

Year 11 Post-16 Final Destinations

A Summary of Confirmed College, Course and Qualification Level Outcomes
2025–26 Cohort

28	28	10	Level 2
Total Year 11 Students	Confirmed Destinations	Colleges / Providers	Most Common Level

Overview

The data shows a marked skew towards Level 1 and Level 2 destinations, with comparatively few students progressing directly onto Level 3 courses. Several factors help to explain this pattern.

First, there is simply a wider range of Level 1 and Level 2 vocational courses on offer across local colleges than there is at Level 3, giving students more entry points and more flexibility to explore different vocational areas before committing to a narrower pathway.

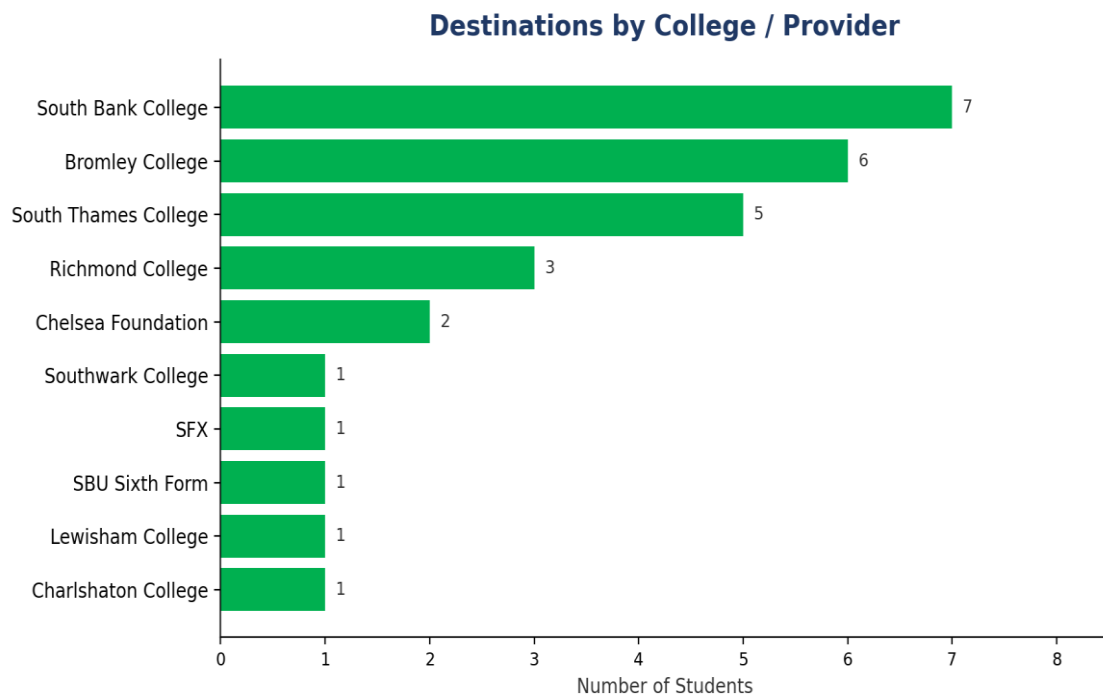
Second, many Level 3 vocational courses carry a Level 2 qualification as a prerequisite, construction being a clear example, so for a meaningful proportion of the cohort, a Level 2 place this year is a structurally necessary step rather than a ceiling on ambition; a number of these students are expected to progress onto Level 3 in the following year.

Third, Level 3 courses tend to be more narrowly defined and subject specific than their Level 2 equivalents, and many of our Year 11 students have not yet settled on a clear direction for their future. A broader Level 1/2 course allows them to keep options open while they continue to develop their thinking, rather than committing early to a specialised pathway they may later want to change.

It's also worth noting that this pattern is not primarily a case of students falling short of the general Level 2 entry bar; most of the cohort leave with a strong Level 2 profile, including Functional Skills Level 2 in English and maths where needed. Where Level 3 places are not secured, it more often reflects two other factors. Some Level 3 courses require a specific Level 2 qualification or grade profile within the same subject area, a Level 2 Merit in Construction, for example, rather than simply a broad spread of Level 2 passes, so a strong overall profile doesn't always translate into eligibility for a specific Level 3 route. And colleges are often cautious about placing students referred from AP/SEMH settings directly onto Level 3 programmes, which are more independent and exam heavy with less built-in pastoral support, preferring instead a settling-in year to help students establish attendance and routine before stepping up. External applicants from AP settings can also find the local Level 3 offer narrower than it appears, as colleges tend to prioritise their own Level 2 cohort for progression onto Level 3 places.

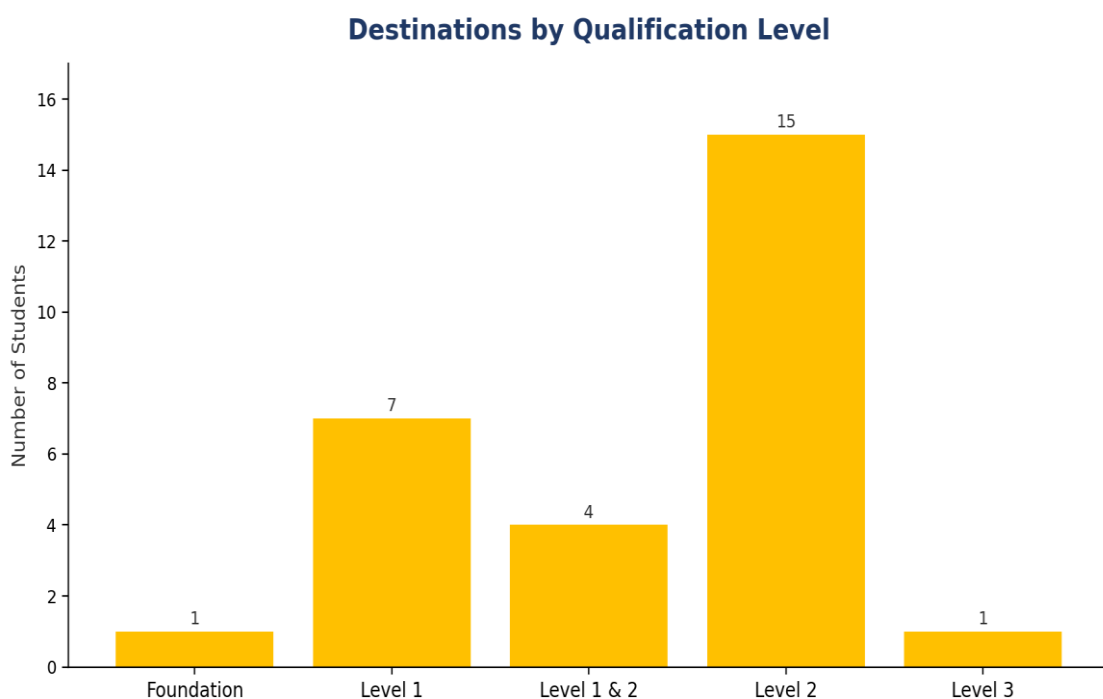
Destinations by College / Provider

South Bank College, Bromley College and South Thames College account for the majority of confirmed placements, reflecting both proximity and the breadth of vocational provision at these institutions.



Destinations by Qualification Level

Level 2 is the most common outcome for the cohort, followed by Level 1. This reflects the structural and developmental factors discussed above rather than a shortfall against general entry requirements.



Source: confirmed destinations and courses from the Year 11 Post-16 Intended Destinations tracker. Figures reflect the 2025–26 cohort as of the most recent update.