



# Year 8 & 9 Options Booklet



Middlesbrough College



Taking you higher



## Hi!

**Meet the Schools Team, your go-to guides for everything you need to know about navigating your next steps after school.**

Choosing your options is an important step in your education, and we're here to support you every step of the way!

We're here to provide you with all the information you need to make the best choices for your future. This includes information on the different options available to you after Year 11: A Levels, T Levels, Apprenticeships and Vocational Courses.

We also share important information on how the subjects you choose in Year 9 link with, and lead on to the courses we offer at Middlesbrough College!

It's also important to think about any extra curricular activities you would like to pursue. Taking part in sporting activities, like with our Sports Academies, is a fantastic way to meet new people and gain extra skills that will look great on your future applications!

As you progress to Year 10 and 11, you will see a lot more of us in your school. We will visit you to deliver presentations and lunch time drop-in sessions. We're always on hand to help if you have any questions about College or what you want to do next and we can help you with your application once you reach Year 11.

If you see us in your school, please say hello! We look forward to getting to know you and helping you make the best choices for your future over the next few years.

See you soon!  
Schools Team

**Have a question? You can  
contact us on 01642 333800 or  
[schoolsteam@mbro.ac.uk](mailto:schoolsteam@mbro.ac.uk)**

# Reasons for studying with us

96% of full-time students secured a positive destination after completing their course

We are Ofsted rated Good with six outstanding features

55% of BTEC vocational students gained Distinction grades

Triple the number of students studying T Level qualifications

98% overall pass rate for A Levels

We are in the top 5% in the country for apprenticeships

Over 785 of our students progressed to University, with 88% at their first-choice University

9 Sports Academies

Best student perks in the region

## Plus...

Brand new TTE training centre opened in 2024

New state-of-the-art Clinical & Community Care Simulation Suite for Health & Care programmes

New Electric & Hybrid Motor Vehicle Workshop

Modern, standalone A Level building

Specialised Welding equipment to meet industry needs

Fitness studio for all students to use

Dedicated Special Educational Needs (SEN) Centre with Bespoke Sensory Room and Independent Living Flat

## The importance of maths & English

As a full-time student at Middlesbrough College, English and maths will be an essential part of your study program. We will help you build the skills that employers and Universities need.

If you didn't achieve a grade 4 or above in GCSE English and maths, you'll continue studying these subjects with us. That's why it's so important to work hard over the next few years to achieve the highest grades you can before you join us!

# A Levels at MC6

MC6 is our modern, dedicated Sixth Form centre, where we proudly help students secure outstanding results that open the doors to their future.

Our learners progress to a range of exciting destinations, including prestigious Universities where they secure places on competitive courses across the country, employment, and apprenticeships!

## What are A Levels?

A Levels are subject-based academic qualifications that allow you to keep your options open, and Universities and employers love them! They are assessed through examinations, and you can study three or four subjects across two years.



## Study options at MC6

We offer a fantastic range of A Level subjects that allow you to develop your specialist skills while keeping your options open for the future.

We also offer A Level equivalent subjects that you can mix and match with A Levels to create your perfect study programme.

### Choose the combination which suits you most:

- Three A Level subjects  
**or**  
Three A Level Equivalent courses
- Two A Levels & One A Level Equivalent
- One A Level & Two A Level Equivalents

*MC6 also offer a selection of BTEC National Extended Diplomas and subject-specific T Levels. Please note that these are larger qualifications that are equivalent to three A Levels and cannot be studied alongside other subjects.*

### A Level subjects we offer

- › Biology
- › Business Studies
- › Chemistry
- › Computer Science
- › English Language
- › English Literature
- › Environmental Science
- › Film Studies
- › Fine Art
- › Further Mathematics
- › Geography
- › Geology
- › History
- › Law
- › Mathematics
- › Media Studies
- › Photography
- › Physics
- › Politics
- › Psychology
- › Sociology





## Studying with us

Our A Level students are based in MC6, a modern and vibrant environment where you have everything you need to excel academically, develop personally, and prepare for a successful future.

Our state-of-the-art facilities ensure you can reach your potential. And, unlike school sixth forms, our students benefit from an independent learning environment which prepares you for University life and employment.

Our dedicated A Level tutors only teach Level 3 programmes and are highly qualified, offering a wealth of experience and specialist subject knowledge.

## Taking you to University

**Expert guidance:** You will receive tailored careers advice and guidance to help you make your decision about University. We also arrange guest speakers from Universities across the country and visits to University open days, organised and funded by the College.

**1:1 support:** Every student is supported by a Progress and Personal Development tutor who will assist you with your UCAS application and you will receive dedicated 1:1 time to ensure you are confident about your next steps!

**In 2024, MC6  
achieved a 98%  
overall pass  
rate for  
A Levels!**



## What are the entry requirements?

Entry requirements for A Levels are generally 5 GCSEs at grades 5 and above, including English and maths.

However, certain subjects may require you to have higher grades.

For example, to study English literature at A Level, you would be required to have 5 or more GCSEs, including maths at grade 5 or above and English language at grade 6 or above.



## Raising Aspirations

We are deeply committed to empowering you to achieve your full potential, which is why we created the Raising Aspirations programme.

Designed specifically for academically gifted students, this programme aims to prepare you to study at leading Universities.

Our team of specialist coaches and teachers offer a range of activities, events and support throughout your time at MC6, ensuring you receive the best possible preparation for University.

Students are offered specialist support, advice and guidance on making applications to the top Universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. A Level students also have access to at least three supported entry schemes for Universities, which can lead to lower UCAS offers from the likes of Durham, Leeds and Newcastle University.

### Taking you around the world

As part of your A Level studies, you will get the opportunity to go on a number of heavily subsidised residential trips, hear from guest speakers in a range of industries and go on fully expensed trips to University open days across the year!



## Student profile

Taking **Joe** higher

**Joe Wilmot**

**Environmental Science, Geography, Geology**

**Previous school: Outwood Academy Bydales**

“I decided to study environmental science as I knew it would work well and interlink with my other A Level subjects. MC6 is the only sixth form in the region to offer the A Level course and when I investigated the subject, I knew it would be something I would find interesting and useful because of how modern and relevant it is. Learning the topics doesn't feel like it's just coming out of a textbook and we learn through different activities such as debates and trips. I'm hoping to progress into a degree apprenticeship or employment in ethical mining after my studies!”

# Vocational Courses

At Middlesbrough College, we're proud to offer a diverse range of industry-focused courses that equip you with the skills you need to succeed in specific sectors. We also offer the best Engineering training in the country with Middlesbrough College and TTE!

## What are vocational courses?

Vocational courses are practical, hands-on courses designed with a specific career sector in mind. They can lead you to a job or University, and what you learn can be directly linked to real life problems and situations in the workplace.

Our Level 3 vocational courses are the equivalent to 3 A Levels. These courses are usually industry-based and are taught by teachers who have worked in industry before, giving you real life, hands-on experience and the best possible skills for future employment.

## Is a vocational course right for me?

These courses are perfect if you enjoy practical learning and relate directly to a specific job role. So, if you know exactly who you want to be and the career you want, why not become a specialist sooner rather than later? We offer vocational courses in every sector area, from hairdressing to engineering and beyond!



### Vocational courses we offer

- › Art & Design
- › Business
- › Catering & Hospitality
- › Childcare & Education
- › Construction
- › Digital Media Production
- › Digital
- › Games Development
- › Fashion Communications
- › Hair & Beauty
- › Health & Social Care
- › Motor Vehicle & Welding
- › Music Production
- › Performing Arts & Stage Management
- › Public Services
- › Sports & Recreation
- › Travel, Tourism & Aviation



## Let us show you around

At Middlesbrough College and TTE, you'll learn in state-of-the-art facilities such as our simulated aircraft cabin and commercial training restaurant, being taught by tutors with industry experience.

## What are the entry requirements?

We have levels to suit everyone ranging from Entry Level to Level 3. It is important to study hard at school to get the grades required to start a vocational course at Level 3. However, there are courses, such as construction, that require students to start at Level 1/2 due to the skill specific nature of these programmes. Entry requirements for Level 3 vocational courses are 4 GCSEs at grades 4/5 or above.



## Get the best Engineering training in the country with Middlesbrough College & TTE!

There's no better place to train for future engineers! We provide a hands-on workshop experience that prepares you for industry, including cutting-edge facilities and equipment!

## New £12 million TTE Centre now open!

Based at our main Middlesbrough College campus is the best Engineering and Training Centre in the region.



## Engineering courses we offer:

- › Process Operations
- › Mechanical Engineering
- › Wind Turbine Technology
- › Instrumentation & Control Engineering
- › Electrical/Electronic Engineering
- › Manufacturing Engineering
- › Laboratory Technician



# T Levels

## What is a T Level?

A T Level is a Level 3 Technical Qualification that you can study after completing your GCSEs. It is classed as a core qualification by the government and is equivalent to three A Levels, an Apprenticeship or Vocational course.

## What does a T Level do?

T Levels combine classroom learning with on-the-job experience for specific careers. Each T Level course has been developed in collaboration with employers and providers, ensuring you develop the technical skills and knowledge required by employers in your chosen industry.

## Is a T Level right for me?

If you have a good idea of the industry you'd like to work in or the career you want, T Levels are a great option! They combine 80% classroom learning with 20% industry placement over two years, providing a mix of academic and practical education!

## What is the difference between T Levels, A Levels and Vocational courses?

T Levels, A Levels, and Vocational courses are all classed as core qualifications by the government. However, T Levels have a larger focus on on-the-job training.

A Levels are academic, designed to prepare students for University. Vocational courses offer practical skills and training for specific jobs, but without the structured industry placement that is integral to T Levels.

**T-LEVELS**  
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

## Options after T Levels

T Levels are recognised by Universities and employers. After completing a T Level, you can progress to University, skilled employment, an apprenticeship or higher apprenticeship.

## T Level entry requirements

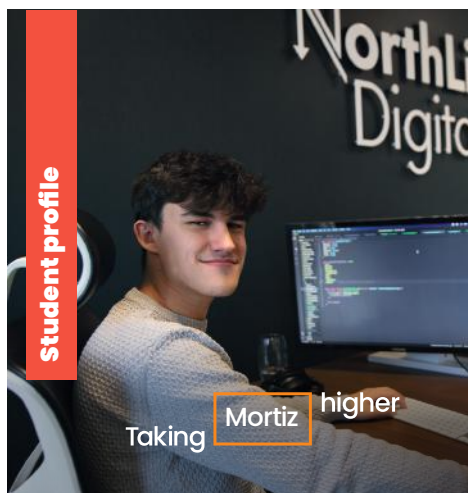
To study a T Level you must have a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 5 or above including maths, English, and, for some programmes, science.

## Foundation T Levels

If you don't meet the entry requirements for a T Level after your GCSEs, don't worry. Our 1 year T Level Foundation programme offers a high quality route onto your chosen T Level course and provides the additional support you need to prepare.

Entry requirements for the T Level foundation programme are a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 3 and above, including English language, maths, and for some programmes, science. You will also be given an opportunity to study maths and/or English and resist your GCSEs to reach a grade 4/5.

If you're not sure what level is right for you, don't worry. Our experienced staff will talk you through your options after you have submitted your application!



### **Moritz Cornije** **T Level in Digital Production,** **Design and Development**

**Following his successful placement with NorthLink Digital, 18-year-old Moritz Cornije was offered a permanent role as a software developer alongside his studies.**

"When I heard about T Levels I loved the sound of the work placement and getting real, hands-on experience. It means you can really integrate yourself into the business and quickly prove yourself to be an asset. For some, it can lead to a permanent role, like it has for me."

**At Middlesbrough College we offer T Level programmes in a range of sectors, including:**

- › Business & Law
- › Childcare
- › Construction
- › Digital & Media
- › Engineering
- › Health & Social Care
- › Science



# Apprenticeships

## What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a practical, hands-on programme that combines on-the-job training with classroom learning. It is classed as a core qualification and is designed to provide the training you need to kickstart your career in a specific trade or sector.

## What can I do with an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships can lead you on many different paths. You can progress straight into employment after your apprenticeship is complete or into higher level apprenticeships and University.

## Apprenticeships with Northern Skills

Middlesbrough College Group's apprenticeship and training company, Northern Skills, trains over 2,200 apprentices across the region. We also deliver specialist engineering apprenticeships through TTE!



Taking **Nell** higher

**Nell McPartlin**  
**Digital Marketing apprentice**  
**Previous School: Dyke House Sixth Form**

**Nell chose to study an apprenticeship as she was also eager to work in a professional environment where she could gain vital skills for the future while earning a Level 3 qualification.**

**“Choosing the path of an apprenticeship was the best option for me. I’ve been able to work at my own pace with constant support from both my workplace and my apprenticeship assessor. This mix of independence and flexibility has been crucial to my learning and helped me recently pass my Principles of Marketing and Principles of Coding exams!”**



# Taking **Louis** higher

## **Louis Johns** **Level 3 Instrumentation and Mechanical Apprentice at Hydrasun**

“I chose an apprenticeship because I want to gain hands-on skills in the sector, and this is the perfect way to do it! I love working as part of the Hydrasun team and I’m hoping to stay on once I complete my apprenticeship.”



## How to apply for an apprenticeship

You can apply for your apprenticeship vacancy through Middlesbrough College! Our team can support you with your application. Apprenticeships are competitive, so you will need to ace your application and prepare for your interview, so you stand out from other applicants!

## Always have a Plan B!

Apprenticeships are competitive, so it's essential that you have a Plan B. We strongly recommend all apprenticeship applicants to also apply for a full-time vocational course in their chosen industry. This means that if you can't find the right apprenticeship or if things don't go to plan, you are still set to study at Middlesbrough College!



### **We offer apprenticeships for a wide range of sectors, including:**

- » Business
- » Construction
- » Engineering & Manufacturing
- » Health & Social Care
- » IT, Computing & Digital Technologies
- » Motor Vehicle (Automotive Technology)

and many more!



Ofsted rated  
'Good'

Middlesbrough College  
Dock Street  
Middlesbrough  
TS2 1AD

Course Information  
01642 333333

[www.mbro.ac.uk](http://www.mbro.ac.uk)

Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information in this Guide, it is advisable to check information prior to enrolment. The College reserves the right to cancel programmes if there is insufficient enrolment and amend information at any time.

11/11/24