



**WERNETH  
SCHOOL**

**Year 11  
Career/College Application  
Guidance**

## VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Vocational courses are designed to help you learn in a practical way about a specific job area. They can help you get the skills you need to start a job, progress in a career, or go onto Higher Education.

If you know what job or job sector you want to go into you may want to study a vocational qualification.

There are many different types of vocational qualifications in a wide range of subject at all levels, from Entry Level to Level 8.

## A-LEVELS

### What grades do I need to take A levels?

You normally need:

- at least five GCSEs at grades 9 to 4/A\* to C
- at least grade B in the specific subject(s) you want to study

However, the specific requirements needed to study A levels will vary across colleges. It is important to check what you will need with the college you are looking to study at.

### Who are they for?

If you are thinking about going to University, most Higher Education courses require specific A levels or combinations of A levels (or alternative level 3 qualifications).

If you are not sure what career or job you want to do, studying a selection of A levels can be a good way of keeping your options open.

### Choosing A level subjects

The most important criteria for choosing A levels subjects are:

- Looking at what you are likely to enjoy and be good at. If you enjoy a subject or have an ability in it already, you are more likely to do well.
- Are there any subjects and/or grades you may need? If you have a particular career, job, or further study in mind, you may need to choose specific A levels to meet entry requirements.
- How open you want to keep your future study and career choices?

## T-LEVEL

T levels are new courses which follow GCSE's and are equivalent to 3 A levels. These 2-year courses, which launched September 2020, have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training or study. T Levels offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days).

From 2021 they are offered in: Building Engineering Services, Education & Childcare, Digital Support Services and Health & Science (check with individual colleges).

- Currently on offer at: Stockport College, Manchester College, Trafford College.



## RESEARCH

Research is a must and will be key to your future goals. You need to research the following:

- Type of qualification/course best suited to your ideal career (A-level, T-levels, Apprenticeship) <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>
- Which colleges/education providers offer the qualification you want to complete
- Entry requirements
- Key features that are important to your goal (sports pitches/facilities, workshops, beauty salons)
- Extracurricular activities on offer (Duke of Edinburgh)
- Location and travel arrangements

Use the college and education provider websites to find out what they offer, their expectations, entry requirements and course content.

## VISIT

Due to the current COVID19 situation colleges and other education providers have created virtual tour videos as you are not currently able to visit. You can find these videos on the relevant websites.

If you do get the opportunity to visit then it is recommended that you go. Not only will it show your commitment but it is a good opportunity to have a look around, get a feel for the environment, have conversations with current students and tutors and see what other facilities they have to offer.

## DISCUSS

It is important to have a discussion with the career's advisor about your future goals. They will be able to give professional independent advice and guidance around suitable colleges, relevant qualifications and what will best suit your needs. Having open conversations with other significant adults i.e. parents, careers and teachers will also be valuable in helping you make an informed decision about your future.

## APPLY

**Students should always apply to more than one college/education provider.**

Application process varies for different colleges. Please see overleaf for details for each of the colleges. If you wish to apply to a college/education provider not on this list please speak to the careers advisor.

When making your application make sure you have the following information available;

- Personal information (Name, contact numbers, address, high school details, next of kin/emergency contact details)
- Some colleges/education providers will request a reference make sure you have the details of your form tutor.
- Predicted grades

Some colleges/education providers will ask for a personal statement. You are not required to write a full essay about why you think you are suitable for the course. It should be a short, clear honest piece of writing. Be thoughtful, creative and authentic!



<b>College</b>	<b>College website</b>	<b>Contact number</b>	<b>Application Closing Date</b>	<b>Applicat</b>
Marple Sixth Form College	<a href="http://www.marple.cmcnet.ac.uk">www.marple.cmcnet.ac.uk</a>	0161 486 4602		Application to website
Aquinas College	<a href="http://www.aquinas.ac.uk">www.aquinas.ac.uk</a>	0161 483 3237	30/11/2020	Application to website
Tameside College	<a href="http://www.tameside.ac.uk">www.tameside.ac.uk</a>	0161 908 6789		Application to website
Clarendon Sixth Form College	<a href="http://www.clarendon.ac.uk">www.clarendon.ac.uk</a>	0161 908 6800		Application to website
Ashton Sixth Form College	<a href="http://www.asfc.ac.uk">www.asfc.ac.uk</a>	0161 330 2330	29/01/2021	Application to website
Cheadle College	<a href="http://www.cheadle.cmcnet.ac.uk">www.cheadle.cmcnet.ac.uk</a>	0161 486 4602		Application to website
Trafford College	<a href="http://www.traffod.ac.uk">www.traffod.ac.uk</a>	0161 886 7070		You can apply visit the colle
Manchester College (TMC)	<a href="http://www.mc.ac.uk">www.mc.ac.uk</a>	03333 222 444		Application to website
Stockport College	www.stockport .ac.uk	0161 296 5000		Application to website or yo print and pos
Access Creative College	<a href="http://www.accesscreative.ac.uk">www.accesscreative.ac.uk</a>	0800 28 18 42		Application to website
Loreto College	<a href="http://www.loreto.ac.uk">www.loreto.ac.uk</a>	0161 226 5156	08/01/2021	Download pa details, hand then post.
Xaverian College	<a href="http://www.xaverian.ac.uk">www.xaverian.ac.uk</a>	0161 224 1781	15/01/2021	Download pa details, hand then post.

**The school website has lots of useful links to explore and discover career/course options 'Curriculum' > 'Careers'. Make use of the information made available to you!**



