Somerset CAREERS HUB | THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

Autumn 2025

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, work placed learning on the job, versus classroom style learning. It is so key that the route selected suits the students, and parents are so vital for supporting this process, to find the right style and level -so you 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 snippets of information to help with this, 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.

The following 3 booklets comprehensively outline the different routes available. They explain options which often are less understood, such as T Levels, and pre-apprenticeships. As well as what to consider when choosing A Level and BTEC subjects and resources on apprenticeships. There is information on more specialist routes available in our area, 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.

If your child has specific educational needs (SEN) or an EHCP. Imagine the Possibilities Families Guide- describes supported apprenticeships and traineeships, support in work and relevant legislation. Also see Imagine the Possibilities website. There is a short video explaining What is a supported employment?

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 Education Business Partnership.

Students who prefer the workplace, but are not quite experienced enough to secure an apprenticeship, could attend Somerset Skills & Learning pre apprenticeships. They have centers in; Frome, Taunton, Yeovil, Bridgwater and Shepton Mallet, and support students towards securing an apprenticeship. Previously called Traineeships, these can last between 6 weeks and a year, and include Maths and English studies if a grade 4 has not been obtained. If your child is ready for an Apprenticeship, you can find some useful resources here.

For further resources on many routes please see our Post16 information sheet. Useful websites to generally explore different careers include; Somerset – Your Futures and CareerPilot which has an excellent Parent Zone. Also see our Student & Parent Padlet; updated daily with events, open days and opportunities.

Your child has a careers guidance meeting in school, but if you or your child would like further support, please 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.

I hope this information is helpful.

Warm regards,
Somerset Careers Hub