



Our Ref: AKB/kmd/careers/nextsteps

September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Oldbury Wells Careers – Year 11
Planning for Next Steps**

As you are aware Year 11 is an important year for pupils as they navigate their progress towards GCSE exams and beyond. Through our personal development/ enrichment programme we will assist pupils in exploring and selecting their post-16 pathways. This will include a post-16 evening on 24th September 2025, as well as a programme of talks and visits from local post-16 providers. We offer students personal guidance through our Careers Advisor, Mel Lawrence mel.lawrence@oldburywells.com and all students have access to the Unifrog careers platform which has relevant, up-to-date information on a range of career pathways.

Below is a guide on how pupils can be proactive in their post-16 decisions.

What can you do to make the right choice?

- Find out about different careers that interest you through websites including:
 - unifrog.org
 - Prospects.ac.uk
 - <https://icould.com>
- Get advice from the people who know you, like parents and teachers and from your Careers Advisor, Mel Lawrence.
- Look at the qualifications on offer at local 6th Forms and Colleges. You could start by visiting one of the Post-16 options events in either Shrewsbury or Telford in September. You could also visit the open day events at the local colleges, ideally in the Autumn term.
- You could consider whether an apprenticeship might be a good route for you? (See apprenticeship information below).

For either BTEC, T level or A' level choices, ensure that they are subjects that:

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

You can have a few ideas of things you would like to apply for - just before Christmas may be a good time to start making some applications.

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A' Levels

A' levels are subject-based qualifications which can be studied as part of a three A' Level programme or a mixed A' Level/Vocational programme. Examples of a range of courses and entry requirements can be found here:

- <https://www.scg.ac.uk/courses/a-levels>
- <https://www.telfordcollege.ac.uk/join-us/our-courses/full-time/>

If you are thinking about studying A' Levels, there are some really useful articles under the advice section on the following websites which helps with which A' levels you should take to study particular degrees or how to choose your A' levels and making the jump from GCSEs. This information is also available on the Unifrog platform:

- www.which.co.uk/alevelchoices
- www.which.co.uk/alevelexplorer

Vocational Qualifications (T Levels, BTECS)

BTECS

If you are thinking about vocational qualifications, then research the pros and cons:

- www.which.co.uk/btecs

If you want to go to university then you could start researching courses that might accept BTECs:

- www.which.co.uk/courses

Or check out the entry requirements on the UCAS website: www.ucas.com

An example of a range of BTEC courses can be found here:

- <https://www.scg.ac.uk/our-courses/vocational>
- <https://www.telfordcollege.ac.uk/join-us/our-courses/full-time/>
- <https://hlnc.ac.uk/colleges/walford-college/courses/>

T Levels

A T Level is a full-time programme equivalent to 3 A Levels. T Levels are ideal if you wish to continue your studies in a more practical way. They are good for those students who know what industry they want to go into and help you to build knowledge and work experience.

You will spend 20% of the time on work experience and 80% of the time in the classroom.

They are like an apprenticeship, although you won't get paid, and will give you the chance to continue your studies and get a much broader idea of what it's like to work in a certain sector, with the opportunity to specialise later. Some students may be able to continue onto university, an apprenticeship or straight into work. An example of T levels can be found here:

- <https://www.scg.ac.uk/courses/t-levels>

Please see below a link to which universities are currently accepting T levels. For more details on specific entry requirements for university courses go to www.ucas.com:

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-providers-with-t-levels-in-entry-requirements/list-of-higher-education-providers-that-accept-t-levels-for-entry>

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are paid, work-based training for those who know what job they would like to do. You will work 80% on-the-job and generally it's 20% in the classroom. Finding an apprenticeship is like finding a job.

It is important that you apply for College as a back-up – just in case you are unsuccessful at getting an apprenticeship.

Many vacancies will ask for 4s in English and Maths and some 4s in other subjects so always make sure you have a back-up plan.

How to find live apprenticeship vacancies:

- Find an apprenticeship website below is the first place to look, register for an account and set up alerts:
- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- NHS Jobs: <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate>
- Shrewsbury and Telford <https://www.jobs.sath.nhs.uk/find-job/apprenticeships>
- Public Sector: www.wmjjobs.co.uk [Current Vacancies – Shropshire Council](#)
- Engineering; <https://in-comm.co.uk/vacancies/>
- Indeed: www.indeed.co.uk
- Rate my apprenticeship and Get my First Job: www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk
<https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/>

Job centre plus, family contacts, friends and careers events are useful too.

The Telford Apprenticeship show tends to be in March and is a great place to talk to local employers and apprentices.

Register to be told of apprenticeship vacancies at the local Colleges (on their websites) and relevant providers below as well, as many have databases of companies seeking apprentices. Remember though that just because you register, doesn't mean that you have an apprenticeship, they will just forward you vacancies for you to then go through a job interview process and there may be lots of others applying for the same vacancy.

A good time to apply is February/March of your leaving year, although some companies do recruit almost a year before so it can be wise to register on the National Apprenticeship website from October onwards.

A good CV is especially important if you are looking into apprenticeships.

- <https://uk.indeed.com/career-advice/cvs-cover-letters/school-leaver-cv>
- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/cvs-and-cover-letters/example-cvs/school-leaver-cv-example>
- <https://barclayslifeskills.com/i-want-help-applying-for-jobs/school/cv-builder/#/>
- <https://careerswales.gov.wales/getting-a-job/build-a-cv/school-leaver-cv-example>

Study Programmes or Traineeships

If you feel you are not ready to go straight into an apprenticeship, need to work on your literacy and numeracy or just boost your employability skills then study programmes can allow you to try out different types of work tasters to work out what you want to do and can support you to progress into education, employment or an apprenticeship.

See information for study programmes at SBC, County Training, Juniper, Landau, Enable in the open day events list on the OWS website [Careers](#) page.

We hope that you find this information useful in Post-16 conversations at home. We have put a list of open days for 2024/25 on the careers page of our website (link above).

If you feel your child needs further support at any time this year, please get in touch with either myself or Mr Cowburn (Head of Year 11) Terry.cowburn@oldburywells.com

Yours faithfully



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