

Autumn 2026

Dear parents and carers,

As your child starts Year 11, it's important to consider the different routes they can take after their GCSEs. Whilst your child may already have plans in mind, I wanted to write with information on all routes, as different paths are right for each child; different learning styles, exam pressure, workplace learning on the job, versus classroom learning. It's so key that the route selected suits the student, and parents are so vital for supporting this process, to find the right style and level - so your child can enjoy and succeed in the route they choose.

Each year a percentage of students drop out of their chosen course, because they have not understood what it will involve, or it doesn't suit their learning preferences. It is key parents fully understand the options available to help their child to choose the best route for them. We have created a Facebook page which provides information and opportunities to help with this, you can follow us [here](#).

A brief explanation of different routes, a skills assessment quiz and resources can be found at the Government's site [Skills For Careers](#). A 5 minute video very simply explaining the routes is [here](#). [What Are T Levels](#) is a short 6 minute video explaining this route. Please see our [Post 16 Routes](#) document- this gives resources for the different routes your child may be considering and helps you understand routes you are not familiar with, to decide if they may best suit your child.

To help you and your young person decide on the best route for them and the subjects they wish to pursue, we have put together a helpful documents; [Resources for Choosing What Type of Career](#) which contains quizzes and resources to help give your child ideas of what they may enjoy career wise. We also have [Post 18 Routes](#) should you wish to look at the longer term path to ensure the right subjects are selected.

If your child has **specific educational needs (SEN)** or an EHCP. Imagine the Possibilities [Families Guide](#)- describes relevant options and information. Also see [Imagine the Possibilities](#) website, a video explaining [What is a supported employment?](#) [Companies offering Supported Internships](#) and [current vacancies](#).

For students planning **vocational college courses**, it is highly recommended that they have a good understanding of the course and career prior to commencing, by attending a college course taster session, complete work experience in that career, and watching a relevant Industry Insight video from [Somerset EBP](#). For students near Radstock [Somerset Studio School](#) also offers vocational subjects.

Students who prefer the **workplace**, but are not quite experienced enough to secure an apprenticeship, could complete a pre-apprenticeship (traineeship) at [Somerset Skills & Learning](#). With centers in; Frome, Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater and Shepton Mallet, they support students towards gaining an apprenticeship, courses can last between 6 weeks and a year, can include Maths and English studies if a grade 4 has not been obtained. If your child is ready for an Apprenticeship and the recruitment process, please find our resource [Apprenticeships](#) – which includes how to secure one and a list of companies with apprenticeship schemes.

Your child will receive a careers guidance meeting in school, but if you or your child would like further support, do contact the school's careers adviser, contact details will be on the school's website in the careers section. You can also contact a National Careers Service careers adviser on 0800 100 900 8am to 8pm weekdays or 10am to 5pm Saturdays or [use webchat](#) to talk online.

The following 3 booklets outline the different routes available. There is information on more specialist local routes available, such as AAT Accountancy training and specialist media/ drama schools. [Somerset Routes After Year 11 Guide For Parents](#), [Your Future Sorted Somerset](#), and [The Parents Guide to What's Next](#).

I hope this information is helpful.

Warm regards,
Somerset Careers Hub