



OPPORTUNITIES BULLETIN

AUTUMN TERM 2026 | ISSUE 1

Welcome Back!

Discover opportunities to explore your future this half term.



WORK EXPERIENCE

Gain valuable workplace skills and explore career pathways.



OPEN DAYS

Visit colleges, universities and training providers.



SUBJECT MASTERCLASSES

Experience advanced learning beyond the classroom.



TASTER DAYS

Try new subjects and discover future possibilities.

EXPLORE • EXPERIENCE • DISCOVER • ACHIEVE

Your future starts here.



YR10 WORK EXPERIENCE 2027 DATES

IMPORTANT DATES AND ACTIONS
FOR STUDENTS

≡ WHEN IS WEX WEEK? ≡



**MONDAY 28TH JUNE –
FRIDAY 2ND JULY 2027**
(5 DAYS)



**COMPLETE CONSENT/ MEDICAL FORM
VIA MICROSOFT FORMS LINK**
(EMAILED TO PARENTS)



**ASAP BUT NO LATER THAN
FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER 2026**



**EMAIL/PHONE/VISIT EMPLOYERS
REQUESTING A WORK PLACEMENT**



**ASAP BUT NO LATER THAN
FRIDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2026**



DEADLINE

**FINAL DEADLINE FOR NOTIFYING
MRS NEWTON OF YOUR PLACEMENT**



THURSDAY 25TH MARCH 2027



ANY QUESTIONS? SEE MRS NEWTON



WORK EXPERIENCE 2027

Gain experience
Build your skills
Shape your future



When is Work Experience?

**28th June - 2nd July 2027
(5 days)**



What is Work Experience?

Work Experience is the opportunity to gain valuable experience working alongside adults in their place of work.



Finding a placement?

Students are expected to find their own placements. Most placements are found by asking parents and carers and family friends.



Essential Information!

- The placement **MUST** have **Employee Liability Insurance**.
- You **CANNOT** go on a placement with a **SOLE TRADER**.
- **Is it in the UK?** This isn't essential but nay placement outside the UK could be difficult to approve.



WHAT NEXT?

- 1 Start looking as soon as possible.
- 2 Contact companies/organisations either by email, phone or in person.
- 3 Once you have found a likely placement get the confirmation form completed and hand back to Mrs Newton.

(Forms are available from your form tutor, Mrs Newton or on the WEX page on the school website)



Top Tips!

- **Be realistic!** Some placements may be unsuitable due to Health & Safety issues eg; roofers, electricians or because of age restrictions such as medical placements.
- Some are very popular, computer games, healthcare, sports related so these may mean you need to apply early.



WHAT WILL YOU GAIN FROM YOUR PLACEMENT?

- ✓ The opportunity to try out a job that interests you.
- ✓ Meet new people.
- ✓ Improve your skills and abilities.
- ✓ It will help you make a decision about your future career plans.

REMEMBER -

Work Experience is exactly what it says -
your chance to experience the world of work!!



WHAT'S IN THE AUTUMN TERM 2026 ISSUE?

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS

PAGES 5 – 21

APPRENTICESHIPS

PAGES 22 – 27

TASTER DAYS & WORKSHOPS

PAGES 28 – 35

COMING SOON

PAGES 36 – 37





**Bishop Challoner
Sixth Form College**

APPLY NOW

**Applications for September 2027
entry are now open!**

ASPIRE 

CLICK HERE TO APPLY



How to Apply

All students are required to complete application forms through Applicaa. If you are not currently attending Bishop Challoner you will need to make an account. All current Bishop Challoner students will receive a welcome email with a username and temporary password. All stages of the application process will be submitted through Applicaa. This includes any conditional offers, interviews, taster days and enrolment. It is therefore important you check your email regularly for any updates.

Interviews will take place from February with one of the Sixth Form Team, where you will be asked to bring your most recent academic report with predicted GCSE grades. This is the ideal opportunity for you to find out more about Bishop Challoner Sixth Form College and discuss your subject choices. It is also a chance for us to find out more about you. If the meeting is successful you will receive a conditional offer of a place through Applicaa, dependent on you meeting our entry requirements (see below).

If you do not currently attend Bishop Challoner Catholic College, you will be invited to a taster day that will take place during the summer term, which will give you the chance to sample Sixth Form lessons and meet other students before September.

Enrolment takes place on GCSE results day. On this day you will have the opportunity to review your original course choices and make any changes in Applicaa. Full details of these arrangements will be sent to you in the summer term.

If you have any queries please contact
sixthformadmissions@bishopchalloner.bham.sch.uk

Entry Requirements

The entry guidance below outlines the grades we expect students to have achieved to demonstrate their suitability for the course.

If you narrowly miss these grades, we will consider additional evidence on a case-by-case basis.

Subject	Entry Requirements
Art & Design	Minimum grade 6 in Art
Biology	Minimum grade 7 in Biology OR Minimum grade 77 in Combined Science Minimum grade 6 in Mathematics
Business	Minimum grade 6 in Business
Chemistry	Minimum grade 7 in Chemistry OR Minimum grade 77 in Combined Science Minimum grade 6 in Mathematics
Computer Science	Minimum grade 6 in Computing
Core Maths	Minimum grade 5 in Mathematics
Economics	Minimum grade 6 in English and Mathematics
English literature	Minimum grade 6 in English
Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)	Minimum of 5 GCSE's grade 4 and above. Students must manage their own time and meet deadlines.
French	Minimum grade 6 in French
Further Maths	Minimum grade 8 in Mathematics
Geography	Minimum grade 6 in Geography
History	Minimum grade 6 in History
Law	Minimum grade 6 in English
Mathematics	Minimum grade 7 in Mathematics
Media studies	Minimum grade 6 in either of the following: Media Studies English Language or Literature Either History or Geography
Philosophy and Ethics	Minimum grade 6 in Religious Studies
Physical Education	Minimum grade 6 in PE
Physics	Minimum grade 7 in Physics OR Minimum grade 77 in Combined Science Minimum grade 7 in Mathematics
Psychology	Minimum grade 6 in Biology, English and Mathematics OR Minimum grade 65 in Combined Science
Sociology	Minimum grade 6 in English Language or Literature
Level 3 Business	Minimum of 5 GCSE's at grade 4 and above (ideally to include both English and Mathematics)
Level 3 Criminology	Minimum grade 5 in English Language or Literature
Level 3 Health and Social Care	Minimum of 5 GCSE's at grade 4 and above (ideally to include both English and Mathematics)
Level 3 Sport	Minimum of 5 GCSE's at grade 4 and above (ideally to include both English and Mathematics)

**COLLEGE & SIXTH
FORM OPEN DAYS**

**BIRMINGHAM
CAREERS SERVICE**
guiding young people

YOUR CHOICE
YOUR FUTURE

LOCAL COLLEGE AND SIXTH FORM OPEN DAYS

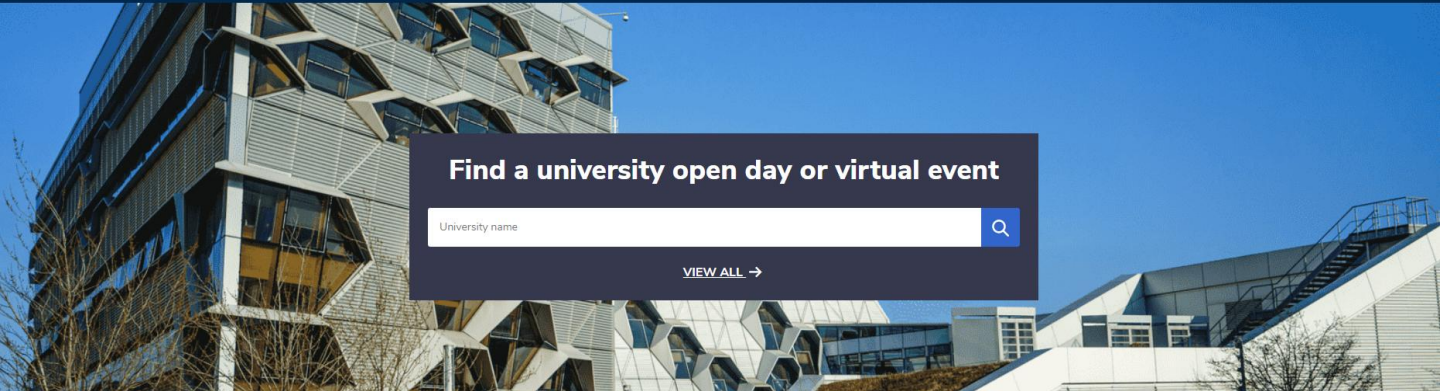
2026/27

CLICK ON THE LINK
BELOW TO ACCESS
INFORMATION ON
UPCOMING OPEN
DAYS.

**FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION
AND DATES HERE**



Complete University Guide



Find a university open day or virtual event

[VIEW ALL](#) →



Find a course

Search by subject, course, or region to find the right course for you

[GET STARTED](#) →



Find a university

Search for universities to find out about facilities, courses, and more

[GET STARTED](#) →



Find an open day

Search for and book open days to help you make the right choice

[GET STARTED](#) →



What do you want to study?

If you have a subject in mind, your shortlist will only include universities that offer this subject



UK university search

Featured Open Days

Open Days

Browse our university and college open day calendar to visit an institution you are interested in. Open days sometimes called taster days or information days, are a great opportunity to find out what studying at a particular uni or college will be like. You'll be able to experience student life as well as discuss study options. By clicking on a date and the institution you are interested in, you will be taken straight to a page where you can book your open day place. To search for a specific university's open days, visit the [institution page](#), and select the university you're interested in.

Find out how to make the most of [virtual open days](#) [here](#)

UK University Search helps you take the next step in further education by giving you advice, calculating your UCAS score, and finding the courses that are right for you.

Open Days Calendar

< Oct 24 >						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Oct
31
2024

Open Days

UCAS

🏠 / Applying / Before you apply / What and where to study

UNIVERSITY OPEN DAYS

University open days are a great way to explore the campus and decide whether studying there is a good fit for you.



Search for an open day

Find an open day for the uni or college you're interested in.



All about open days

An open day is the best way to get a real taste of uni life. Here's everything you need to know to plan and get the most out of your visit.



Virtual tours

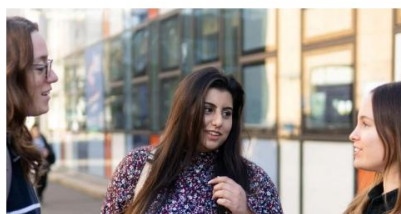
Here's a list of virtual tours and videos from universities and colleges, so you can see what it's like on campus and what facilities are available.



Explore your options at a UCAS event

Not ready to narrow down which open day to go to? At a UCAS Discovery event, you can discover all your options under one roof. We can help you find out about traditional degrees, apprenticeships, careers, and more.

[Find out more](#)



Disabled students

Open days are an ideal way to experience the campus and facilities first-hand. Get the most out of it by doing some prep in advance – our advice will help you get started.



Postgraduate open days

Interested in a postgraduate course? An open day can be a great way to look at the facilities and find out about the course.



Preparing for a UCAS event

How should you prep for a UCAS event? Find out what to take, what questions to ask, and more.



NOT GOING TO UNI

NGTU is the #1 website for school and college leavers. Search thousands of jobs, opportunities and apprenticeships in UK and find your perfect fit!

READY TO START YOUR FUTURE CAREER?
CREATE A PROFILE [HERE](#)



Check out our blogs!

NGTU

UniTasterDays

How can UniTasterDays help
with your university decisions?



UniTasterDays is a directory of university events for school groups and individual students.



SEARCH FOR UNIVERSITY EVENTS,
BROWSE ON DEMAND WEBINARS,
ACCESS RESOURCES AND MUCH MORE

**FIND OUT
MORE HERE**



careermap

www.careermap.co.uk

Not going to Uni? Explore your options!

Not going to uni?

So you're not 100% sure on whether you want to go to university! It's certainly not the only option open to school/A-Level leavers!

One of the main drivers in making such a critical decision is whether or not you know what type of work you want to do – and possibly for the rest of your life! If you want to be a doctor or a dentist, you're pretty limited to the university route! If you aren't 100% sure yet (and you won't be alone here) then it's a great idea to spend some time to explore your options.

There are several places you can get advice including the [National Careers Service](#). One thing is for sure, you don't need a degree to be successful!

FIND OUT MORE [HERE](#)

opendays.com

university + college open days

Opendays.com is a web site providing students with university and college open day information.

The most comprehensive open days web site in the UK.

Easily accessible listings of all university and college open days throughout the UK.

DETAILS PROVIDED

Open day dates, booking information, travel details, monthly calendars and mini prospectuses for over 300 universities and colleges in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

EASY TO USE

It is easy to find the information you seek either through a comprehensive search facility or browsing the open day calendar.

ONLINE BOOKING

You can also save details of open days/institutions that interest you and use our 'Online Booking System' to book your place at an open day!

ADVICE SECTION

Higher Education opportunities, What To Do At Open Days, UCAS Forms and Gap Years.

Remember our website opendays.com and tell your friends about the service.



Let open days open your mind to what a university or college has to offer...

UCAS

1

Plan your day

Decide in advance which talks you want to go to so you don't miss the topics you're interested in.

2

Make notes

There's a lot to take in so it'll help when you come to comparing different universities and colleges afterwards.

3

Get talking!

No one knows a university better than its students, so take the opportunity to talk to them during campus tours and accommodation visits.

4

Ask questions (lots of them!)

Make a list of what you want to know before you set off and check you've got all the answers before heading home.

5

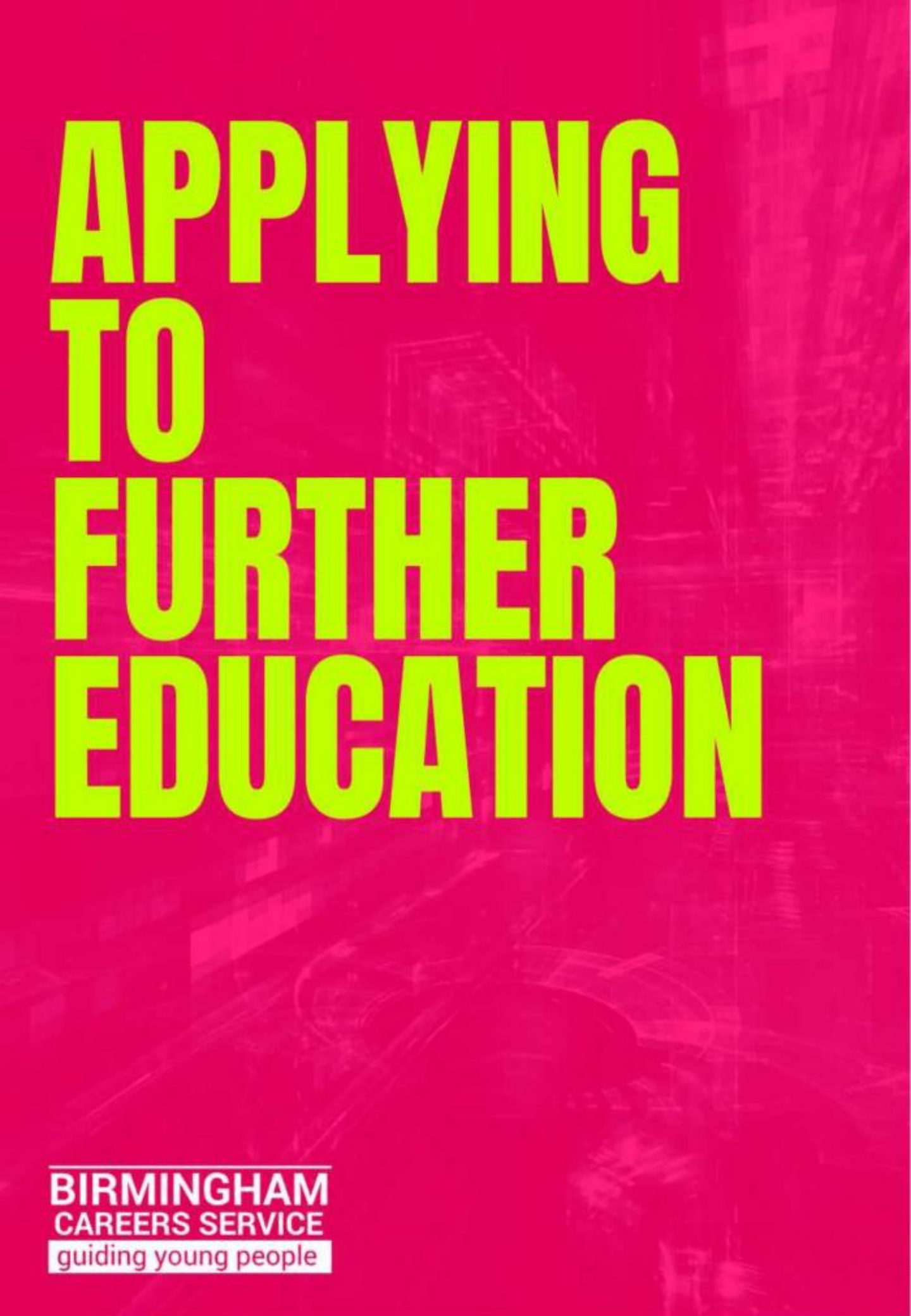
Keep in touch

Take an email address for someone you can contact after your visit in case you think of more questions you'd like to ask.

For open day dates go to

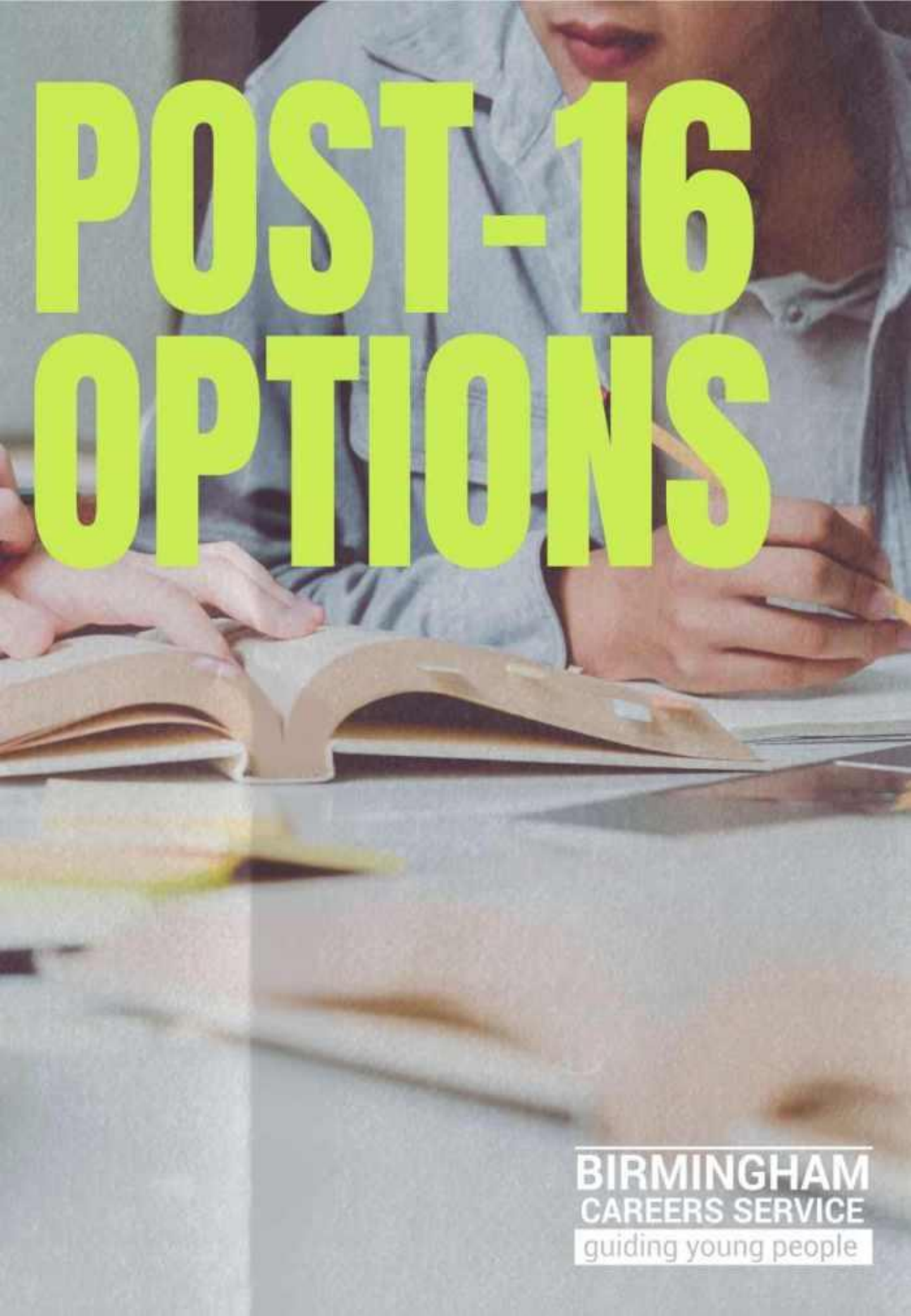
www.ucas.com/open-days-dates





APPLYING TO FURTHER EDUCATION

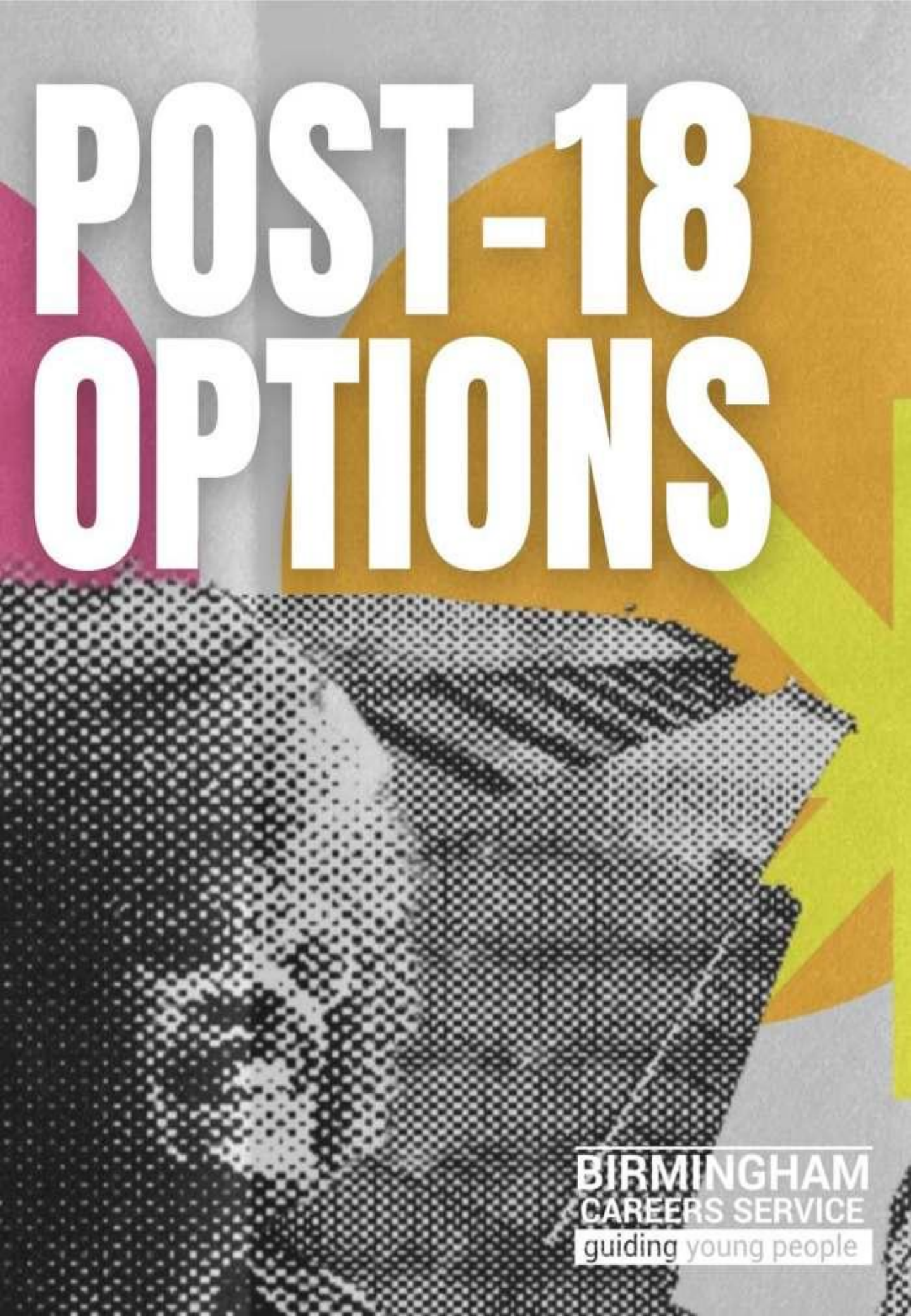
BIRMINGHAM
CAREERS SERVICE
guiding young people



POST-16 OPTIONS

BIRMINGHAM
CAREERS SERVICE
guiding young people

POST-18 OPTIONS

The background of the poster is a collage of abstract elements. It features a large, solid yellow circle in the upper right quadrant. To its left, there are overlapping shapes in shades of orange and pink. The lower half of the image is dominated by a large, irregular shape filled with a black and white halftone dot pattern, which appears to be a stylized representation of a person's head and shoulders in profile, facing left. The overall aesthetic is modern and graphic.

BIRMINGHAM
CAREERS SERVICE
guiding young people

PREPARING FOR YOUR COLLEGE OR TRAINING INTERVIEW

BIRMINGHAM
CAREERS SERVICE
guiding young people



**EVERYTHING YOU NEED
TO KNOW ABOUT
T-LEVELS**



BIRMINGHAM
CAREERS SERVICE
guiding young people

EXPLORE HIGHER TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS

A series of sector and region
focused webinars for anyone
interested in technical education

*Hear from providers, sector experts,
employers and students about why HTQs are
a great choice*

REGISTER NOW



Throughout June and July



amapps.uk/htq-webinar-series



Department
for Education





**WHAT
UNI?**

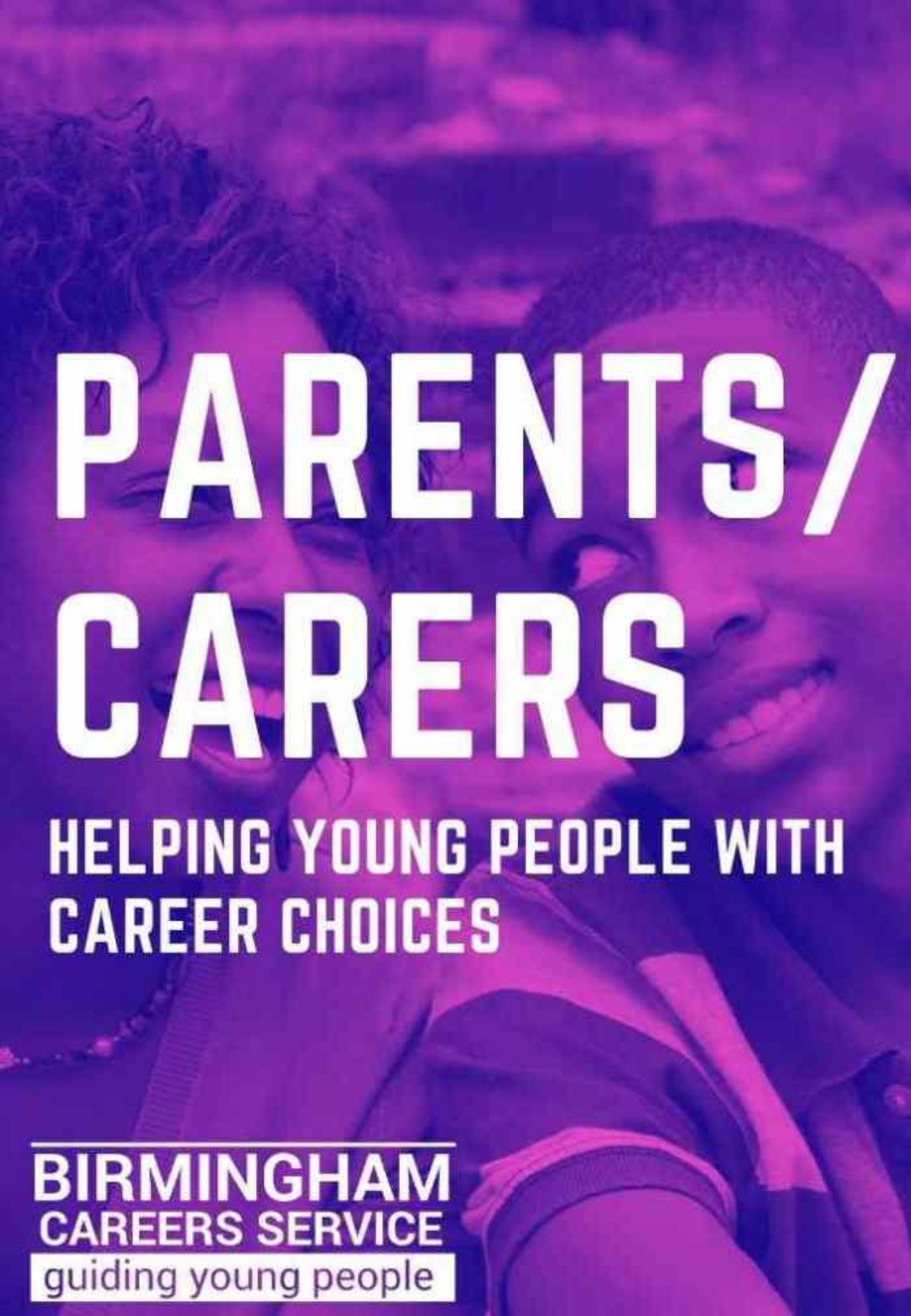
University? We can help.

Find courses, read honest reviews, get expert advice.

SEARCH



[Open day top tips: what to do
\(and what not to do\)](#)



PARENTS/ CARERS

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH
CAREER CHOICES

BIRMINGHAM
CAREERS SERVICE
guiding young people

APPLYING FOR APPRENTICESHIPS



Browse apprenticeships before you apply



Use this search to browse which apprenticeships are available based on your interest and location.

Select an interest

Enter your postcode

SEARCH

**BECOME AN APPRENTICE
CREATE AN ACCOUNT HERE**

'Find an apprenticeship' is an online government service which allows you to search, save and apply for apprenticeship opportunities.

The service is used by thousands of employers to advertise their current apprenticeship opportunities, making it easier for you to find the right apprenticeship for you.



STUDENT ZONE

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Apprenticeships are real jobs with real employers, allowing you to work, earn a salary and gain valuable qualifications and experience.

With over 700 different apprenticeship standards covering everything from accountancy to zoo keeping, there is an apprenticeship out there for everyone.

Explore the resources below to discover everything you need to know about apprenticeships and why we believe they are amazing!

THE OPTIONS

Start by finding out if an Apprenticeship, T Level or HTQ could be the right option for you.

[FIND OUT NOW →](#)

APPRENTICE STORIES

Discover the possibilities with our collection of short apprentice story films.

[WATCH NOW →](#)



APPRENTICESHIP VACANCIES

Go behind the scenes and explore some amazing apprenticeship employers.

[EXPLORE NOW →](#)

CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES



We provide you with the opportunities to develop your career within Fortem and the training to make this happen. We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits package, but most importantly a great place to work with a true family ethos.

Search for opportunities here

Customer Liaison Officer

West Midlands

Birmingham

FOR03962

Permanent

25 June 2025

[See job details](#)

Customer Liaison Officer

West Midlands

Birmingham

FOR04084

Permanent

23 June 2025

[See job details](#)

Electrical Qualifying Supervisor

West Midlands

Stratford Upon Avon

FOR04059

Permanent

4 June 2025

[See job details](#)

Electrician

West Midlands

Birmingham

FOR04030

Permanent

25 June 2025

[See job details](#)

Gas Engineer

West Midlands

Birmingham

FOR03754

Permanent

24 June 2025

[See job details](#)

Labourer

West Midlands

Birmingham

FOR04038

Permanent

2 June 2025

[See job details](#)



APPRENTICESHIPS

Employment Opportunities

Check out the latest opportunities with leading Employer's across the UK, from school leaver roles to Apprenticeships. [Contact our Student Support team](#) for help with your apprenticeship applications!

Degree Apprenticeships Apprenticeships Work Experience





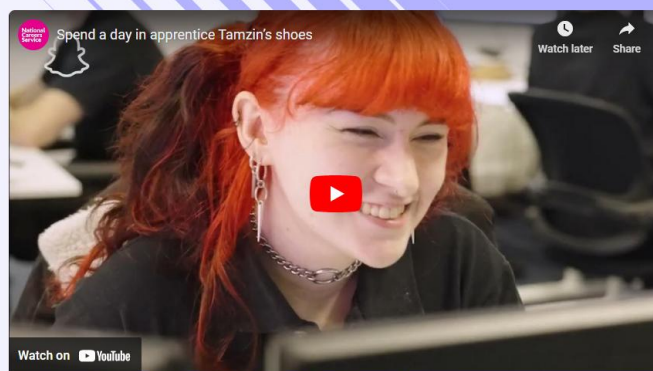
APPRENTICESHIPS

Springpod  × 

[← BACK TO POST-16 OPTIONS](#)

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are real jobs that allow you to earn a wage while you learn. You'll work, gain skills and study at a college or online.



APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships Unlocked

Springpod  × 

Find out about apprenticeships with the help of this Skills for Life short course, powered by Springpod!

[▶ Play trailer](#)

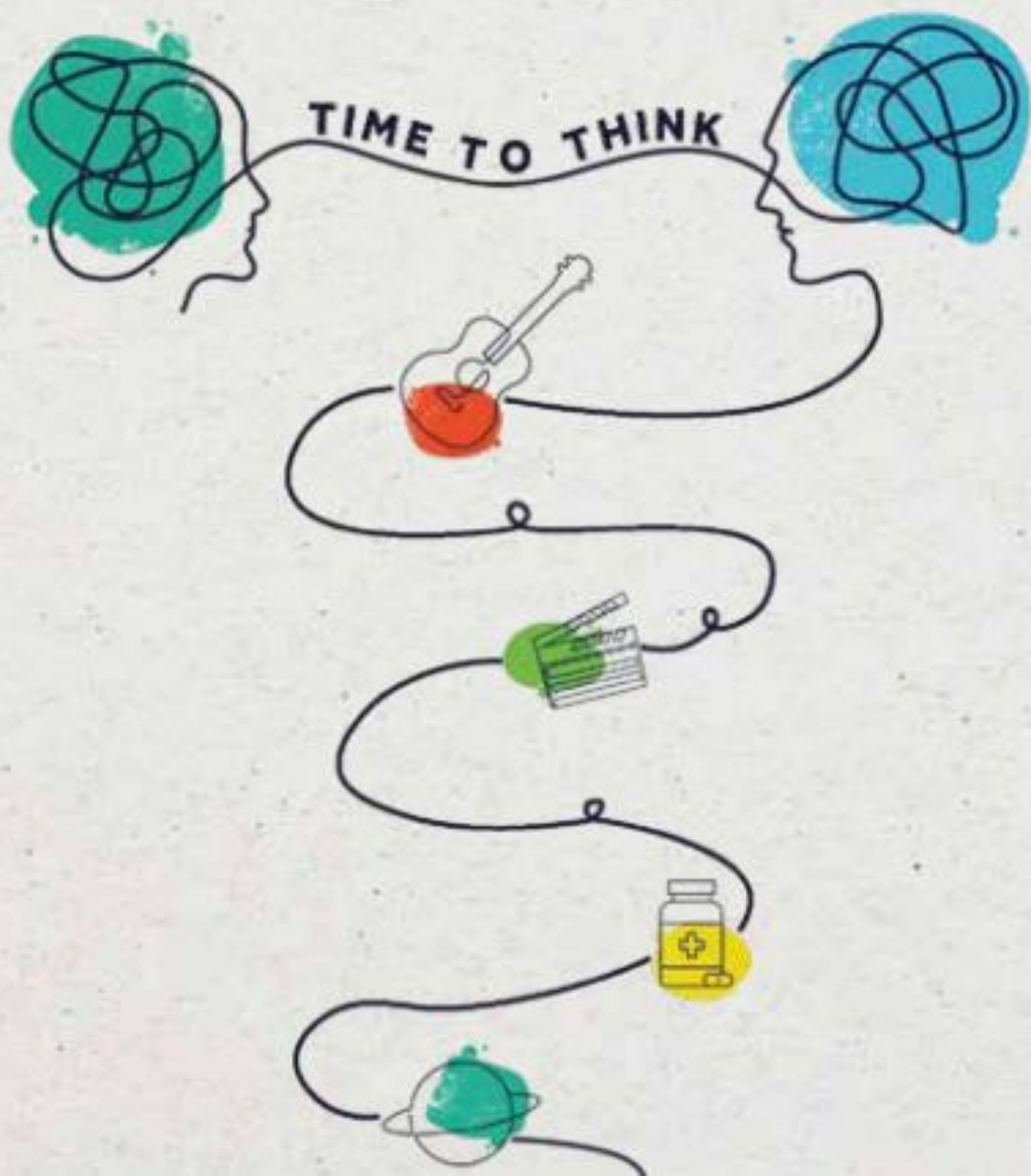
[Start now](#)

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
APPRENTICESHIPS HERE**

GRESHAM COLLEGE

Lectures That Inspire

Autumn 2026





The Access to Birmingham (A2B) programme helps University of Birmingham applicants with little or no higher education experience to explore what studying at university involves.

The University of Birmingham has a long history of welcoming students from a wide variety of social and cultural backgrounds. We were one of the first universities to set up a fair access scheme for local students in 2000 and are proud to be able to offer you the support of our A2B scheme if you are studying at one of our partner institutions.

Apply to A2B

Applications for A2B 2026/27 are open.

The deadline for applying is 12 November 2026 for Medicine and Dentistry applicants and 11 February 2027 for all other applicants.

Completing the programme will bring you a range of benefits including an alternative offer and funding. We encourage you to explore our programme information and eligibility and consider applying.

APPLY NOW

Benefits of taking part in the programme

Once you complete A2B successfully, you will receive two offers from the University of Birmingham, the standard offer and a [Pathways to Birmingham offer](#).

The Pathways to Birmingham offer is typically a reduction of up to two A level grades (e.g. BBB rather than AAB).

As well as the Pathways to Birmingham offer, you will also benefit from:

- Financial support
- Continued support and guidance from an experienced and dedicated A2B team
- Preparation for the transition from school to university study
- The opportunity to make new friends at a special induction event before you start university
- Becoming a Birmingham Scholar upon starting university
- Practice interviews for courses where relevant (Medicine, Dentistry, Social Work, Nursing, and Physiotherapy)

EXPLORE THE BENEFITS



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Routes to the Professions

Routes to the Professions (R2P) is for Year 12 students looking to get a real insight into university study.

The programme gives you tailored support throughout the university application process. It focuses on vocational courses in healthcare.

Applying to R2P

Applications for R2P 2027 are open until 6 November 2026.

The academic streams for R2P 2027 are Dentistry, Midwifery, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy.

Eligibility criteria

R2P is suitable for Year 12 students who are strongly committed to studying at the University of Birmingham and are pursuing relevant qualifications to access degree programmes here.

To take part in the R2P programme in 2027, you must:

Be currently in Year 12 and be aged under 18 for the duration of the programme

Be attending a Pathways to Birmingham partner school in the wider West Midlands area

Meet the [Pathways to Birmingham criteria](#) and the academic criteria for your stream

APPLY NOW

NATIONAL SATURDAY CLUB

NATIONAL SATURDAY CLUB



Young people across the country are spending Saturday mornings at their local university, college or museum discovering subjects they love. Saturday Clubs are open to 13–16-year-olds of all abilities and are free to attend.

Joining the **National Saturday Club** is a unique opportunity to learn new skills, discover talents, meet new people, and find out more about further education, higher education and rewarding careers.



Find your local Club – Apply to join

FIND A CLUB

NATIONAL SATURDAY CLUB

All Clubs Search by location

Find a Club





The Open
University

OpenLearn

[Home](#)[Free courses ▾](#)[Subjects](#)[Study skills](#)[Work skills](#)[Help](#)[Create account / Sign in](#)

Dive in and start learning

Everything on the multi-award winning OpenLearn is free to everyone!



This week we celebrate 20 years of OpenLearn 🎉



Miscellaneous

OpenLearn is 20

We're celebrating 20 years of free learning! Join us as we look back at how OpenLearn began, discover some surprising facts, explore how the world...

Article

5 mins



Education & Development

20 things you never knew about OpenLearn

Two decades, millions of learners and more than a few surprises along the way. As OpenLearn turns 20, discover 20 things you might not know about The...

Article

5 mins



Miscellaneous

20 years in... What's changed?

A lot can change in 20 years! From scientific discoveries and technological advances to shifts in society and culture, explore how different subjects have...

Article

5 mins



Education & Development

Graduates share their OpenLearn stories

How has OpenLearn supported learners on their educational journeys? We caught up with Open University graduates to hear how they've used our free learning...

Video

5 mins

You can use OpenLearn to



Study free courses

From 1 to 100 hours of learning - discover hundreds of free courses to inspire and inform everyone.



Earn while you learn

Earn a free digital badge or Statement of Participation as evidence of your learning to share with employers, friends and family.



For Study

Improve your study skills and get acquainted with student life with our expertly created courses and resources.



For Work

Boost your employability skills and find useful resources to help you with your life outside of work.

Pick a subject and start learning

[Money & Business >](#)[Education & Development >](#)[Health, Sports & Psychology >](#)[History & The Arts >](#)[Languages >](#)[Nature & Environment >](#)[Science, Maths & Technology >](#)[Society, Politics & Law >](#)[Digital & Computing >](#)

Sign-up now for free >



How to decide what to do after leaving school

When you started school, decisions were made for you. You were told where to sit, what to wear and when to take a break. But now you are entering the adult world and, as exciting as that is, it also brings a new challenge that's a key skill, crucial to the workplace – (drum roll) making decisions. **So, what are some of the options?**

1. GO TO SIXTH FORM OR COLLEGE

2. DO AN APPRENTICESHIP

3. GET A JOB

**LOG IN OR REGISTER FOR MORE
FREE TOOLS AND TIPS HERE**



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES VIRTUAL HUB

We have created a range of resources for you to help you explore the world of Higher Education. From videos to how to guides, there's something for everyone and you can use these resources to support you with your choices about your future. These resources will help you from the beginning of your journey, when you are just starting to think about university through to preparing yourself for the move. These can be done at home individually and you can share them with your teachers and advisers.

Our aim is to provide you with a range of useful information and activities to help you with making decisions about your future.





UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Post-16 programmes and activities

New!

Post-16 programmes and activities



[Access to Birmingham](#)

Access to Birmingham (A2B) supports applicants to the University of Birmingham to discover what studying at university involves.



[Routes to the Professions](#)

Routes to Professions (R2P) is for Year 12 students looking to get practical insight into university study.



[Inspired@Birmingham](#)

The Inspired@Birmingham programme supports Year 12 students who are interested in applying to research-intensive universities.



[Academic Enrichment Programme](#)

The Academic Enrichment Programme (AEP) is a five-day residential summer school for Year 12 students.



[National Access Summer School](#)

The National Access Summer School (NASS) is a four-day residential programme for Year 12 students outside the West Midlands.



[Realising Opportunities](#)

With Realising Opportunities, leading universities are working together to widen participation, improve access and promote social mobility.



Green Careers Week 2026

2nd - 7th November

Discover careers, jobs, roles, and career pathways that are green careers, and develop your green skills. Check out some great FREE resources and green careers information from our partners below...

<https://greencareersweek.com/>

Green Careers Week is an exciting event that raises aspiration, supports diversity, challenges stereotypes, and promotes real opportunities for young people to have a career that will genuinely make a difference. Discover careers, jobs, roles, and career pathways that are green careers and develop green skills.

<https://greencareersweek.com/organisations-2026/>

EVENT DAY **Friday**

COUNTDOWN 🕒 11 days to go

ROLES Entry to senior

