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WHERE ARE YOU NOW?



WHERE DO YOU WANT TO BE?



HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET THERE?



United College Sixth Form



United College Sixth Form
The best in everyone™
Part of Swindon Academy & United Learning

- Our United College Sixth Form is based at Swindon Academy.
- There are a number of study options available to you. You can study a blend of A levels or Vocational courses.
- In addition, a new 6th form STEM Grammar Stream will open in September 2019.
- There is currently a Football Academy and from September 2019 there will also be a Cricket Academy.

If you are interested in joining Swindon Academy's Sixth Form please contact Mr Lewis (01793 426930) or Miss Baylis (01793 426906) or via email:

Joe.Lewis@swindon-academy.org or

Katie.Baylis@swindon-academy.org.

A Level Courses

- Biology
- Chemistry
- English Language
- English Literature
- Fine Art
- Geography
- History
- Maths
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Photography
- Physics
- Product Design
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Textile Design

Sixth Form

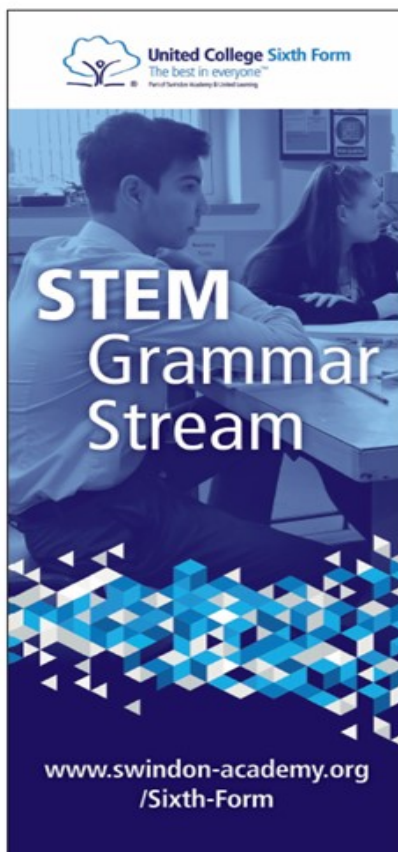


www.swindon-academy.org/Sixth-Form

Find out more information at: www.swindon-academy.org/sixth-form



Scholars on the Sports Academy programme follow a level 3 educational pathway that is designed to help them progress to university or equip them fully for employment within the sports and active leisure sector.



www.swindon-academy.org/Sixth-Form

BTEC Courses

- Business
- Dance
- Drama
- Engineering
- Food Science and Nutrition
- Football Academy
- Health and Social Care
- Information Technology
- Music
- Sport



www.swindon-academy.org/Sixth-Form

Sixth Form



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CAREERS INFORMATION

There is an abundance of information available to you on the internet. To get started why not visit some of the websites shown below?



<http://icould.com>



www.plotr.co.uk



www.careerpilot.org.uk



www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk



www.careercamel.com



www.careersbox.co.uk

With so much available information it can be quite confusing, however the sites do offer lots of key facts about the types of careers there are available. You can even find tips on writing your Curriculum Vitae, on how to complete a job application or interview techniques. They can also offer advice on exams, giving you ideas on how to combat stress at this time. Most of the websites have telephone support numbers too, so you can access help in lots of ways.

The LRC now houses a careers section, so feel free to pop in and browse the resources that are available to you.

CAREER PATHWAYS

Whilst thinking about the type of career you would like to pursue, it is important to research the job role itself. With an ever changing labour market it would be wise to research 'jobs of the future'. Technology is constantly changing and could affect your choice of career as more and more jobs are becoming automated.

You can find out lots of information on the Labour Market through the media by watching the news or documentaries; or by reading national and local papers. Job statistics can vary depending on where you live so ensure you check local labour market information too.

Useful websites:

Swindon Business News—www.swindon-business.net

Swindon Government—www.swindoninteractive.com

Monster Jobs —www.career-advice.monster.co.uk

Gov.UK—www.gov.uk

University information: www.russellgroup.ac.uk

THE NEXT STEP:

The pathway you choose will be based on the following:

- 1** *What GCSE grades you have achieved.*

 - *Most A level courses will require levels 5—9 in 5 subjects* including English and Maths. In some cases you may need a higher grade for the subject you wish to study.*
 - *Vocational courses may require level 4—9 grades in 4 subjects* including English and Maths.*

*** Check with your Post 16 provider for exact entry requirements.**
- 2** *How you like to learn.*

 - *Do you have a tendency to be drawn to more academic qualifications or do you prefer a more practical vocational approach to learning?*
- 3** *Where and what you would like to study later.*

 - *Ensure your choices enable you to be flexible in your career choice.*
- 4** *What you want to do in the future.*



A LEVELS:

Making the right choice.

A Levels are an excellent general qualification that are valued by employers and universities, offering a great route to further education. You need to make sure that your choice of A Level subjects will allow you to keep your options open especially if you do not yet have a specific career in mind.

The government has decided to change A and AS levels which will take effect between 2015—2017. The differences are:

A Levels: will be linear rather than modular which means exams will take place at the end of your two year course rather than assessment after each module.

AS Levels: the new AS levels will now be a separate qualification and no longer count towards the A Level grade. It will be a one year course with exams at the end of the year.

The college prospectuses will inform you about the content of each subject.

If you are intending to go to university it is important to check how many UCAS points your chosen course will amount to. You can find out more information about this at: www.ucas.com

How do I make the right choice?

1

*Choose the subjects you enjoy:
Look at the subject content and the skills required.*

2

*Choose subjects that fit in with your career pathway:
Do you want to go to university? Ensure the options you have chosen do not rule out your choice of degree.*

3

*Research:
Take your time and carefully think about what you would like to do after A levels. Do not choose a particular subject because your friends are or someone has told you to. Use the information available to you and ensure you spend time researching all possibilities. Spend time looking at the websites listed on pages 4 & 5 to see which qualifications are required for specific jobs.*

4

*Where can I get help?:
Talk to your careers advisor, teachers, parents, carers, friends and other family members. Look at your strengths and weaknesses. Make use of college open days and visits. Attend the Futures Evening held in the academy every October.*

How many subjects should I choose?

You are usually advised to take 3—4 A Levels alongside one AS level. This is dependant on your GCSE performance and your Post 16 provider will guide you on this. It is easier for you to drop from 4 to 3 subjects than it is to pick up an extra subject part way through.

What subjects should I choose?

- *Don't assume you will enjoy a subject at A level because you took it at GCSE.*
- *Try not to choose subjects that are similar as some universities may not like combinations that are too closely related.*
- *Choose subjects you feel comfortable with, not just because you may need them for a chosen career.*
- *If you feel you have chosen the wrong subjects once you have started the course, your post 16 provider will advise you.*
- *You will need to re-sit your GCSEs if you do not achieve a Level 4*or above.*

Can I mix my courses?

*You can mix BTEC courses with A Level subjects.
You can also combine A Levels with AS Levels.
You may also be able to add an extra GCSE subject to study alongside your main course.*

You may find it useful to explore the websites below for guidance on your A Level choices and the types of subjects available for you to study.

www.bestcourse4me.com

www.careers4u.tv

HIGHER EDUCATION:

Making the right choice.

To help you to make well informed decisions it is important that you have clear information about how the subjects you choose to study at A Level can affect your options at university. So it is important to try and think a bit further ahead, take your time and consider what you may wish to do in the future. For some degrees you will be required to have studied a particular subject beforehand. So look ahead and try to choose subjects that will equip you for your chosen university course.

To find out more visit: www.ucas.com



**Check with your post 16 provider of their entry requirements.*

VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS: *Making the right choice.*

By applying learning to real-life situations, these qualifications offer a more practical approach than more traditional A Level academic courses and give you the knowledge and skills necessary to work in your chosen field. It is important to remember that you will still need to achieve 5 level 4–9 grades in your GCSEs to start on a level 3 qualification.

Further Education colleges offer an extensive range of vocational courses.

Types of Vocational Qualifications:

1

Vocational Subjects:

These are related to a broad employment area such as business, engineering, IT, health and social care. These courses can be studied at different entry levels from Level 1— Level 3.

2

Vocational Courses:

These can lead to specific job types such as hairdressing, accounting, plumbing, brick laying and professional cookery.

3

Apprenticeships:

These can offer training for a job whilst working for an employer, alongside study for an associated qualification. You will get paid as you learn.

Applied General Qualifications and Tech Levels are the same level qualification as A Levels—they are all Level 3 and are considered as entry requirements to many higher education courses or to employment. Vocational routes usually require you to complete a set amount of units for which they present evidence based on real-life work and studies.

If you have a particular job sector in mind, a vocational qualification may be the right choice for you.

If you do not achieve a Level 4 or above in English and Maths you will need to resit the exam. Some vocational courses will allow you to work towards your functional skills in these subjects instead.

APPRENTICESHIPS:

Making the right choice.

If you have a career in mind then an apprenticeship could be the right choice for you. It is a work based programme where you will learn about the job area and earn money whilst doing so. If you are fortunate you could be employed by your sponsor at the end of your training.

Depending on the occupation you choose, you will attend college to work towards your technical certificate.

Types of Apprenticeships:

1

Intermediate Apprenticeship: a level 2 qualification

2

Advanced Apprenticeship: a level 3 qualification

Useful Websites and Local Apprenticeship providers:

- www.apprenticeships.gov.uk
- www.swindon.gov.uk
- www.theapprenticeshipguide.co.uk
- www.greenlabyrinth.co.uk
- www.3aaa.co.uk
- www.citb.co.uk
- www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk
- www.gw-partnership.co.uk



Apprenticeships are an excellent way for you to gain the qualifications and skills required for a particular job; helping you to fast track into your chosen career.

You can choose an apprenticeship through all academic subjects:

- MATHS
- ENGLISH
- ICT
- FOOD TECHNOLOGY
- HISTORY
- SCIENCE
- MUSIC AND DRAMA
- PE
- ENGINEERING
- GEOGRAPHY
- LANGUAGES
- ART AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

WORK OR VOLUNTARY WORK ROUTE:

Making the right choice.

If you choose the work / voluntary work route, you will be working towards a nationally recognised qualification as well as being employed, self employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours per week.

Will this route:

1

Meet your needs, both now and in the future?

2

Give you opportunities for future employment?

3

Ensure you have options for further training later on?

STILL UNDECIDED?

Remember you should consider all of the options available to you to find the place where you are most likely to succeed and most importantly to choose somewhere you will enjoy attending. **You can apply to as many providers as you wish and make the final decision of accepting your place once you have received your GCSE results.**

Consider the following:

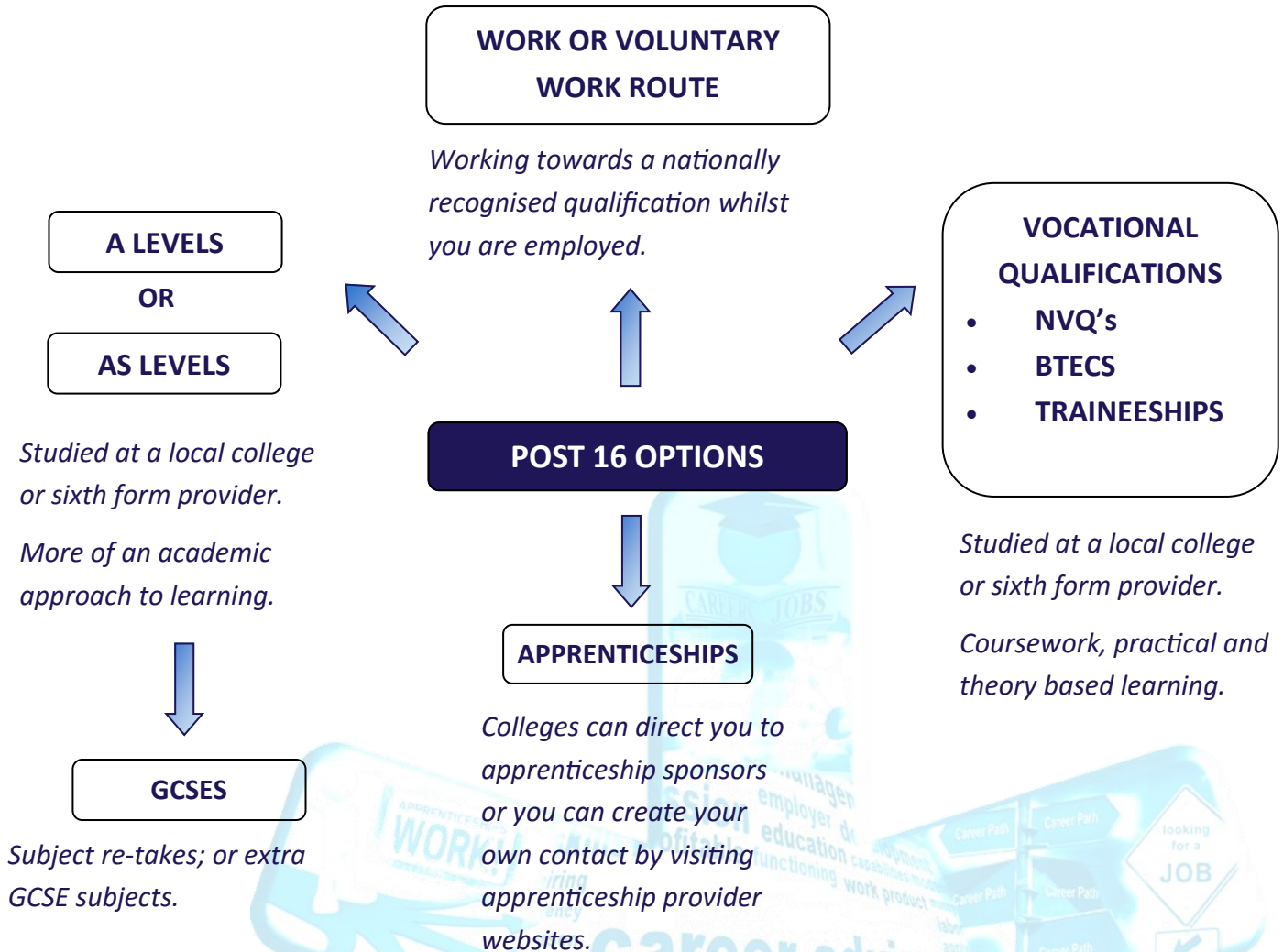
- Do they offer the courses you wish to study?
- Can you choose vocational and academic options?
- Will you be able to get on the course you want if you do not reach the required criteria in your GCSE grades?
- Will there be opportunities to engage with employers to develop your employability skills?

Make sure you use the college prospectuses as there is information not only on the courses they offer but guidance on entry requirements, facilities, transition and opportunities.

SUMMARY

Making the right choice.

The flow chart below summarises your post 16 options.
Choose the type of learning that suits you best.



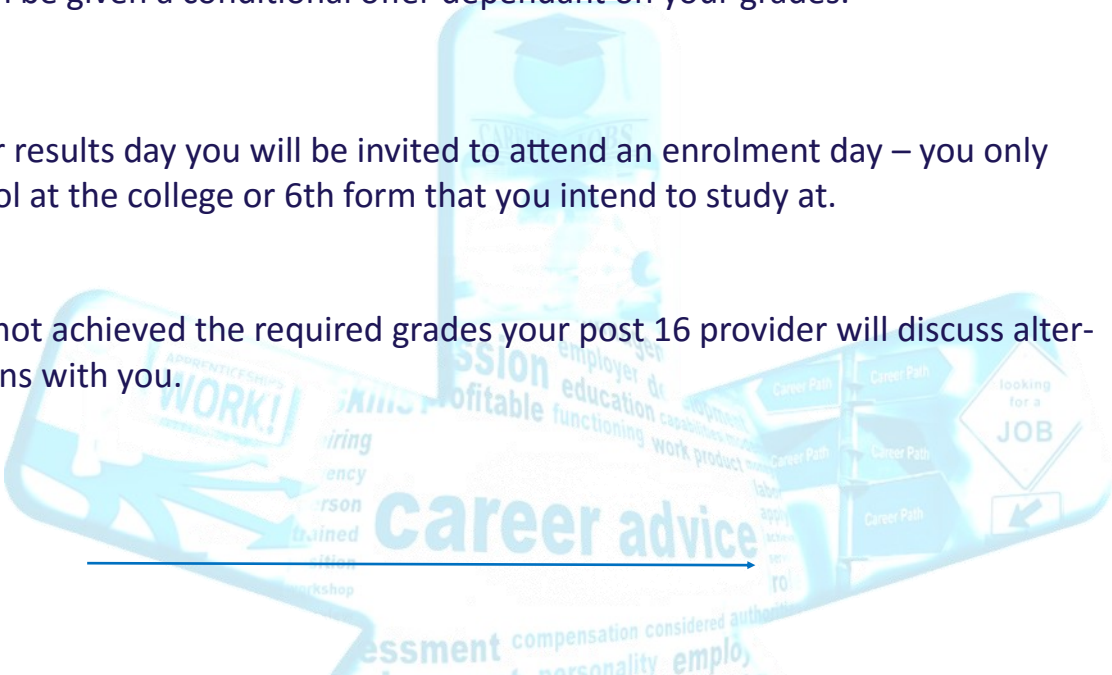
GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

BTEC:	Business and Technology Education Council
FOUNDATION:	Courses where learning begins at an entry level or level 1 / 2.
FUNCTIONAL SKILLS:	Skills that employers know are essential for academic progress and working life.
NVQ:	National Vocational Qualification
TRAINEESHIPS:	A programme designed to help learners to secure progression to an Apprenticeship or job as quickly as possible.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Step by step guide:

- You can apply to as many providers as you like.
- Applications need to be made by February to ensure you secure a place on certain courses.
- Once your application has been made you will be invited to an interview.
- You will then be given a conditional offer dependant on your grades.
- Shortly after results day you will be invited to attend an enrolment day – you only need to enrol at the college or 6th form that you intend to study at.
- If you have not achieved the required grades your post 16 provider will discuss alternative options with you.



“ Focused, hard work is the real key to success. Keep your eyes on the goal, and just keep taking the next step towards completing it. If you aren't sure which way to do something, do it both ways and see which works better. ”

John Carmack

COLLEGE INTERVIEW PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Try not to panic about your college interview, it is a very informal process which will last up to 30 minutes.

During the interview you will:

- discuss your application and assess whether the subjects you have chosen are the right choice for you.
- check if you have applied for the right level of course/s.
- look at your predicted grades.
- discuss why you have applied for the course and what your aspirations are.
- talk about any medical or support needs you may have.
- look at your personal statement and chat about your interests and hobbies.
- ask any questions you are unsure about.
- be informed about lots of information regarding transport, enrichments, student life etc.

Ensure you:

- dress smartly.
- arrive on time.
- go prepared—do your research beforehand.
- take a copy of your predicted grades / past school reports.
- take any other evidence of achievements with you.

Conditional Offer:

At the end of the interview you will be given a conditional place at the college dependent on your GCSE results.

If you do not get the required grades for your chosen course you will have the opportunity to discuss alternative options with your post 16 provider when you enrol.



Check out these websites for information on interview techniques:

bigfuture
by The College Board

My World of Work

about education

Good Luck

FE AND HE INFORMATION:

Making the right choice.

Listed below are the contact details for your local college and sixth form providers.

Provider:	Telephone	Website Address:
Cirencester College	01285 640994	www.cirencester.ac.uk
New College	01793 611470	www.newcollege.ac.uk
Swindon College	01793 491591	www.swindon-college.ac.uk
United College Sixth Form	01793 426900	www.swindon-academy.org
Wiltshire College	01225 350035	www.wiltshire.ac.uk
Commonweal Sixth Form	01793 612727	www.commonwealsixth.co.uk
Lydiard Park Academy (6th Form)	01793 874224	www.lydiardparkacademy.org.uk
St Joseph's (6th Form)	01793 714200	www.stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk
The Ridgeway School (6th Form)	01793 846100	www.theridgewayschool.com
UTC	01793 207920	www.swindon.co.uk
UCAS		www.ucas.com

It is better that you make the right choice now so never be afraid to ask for help.



United College Sixth Form

The best in everyone™
Part of Swindon Academy & United Learning

The information in this guide was published in October 2015 (revised 2018) and is to be used for guidance only. It is important to speak with your chosen Post 16 provider for further information.