

Malet Lambert



**A Parents' Guide to
Post 16
Qualifications**

**Careers
and
Guidance**

The choice of courses available to young people when they leave school can seem rather complicated to pupils and their parents.

The 'Log On Move On' careers website (www.logonmoveon.co.uk) has information to try to help everyone understand the different levels and choices available at colleges and training providers.

As each college/training provider can set their own entry requirements for different courses, please use this information as a broad guide. It is very important that pupils and parents visit open events arranged by colleges and training providers to make sure the correct information, relevant to them, is received.

Understanding Qualifications



Post 16 qualifications are offered at different levels. The level you study will depend on your examination results gained at school.

Level 3:

Requirements: At least five GCSE grades C or above, including English, Maths

Examples: BTEC National, AS/A levels, Advanced NVQ

Level 2:

Requirements: At least four GCSEs at grade D including English, or a BTEC First Certificate/Award - merit/distinction

Examples: BTEC First Diploma, GCSE resits, Intermediate NVQ

Level 1:

Requirements: No formal entry requirements required, however, an interest in your chosen subject/industry is necessary

Examples: BTEC Level 1 Certificate, Adult Literacy/Numeracy, Level 1 National Certificate in Further Education (NCFE)



AS and A Levels

A Levels are one of the national learning routes for all 16 to 19 year olds. Most A Level courses last two years. An A Level is a General Certificate of Education (Advanced and Advanced Subsidiary Level) and over 80 subjects are available at A Level.

You normally study Advanced Subsidiary (AS) units in the first year. If you study a subject for one year and pass the AS units, you gain an AS Level qualification. You then study A2 units in your second year to gain the full A Level qualification.

Each AS and A2 unit is assessed separately through examinations (some have coursework assessment as well). Most people study three or four subjects in the first year, then decide which to continue studying in the second year. A Levels are graded from A*-E. An A* grade at A Level recognises the highest level of level 3 achievement.

The A Level route gives you the opportunity to study more than one subject. You can choose subjects you are interested in studying in more depth. Some A Levels require prior knowledge. For instance, Maths, Sciences and MFLs need good achievement in those subjects at GCSE level. However some A Levels can be studied without having taken them at GCSE level. For example, History, Geography, Psychology and Business need a good general standard of GCSE success.

Make sure you check these out with the colleges. You will need to be confident you can meet the entry requirements for the course. Most A Level courses ask for five GCSEs at grade C or above and some subjects require particular grades in certain GCSEs.

If you have a particular university course or career in mind you need to check the entry requirements. For instance, engineering degrees normally require Mathematics at A Level. Universities and colleges set out their preferences for entry to courses in terms of particular subjects as well as their grade requirements.

Where can A Levels lead?

- an advanced Apprenticeship
- a job that includes further training with your employer
- a vocational course that will qualify you to do a specific job
- A Levels prepare you for Higher Education and employment



BTECs and other Vocational Qualifications

BTECs, City & Guilds and OCRs are particular types of work-related qualifications, available in a wide range of subjects. You can take one if you are interested in learning more about a particular sector or industry. They have been designed in collaboration with industry, so they can equip you with the skills and knowledge that employers are looking for and have a mix of theory and practice plus there may be an element of work experience. BTECs are graded as Distinction, Merit, Pass. Most local colleges concentrate on BTECs.

BTECs are available in a wide range of subjects, including:

Art & Design, Beauty, Business, Engineering, Hairdressing, Health & Social Care, ICT, Media, Public Services, Science, Social Sciences, Sport, Travel & Tourism.

There are four types of level 3 BTECs, see below for details. Some colleges allow you to also study A Levels alongside them.

Check with individual institutions for specific details.

- BTEC National Level 3 Certificate (roughly 1 AS Level)
- BTEC National Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma (roughly 1 A Level)
- BTEC National Level 3 Diploma (roughly 2 A Levels)
- BTEC National Level 3 Extended Diploma (roughly 3 A Levels)

Where can BTECs Lead?

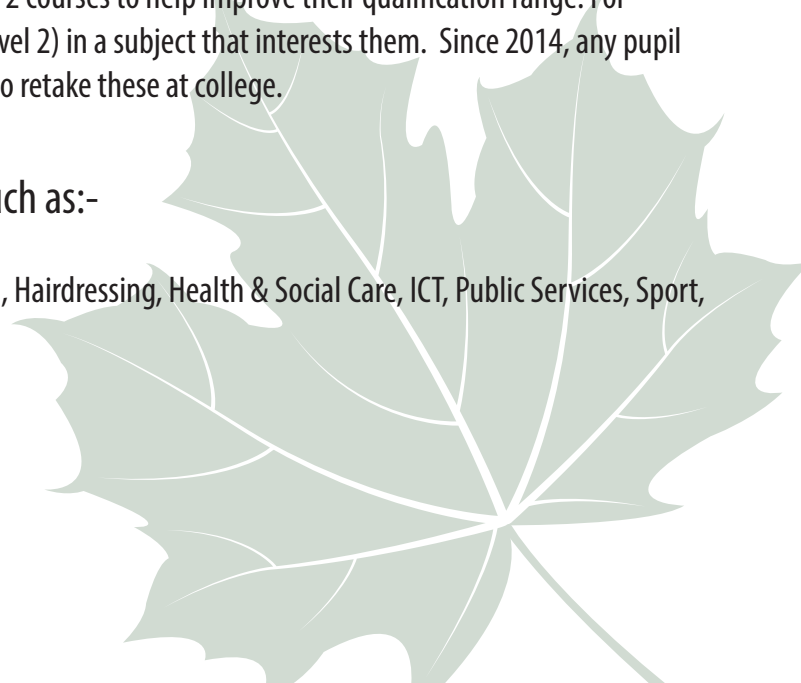
- an advanced Apprenticeship
- a job that includes further training with your employer
- a vocational course that will qualify you to do a specific job
- BTECs prepare you for Higher Education and employment

Courses at colleges for pupils who do not achieve 5 A*-C grades at school

Many colleges offer pupils the chance to take Level 1 or Level 2 courses to help improve their qualification range. For instance, a pupil may choose to take a BTEC Intermediate (Level 2) in a subject that interests them. Since 2014, any pupil NOT gaining a grade C+ in English and/or Maths is required to retake these at college.

BTEC Level 2 courses are available in subjects such as:-

Art & Design, Beauty Therapy, Childcare, Media, Engineering, Hairdressing, Health & Social Care, ICT, Public Services, Sport, Travel & Tourism



Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is where you work with an employer learning the skills of the job in the work place. Whilst doing this you gain a recognised qualification which demonstrates your competence in the job. The theory work and preparation for exams is usually undertaken at a college or training provider premises. Typically, you would spend 4 days a week in the workplace and 1 day a week at a college/training provider.

Apprenticeship qualifications are usually awarded as NVQs (National Vocational Qualifications). These can be at Level 1, 2 or 3 (foundation, intermediate or advanced). As apprenticeships are undertaken in specific skill areas (eg bricklaying, catering, engineering etc), pupils may be required to start at Level 2 even if they have already gained 5 A*-C grades at school.



Where do Apprenticeships lead?

Apprenticeships can lead to full employment, further training and qualifications including Higher Education opportunities. For further details on apprenticeships visit: www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

When considering an apprenticeship, it is important to remember that you may be asked to find your own employer. As a result apprenticeships are not guaranteed. You will therefore also need to consider applying for back up options such as a full-time college course and/or a traineeship.

Traineeships

Some training providers will offer 'in house' training at their premises whilst you, or the provider, secures an employer willing to employ you. There may be work experience opportunities involved in traineeships but this will not be paid employment.



General Information

Guidance on Child Benefit

If your household qualifies for child benefit, you can continue to claim child benefit for young people who are in full-time further education or training (on approved courses) up to the age of 19. Approved courses include full-time college courses and traineeships but NOT employed and waged apprenticeships. Having a child on a waged apprenticeship may also affect other benefit payments such as working tax credits.

Parent Access to Log On Move On (LOMO)

Parents can access www.logonmoveon.co.uk to get more details about local opportunities for school leavers. Malet Lambert pupils have been given usernames & passwords to make applications to colleges and training providers. Even if they apply direct to a college, they should also submit an application through LOMO as well. This helps the school to support pupils with their applications.



USEFUL WEBSITES

COLLEGES

www.wilberforce.ac.uk
www.wyke.ac.uk
www.hull-college.ac.uk
www.bishopburton.ac.uk

UNIFORMED SERVICES

www.humberside.police.uk
www.humbersidefire.gov.uk
www.army.mod.uk
www.royalnavy.mod.uk
www.raf.mod.uk

TRAINING & APPRENTICESHIPS

www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk
www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk
www.heta.co.uk (Engineering Apprenticeship)
www.hcctraining.ac.uk (Hull City Council Apprenticeships)
www.hullbusiness.co.uk (Business, ICT and Management)
www.hyatraining.co.uk (Retail, Health and Social Care)
www.cityworks.org.uk (Fabrication Engineering)
www.motortradesgta.org (Motor Vehicle Engineering Training)
www.kaplanapprenticeships.co.uk (Accounting Apprenticeships)
www.mcarthurdean.co.uk (Business, Customer Service and Accountancy)
www.yh-group.co.uk (Business, ICT and Retail)
www.chambertraining.com (Healthcare, ICT and Business)
www.hcuktraining.co.uk (Hull College Apprenticeships)
www.learningskillspartnership.com (Hospitality, Admin and Construction)
www.motortrationtraining.co.uk (Motor Vehicle Engineering Training)
www.tigerstrust.co.uk (Sport, Fitness and Leisure)