

## **Gatsby Benchmark 7: Encounters with Further and Higher Education**

*“All pupils should understand the full range of learning opportunities that are available to them. This includes both academic and vocational routes and learning in schools, colleges, universities and in the workplace.”*

When pupils are thinking about a future career there’s a lot to consider: our pupils are supported to meet and see a variety of education and training providers to assist them in making informed decisions, not only about their post-16 options, but for their futures. Below there are some of the most common education and training routes for young people. Please note that it is alright to change directions or to find something that suits you better – it just might take a bit longer. Sometimes, thinking about long-term preferences helps to make the shorter-term decisions.

	A Levels	T Levels	Vocational	Apprenticeship
How many subjects?	3-4	1	1	1
Theory or practical?	Theory	Mixed	More practical Some theory	Practical
Exam or coursework?	Exams	Exam Coursework Work-based project	Coursework Smaller exams	Assessment at work Coursework
Where?	Sixth Form / College	College	College	Work
Usual timetable	4-5 days a week	4-5 days a week + 45 days industry placement	4-5 days a week	4 days in work 1 day in college
Entry Criteria (check individual courses!)	5 GCSE grade 5s  (Some subjects require grade 6+)	5 GCSE grade 4-5s	For Level 3: 5 GCSE grade 4-5s  For Level 2: 2 GCSE grade 4-5s  For Level 1: 2 GCSE grade 3s	For Level 3: 5 GCSE grade 4-5s  For Level 2: 2 GCSE grade 4-5s

We have links to the following colleges, FE and HE providers who attend assemblies, careers events, such as our annual fair, and provide opportunities for visits including:

<https://www.runshaw.ac.uk/>

<https://www.preston.ac.uk/>

<https://www.cardinalnewman.ac.uk/>

<https://www.myerscough.ac.uk/>

<https://www.blackburn.ac.uk/>

<https://www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk/>

<https://www.uclan.ac.uk/>

<https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/>

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/>

In order to meet benchmark 7, Balshaw's C.E. High School ensures that:

- FE Taster Days for Year 10 and 11
- University visits
- Careers Fayre with FE and Training Provider presentations
- Year 11 supported in their application to at least one College and personal statement/CV writing supported by staff
- Promotion of the National Citizenship Service
- Extended contact with training providers
- Sessions and guidance provided by ASK Project
- Increased staff awareness of different post-16 routes

At Balshaw's this results in:

- Increased pupil and parental awareness of post-16 options and lifelong opportunities available, the world of work and the need to make informed decisions
- Constant reinforcement of immense range of opportunities and the need to research and gather information to make informed decisions
- Range of destinations for pupils
- Increased staff awareness of different providers and post-16 routes