

# Support parents understanding of pathways

## Feeling prepared for careers conversations with parents

Here is a source of information to help you feel confident to have conversations with parents and carers about pathways, and that you can signpost families to, when having careers conversations.

### Talking Futures website for parents and carers

Designed specifically for parents, this [Talking Futures website](#) hosts information, video content and activity ideas to help families have well informed careers conversations.

### Pathways Posters

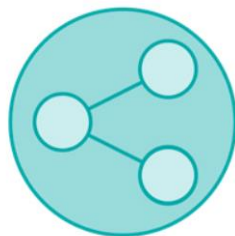
Compare your options after GCSEs - [DfE comparisons grids](#)

Use these posters to support parents in understanding options for their children

- [For young people with SEND who are typically not likely to take GCSEs](#)
- [For young people with SEND who are typically likely to take GCSEs](#)

### Pathway options

There are three types of routes students can consider:



Combine study  
and work



Study



Work



[Get the Jump](#) – explore education and training choices



Combine study and work

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## Apprenticeships

Key information:

Apprenticeships are real jobs that allow young people to earn a wage whilst they learn. They can take 1 to 5 years to complete depending on the level and go all the way to degree level. Students can apply for an apprenticeship whilst still in school but must be 16 or over to start one.

To find out more, visit the [National Careers Service](#) website apprenticeship pages.



[Amazing Apprenticeships Parent Zone](#)

## T Levels

Key information:

A T Level is a nationally recognised qualification for 16-19 year olds that lasts for two years and is the equivalent of 3 A Levels. Leading businesses and employers have helped design T Levels to give young people the knowledge and skills they need for work or further study.

To find out more, visit the [National Careers Service](#) website T Levels pages.



- This [guide](#) will support understanding of what T Levels are.
- Access this [toolkit](#) to develop your skills, knowledge and confidence in talking about T-Levels with parents

## Vocational Technical Qualifications (VTQs)

Key information:

VTQs are practical qualifications for over 16s designed to help students get the skills they need to start their career or go on to higher levels of education. There are a few different types and levels of VTQs including [BTECs](#) from Levels 1 - 7, [Cambridge Nationals: Levels 1 and 2](#), [Cambridge Technicals: Levels 2 and 3](#) and [T Levels](#) at Level 3.

To find out more, visit the [National Careers Service](#) website VTQ pages.



## Study

### Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)

Key Information:

HTQs are technical qualifications for young people 18 or over, that are approved by employers. They are usually classroom based and there are many different types, including [Higher national diplomas](#), [Higher national certificates](#), [Foundation Degrees](#) and [Higher education diplomas](#).

To find out more, visit the [National Careers Service](#) website HTQ pages.

### A Levels

Key information:

A Levels are subject based qualifications usually studies over two years assessed by exams. They can lead to further study, training or work.

To find out more, visit the [National Careers Service](#) website A Level pages.

### Higher Education (HE)

Key information:

HE is the name for qualifications and courses young people can take after 18. There are many different types including Diplomas, Bachelor degrees, Foundation degrees and foundation years, [HTQs](#) and [Degree Level Apprenticeships](#).

To find out about more, visit the [National Careers Service](#) website HE pages.



## Work

Young people can only enter the world of work that does not involve further education or training full time, after the age of 18.

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## Supported Internships with an education health care plan (EHCP)

Key information:

This is an unpaid work-based study programme that usually last for one year. It includes an extended work placement that lasts for at least 6 months. They help young people on EHCPs to take their first step from education into the workplace.

To find out more, visit the [National Careers Service](#) website supported internship pages.

## School leaver schemes

Some companies offer school leaver schemes to young people who have completed A Levels. The schemes allow them to learn and train with a large company whilst earning a wage.

To find out more, visit the [National Careers Service](#) website school leaver schemes pages.

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## Other sources of information for staff and parents

[University league tables](#)

[Discover Uni](#) statistics about higher education courses

[My Learning My Future](#) – resources specific to your subject area