apprenticeship or supported internship.

Part-time education or training

if you are employed or volunteering at least

For all school leavers, it is important not to close your options down by the choices you make.

ASK YOURSELF:

What qualifications, skills and interests do I have?

What would I like to be doing in 5 years time?



What is a Study Programme?

Post-16 education is known as a study programme.

This usually includes:

- an academic qualification (e.g A-Levels) or a vocational qualification (T-Levels, BTECs) with a substantial work placement.
- continuing to improve English and Maths skills, working towards GCSE grade 4 and functional skills, where appropriate.

A young person who is taking a full-time study programme will usually be at their place of learning for an average of **16 hours per week**.

This might fit into **3 x full days** or could be spread over **5 x days**.

Some young people might be able to access up to 5×10^{10} x full days of provision where appropriate.



What types of post-16 education & training are available?

There are lots of different options after Year 11, and it's okay to switch pathways if things change. For example, you might

start at sixth form, then move to a training provider, and later get a job.

Think of your journey like travelling somewhere—some people take the bus, others walk or drive. The route might be different, but the goal stays the same.

There's no 'best' option. It's all about what works best for you.



Types of Courses

Courses after Year 11 usually fall into three main categories:

- Academic
- Vocational and/or Technical
- Work-based

Some people might mix different options, depending on how they learn best and what they want to do in the future.

It's a good idea to chat with your careers adviser, teacher, or family to figure out what might be the best fit for you.

In the next few sections, you'll see the main differences between each type of course to help you make a choice that works for your goals.

Academic Courses

These courses are more focused on the study and theory of a subject:

- They include qualifications such as GCSEs (Secondary school), A-levels (Sixth form), and Degrees (University).
- Over 40 different subjects available at A-level with thousands of different Degree subjects at University.
- These type of courses are usually delivered by schools, colleges, or universities.

Vocational and/or Technical

These are work-related qualifications designed to help learners gain the knowledge, practical skills, and experience needed for specific jobs:

- They range from Entry Level up to Level 8.
- Common areas include Animal Care & Land-based Studies, Business, Engineering, Health & Social Care, Hair & Beauty, Construction, and Digital Media.
- They are typically delivered by schools, colleges, or Independent Specialist Providers.

Work Based

These programmes take place in a work setting and focus on building skills and gaining experience. They include Supported Internships and Apprenticeships, both of which help develop work skills and increase experience.

- Apprenticeships are supported by training providers and employers.
- Supported Internships are usually supported by a college and an employer.

Types of Courses

Post-16 Routes

16 YEARS OLD

ACAD	EMIC
COU	RSES

VOCATIONAL / TECHNICAL

WORK BASED

A Levels

BTEC Lvl 1-3, T-Levels & Foundation Courses

Supported Internships

Apprenticeships & Inclusive Apprenticeships

Employment or Volunteering

Where can you find these options?

Further Education Colleges Further Education Colleges

Further Education Colleges Further Education Colleges

Local Businesses

School Sixth Forms

School Sixth Forms Independent Training Providers

Independent Training Providers Local Charities & Community Centres

Independent Training Providers

Specialist Settings Local Businesses

Specialist Settings

Entry Requirements

Don't worry if you don't meet the exact entry requirements – providers like colleges and sixth forms are here to help.

They'll always take your personal circumstances into account and support you in finding the course that's right for you.

If you haven't achieved a grade 4 (or above) in English or Maths yet, that's okay. These subjects can often be included as part of your study programme alongside your main course.

Some courses may ask for specific GCSEs at grade 4 or above, depending on the subject. This will be explained when you speak with a tutor from the course area.

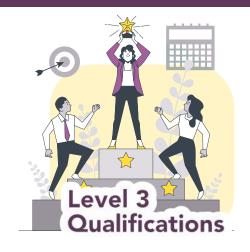
Level 3 You typically need to have five GCSES or equivalent grade 9-4, inc English & Maths grade 5/4. Level 2 You typically need to have three to four GCSEs grade 9-3. You typically need to have three to four GCSEs at grades 1-2. No GCSEs.

Level 3

A-LEVELS



A-levels are short for 'Advanced' Level and come after GCSEs. They are academic subject-based qualifications which are usually assessed by exams



















Academic Courses

A-Levels

Whether you decide to study A Levels at a **school sixth form or college**, they give you a pathway to widely respected qualifications that employers and universities value. A Levels help you build important skills like independence, time management, and critical thinking, which are really useful for your future.



You'll usually be assessed mainly through exams, which lets you show what you've learned and how well you understand the subjects. This way of learning and being tested also helps prepare you for university, where you'll need to manage your own study and stay disciplined.

Choosing A Levels can open up lots of career options and university courses, giving you a strong foundation to reach your goals.

How can this benefit me?

Short Term

Develop independence and communication skills.

Medium Term

The option to gain an in-depth knowledge of a range of subjects.

Long Term

Earn
qualifications to
advance in
education and
access higher
studies.

Level 3

T-LEVELS

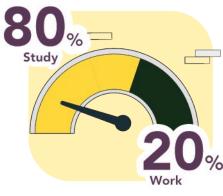


A T-Level gives you a mix of learning in the classroom and on the job. Businesses and employers helped design T Levels to teach you the skills you'll need.

















Vocational and/or Technical

T-Levels

T-Levels are a high-quality, career-focused option instead of A-Levels, designed for 16 to 19-year-olds who want to gain practical skills and real experience in a specific industry. Created with help from employers and schools, T-Levels mix classroom learning with a 45-day work placement. This means you learn the theory and skills at college or school, then get to use them in a real job environment.



T-Levels are recognised by both universities and employers, and

they provide a clear path into skilled jobs, apprenticeships, or higher education. You'll find them available at most colleges and some sixth forms.

Each course focuses on a particular sector—like digital, healthcare, construction, or education—and includes important training in problem-solving, teamwork, communication, and professionalism. By combining classroom knowledge with hands-on experience, T-Levels help you build confidence, develop technical skills, and get ready for work, giving you a strong foundation for success in your chosen career.

How can this benefit me?

Short Term

Builds confidence with support.

Medium Term

Develops skills through real experience.

Long Term

Opens doors to work or study and higher education.

VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL Scan the QR code to find out more QUALIFICATIONS (VTQs)

VTQs are practical qualifications designed to give you the skills and experience you need for a certain job. They mights be for you if you have a strong interest in a particular industry. They are usually called BTEC or CTEC.



















Vocational and/or Technical

Vocational Technical Qualifications (VTQs)

Vocational qualifications are usually taken at college but can also be available at school sixth forms or independent training providers. They mix practical work with classroom learning and often include chances to get work experience. These courses come in different levels (1, 2, and 3), each with its own entry requirements.

Vocational qualifications help you develop real industry skills that you can use in everyday work

situations, preparing you for a job. They also help you build independence and important life skills. Some courses might involve exams as well as showing proof of the skills and knowledge you've gained throughout the year.



How can this benefit me?

Short Term

Explore different careers or develop skills for a chosen job.

Medium Term

Gain a qualification relevant to a specific industry or job.

Long Term

Leads to career opportunities or further training or higher education.

FOUNDATION COURSES



Engaging in a foundation course is a way to boost your confidence, enhance your knowledge, and develop essential skills. You can pursue these studies at a college or with an independent training provider.





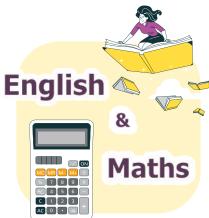














Vocational and/or Technical

Foundation Courses

If you need extra support when starting college, there are foundation courses available to help you. These courses can be different depending on the college—for example, the course name, the levels they cover, the entry requirements, and how they connect to other courses.

Foundation courses usually include help with skills for getting a job, English and maths, work experience or chances to practice work skills, plus personal and social

support to help you overcome any challenges.

What all these courses have in common is extra support to help you move forward. They often act like a 'stepping stone' to the next stage of your learning journey.

How can this benefit me?

Short Term

Experience a range of jobs or learn skills related to a preferred job.

Medium Term

Gain qualification relevant to a specific industry or job.

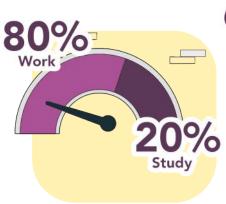
Long Term

Learn
practical
skills related
to real life
work.



APPRENTICESHIPS

An apprenticeship is a paid job with training where you work alongside experienced staff, gaining job-specific skills and earning a wage. You follow an apprenticeship standard outlining the knowledge, skills, and behaviours needed for success.













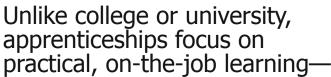




Work Based

Apprenticeships

There are lots of different apprenticeships available to match different skills and interests. If you have additional support needs, training providers can help, and if you have an EHCP, you might be able to do an 'Inclusive apprenticeship' with adjustments to suit your needs and access to a supportive job coach.



some don't even require you to go to college. It's important to pick an apprenticeship that fits your career goals and the way you like to learn.

When it comes to finding an apprenticeship, it's important to remember that it's not the same as applying to college — you'll need to take a more active approach. There isn't just one way to apply, so be prepared to use several methods to find the right opportunity. This might include searching on the national apprenticeship website, applying directly through employer websites, registering with local training providers, and even contacting companies yourself.



How can this benefit me?

Short Term
Earn a wage
while
learning.

Medium Term

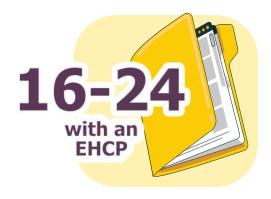
Gain recognised qualifications and train for future careers. Long Term
Earn £100k
more on
average than
unqualified
workers over
your career.

SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS



Scan the Q code to fin

For young individuals aged 16 to 24 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) who possess an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This structured, work-based study program aims to provide a valuable work experience facilitated by a dedicated job coach.



















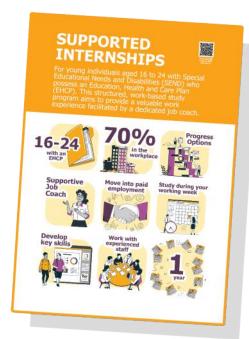
Supported Internships

A Supported Internship is a special type of study programme created especially for young people aged 16–24 who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC)

Plan and want to take steps towards getting a paid, long-

term job.

This programme gives you the chance to build skills, confidence and experience in the workplace, while getting the support you need to succeed. It's designed to be flexible and personalised—so it fits around your needs, goals and learning style.



During a Supported Internship, you'll spend most of your time working at a real job with a local employer. This isn't just work shadowing or a short placement—it's proper work experience, usually lasting around six months or more. You'll get regular help from a job coach, who's there to support you, help you learn the role, and build your independence.

How can this benefit me?

Short Term

Improve communication skills.

Medium Term

Develop confidence and a wider social network.

Long Term

Progress
towards life
goals and
aspirations,
such as getting
a job.

STILL UNSURE?

POST-16 TOP TIPS

1

Attend careers and skills fairs

These are ideal for meeting colleges, training providers, apprenticeship providers, employers, and careers advisers.

2

Discuss your ideas

Talk to parents or carers, family and friends to get other viewpoints on your choices.

3

Get advice

Talk to teachers and career advisers – they have lots of knowledge and wisdom to share!

4

Open events and taster sessions

They're a great opportunity to visit schools and colleges, find out about the courses on offer, and speak to staff and students.

5

It's your life and your choice

Don't be influenced by where your friends are going. Ask yourself: what do I enjoy? What would I like to do and what do I want to get out of my life?

Open Evenings & Taster Days: What You Need to Know

Why Are They Important?

Open evenings and taster days are a great way to explore your next steps. Whether it's sixth form, college, or a specialist course, you can:

- Get a feel for the place
- Meet staff and students
- Ask questions about subjects, support, and student life
- Get a feel for what suits you best.



What is the Difference?

Open Evenings are usually after school and give you a chance to:

- Tour the building.
- Listen to talks about courses.
- Chat to staff and students.
- Collect prospectuses and useful info.

<u>Taster Days</u> are often during the school day and give you the chance to:

- Try out real lessons.
- Join in with activities.
- Experience a typical day at college or sixth form.

What If Dates Aren't Available Yet?

Don't worry! Most schools and colleges release their open event dates in the autumn term (usually from September onwards). While you're waiting:

- Make a list of the places you're interested in.
- Follow them on social media for announcements.
- Bookmark their websites.
- Open day dates will be added to the school website in Sept.



Be Ready to Make the Most of It

Here are some quick tips for when the time comes:

- **1. Write down your questions.** Think about subjects, transport, clubs, support, and future pathways.
- 2. Take notes or photos (if allowed) to help you remember what you liked.
- **3. Go with an open mind** you might be surprised by places you hadn't considered!
- **4. Chat to students** they'll give you an honest view of what it's really like.

Local Sixth Forms and Colleges

Below is a list of Sixth Forms and College available across Leeds City Region.

Name	What is available?	Website	Scan the QR Code
Allerton Grange Sixth Form	A-levels	https://www.allertongrange. com/sixth-form-home-page/	
Allerton High School Post 16	A-levels	https://www.allertonhigh.org. uk/post-16/120.html	
Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College	A levels / Vocational Courses / T-Levels	www.notredamecoll.ac.uk	
Leeds Sixth Form College	A-Levels	https://leedssixthform.ac.uk/	
Elliot Hudson College	A Levels / Vocational Courses	http://www. elliotthudsoncollege.ac.uk/	
Horsforth Sixth Form	A Levels / Vocational Courses / T-Levels	https://www.horsforthschool. org/sixthform/	
Pudsey Sixth Form College	A Levels / Vocational Courses / T-Levels	https://leedscitycollege.ac.uk/ campuses/pudsey-sixth-form/	
Co-op Academy Priesthorpe	A Levels / Vocational Courses	https://www.priesthorpe. coopacademies.co.uk	
Leeds Arts University	Vocational Courses	https://www.leeds-art.ac.uk	
Leeds College of Building	Vocational Courses / T-Levels / Apprenticeships	https://www.lcb.ac.uk/	
Leeds City College	Vocational Courses / T-Levels / Apprenticeships	https://leedscitycollege.ac.uk	
Lawnswood School	A-Levels	https://www.lawnswoodschool. co.uk/sixth-form	
The Grammar School at Leeds	A-Levels	https://gsal.org.uk/sixth-form/ subjects/	
Roundhay Sixth Form	A-Levels	https://www.roundhayschool. org.uk/sixth-form/	

Where can you find these Sixth Forms and Colleges?

Use this map to explore the local colleges and sixth forms across Leeds.

Looking at where each one is can help you figure out how far they are from home and how long it might take to get there.

<u>Compare the journey to your current route to school</u>—some might be closer than you think, while others could take a bit more planning. Knowing this early can help you make confident decisions about where you'd like to study next.





Scan the QR code to explore all the Sixth Forms and Colleges across Leeds City Region in more detail



Local Apprenticeship Providers

There are lots of training providers who deliver apprenticeship training. Some will be part of local colleges. Some will be independent organisations, or employers. They might cover lots of different types of work or can specialise in a particular industry. Here are some local examples.

Visit the national apprenticeship service webpages for more information: **www.apprenticeships.gov.uk** for general information

<u>https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship</u> to search and apply for vacancies.

Employers who have had apprentices before are likely to have a training

Name	Industries Covered	Website	
Leeds City College	Business, Engineering, Health & Social Care, Construction, Digital, Hospitality	https://www.leedscitycollege.ac.uk/	
3aaa Apprenticeships	IT, Software Development, Digital Marketing	https://3aaa.co.uk/leeds/	
Estio Training	Digital, IT, Cybersecurity, Data Analysis	https://estio.co.uk	
Citrus Training	Construction, Utilities, Health & Safety	https://www.citrustraining.co.uk/	
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	Healthcare, Dental Nursing, Clinical Support, Biomedical Science, Leadership	https://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/ careers/apprenticeships/	
Heart of Yorkshire Education Group	Business, Care Services, Catering, Construction, Education, Engineering, Finance, Logistics	https://www.heartofyorkshire. ac.uk/courses/apprenticeships	
Leeds College of Building	Construction, Engineering	https://www.lcb.ac.uk/	
Jet2.com and Jet2holidays	Engineering, Finance, IT, Marketing, HR, Procurement, Customer Service	https://www.jet2careers.com/	
Mitchells & Butlers	Hospitality, Food Safety, Leadership, Customer Service	https://www.mbcareersandjobs.com	

YOUR APPRENTICESHIP ACTION PLAN

Step-by-step guide to help you secure an apprenticeship — whether through a college, a training provider, or direct with an employer.

STEP 1: START YOUR SEARCH

Look on these sites:

- Find an Apprenticeship (gov.uk)
- Get My First Job
- Not Going to Uni
- Rate My Apprenticeship
- Careermap



TOP TIPS

Set up alerts for your area and your chosen industry so you never miss a new opportunity.

Colleges and training providers often **help match students** with local employers – **don't be afraid to ask!**



STEP 2: HELPFUL EXTRAS TO BOOST YOUR PLAN



Apply Direct to Employers

- Make a list of companies in your chosen industry.
- Visit their websites/social media channels and check their careers pages.
- Email with your CV, course details, and enthusiasm.
- Follow up if you don't hear back in a week or two.

2

Apply via a College or Training Provider

- Apply for an apprenticeship subject you're interested in.
- Ask if they help match students with employers.
- Apply for the full-time course too (as backup).
- Attend open days or taster sessions.

3

Start a Full-Time Course First

- Choose a course linked to your future apprenticeship goals.
- Build confidence and skills in a classroom or workshop.
- Improve English, maths, and employability skills.
- Look and apply for apprenticeships during the course.



What If You Don't Find an Employer Right Away?

- Join the course anyway colleges & training providers often help you find an employer.
- Keep applying for apprenticeship vacancies.
- You can switch over once you find an employer.

YOUR SAFETY NET CHECKLIST

Have you:

- Applied for more than one route?
- Got a backup full-time course offer?
- Asked about employer help?
- Used Find an Apprenticeship?
- Spoken to a careers adviser?

Essential Subjects

When you're picking your GCSEs or A-levels, it's not always easy to see how your choices might affect your future. But if you already have a university course or career in mind, some subjects can be absolutely essential. The below table will help you understand which subjects are needed for specific degree courses – so you can keep your options open, avoid missing out on opportunities later, and feel confident you're on the right path.

Career Sector	Level Subjects (or Equivalent)	Recommended Subjects
Medicine	Biology, Chemistry	Maths, Physics
Health & Social Care	Biology or Health & Social Care	Psychology, Sociology
Engineering	Maths, Physics	Further Maths, Design Technology
Computing & IT	Maths	Computer Science, Physics
Architecture	Maths	Art or Design Technology, Physics
Law	None essential	English Lit, History, Politics
Business & Finance	None essential	Maths, Business, Economics
Psychology & Mental Health	Psychology (preferred), Biology	Sociology, Maths
Creative Arts & Design	Art and/or Design	Design Tech, Photography, Media Studies
Media, Film & Journalism	None essential	English Lang, Media Studies, Film Studies
Teaching & Education	Varies by subject (e.g. English, Maths, Science for Primary)	Subject-specific A Levels for Secondary
Environmental Sciences	Geography or Biology	Chemistry, Environmental Science
Sports Science & PE	PE or Biology	Psychology, Chemistry
Languages & Linguistics	At least one language	English Language, Literature
Performing Arts	Drama, Music or Dance (based on specialism)	English, Music Tech, Performing Arts

Making the Morrisby

You've already got a Morrisby login – now it's time to use it to your advantage!

Morrisby is more than just a one-off careers quiz. It's your personal toolkit for planning your future. From discovering careers that match your interests and strengths, to finding out which subjects and qualifications you'll need, Morrisby helps you make informed choices at every stage.

Why use Morrisby regularly?

- Explore careers that actually suit you based on your interests, values and abilities.
- See which subjects matter for different university courses, apprenticeships or jobs.
- Create and update your action plan as your ideas and goals change over time.
- Keep track of your progress, so you're ready for college, university or employment.



- Log in at least once per term to keep things up to date.
- Use your results to guide subject choices, applications and career research.
- Share your profile with careers staff or tutors to get tailored advice.



Whether you're just starting to explore or already have a goal in mind, Morrisby is there to help you take the next step with confidence.

USEFUL WEBSITES

Use the following websites for information and support to help inform your decision.

Morrisby - A careers platform for 11–19 year olds to explore jobs, find strengths, and plan next steps. Check out the career profiles and pathway planner.

https://www.morrisby.com

Youth Employment UK – a website from an independent organisation that provides wide-ranging information about careers and employment. Try the 'Career Guides'.

Home - Youth Employment UK

Prospects – a great source of information mainly aimed at young people who might consider university graduate level careers in the future or for those who are already at university. **www.prospects.ac.uk**

Icould - Find inspiration and explore your ideas using real-life career videos. https://icould.com/

BBC bitesize careers - a really good range of articles and information from the BBC with career stories, videos, quizzes to help young people with their careers ideas.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers

National Careers Service - Providing information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work. www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

Leeds Young Carers - use this site for a clear overview of the different options that are available to young people. https://family-action.org.uk/services/leeds-young-

T Levels - use this site to learn more about what T Levels are and how they work. https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/

UCAS - Universities and colleges admissions service, offering support and advice so you can make an informed decisions about your future. **www.ucas.com/further-education**

SACU - An online platform providing careers advice, course info, and student resources to help you plan your future. Explore career pathways and get support with your next steps. https://sacu-student.com