

FOR  
PARENTS  
& CARERS

# TOP 5 TIPS

- 01** Focus on keeping options open for now rather than specialising them.
- 02** Think about your child's future study or career plans: is there a subject they are sure they want to do at A-level or college that they need to continue with now at GCSE?
- 03** Seek teachers' advice on which subjects will play to their strengths.
- 04** Balance quality and quantity - too many GCSEs might mean lower grades.
- 05** It's important to choose subjects that your child finds enjoyable, but also the subjects they are confident in doing well in.

## THINKING ABOUT ATTENDING A **TOP THIRD** UNIVERSITY?

**It isn't just your A Level or BTEC results competitive**

**Universities look for.**

- Some entrance requirements can also be dependent on students **achieving at least a 6** in Maths and/or English dependent on your course.
- Many **top 10** Universities also like a GCSE in a **Modern Foreign Language** at a **grade 5**

GUIDE TO

# Options

INFO AND TIPS  
YEAR 10 AND BEYOND...

**Know the law:** Students must stay in a form of education or training until the age of 18. This can be:

College/6th Form | Apprenticeship | Traineeship  
Distance learning  
20 hours a week volunteering and part-time training

## NEW POST-18 PATHWAYS: DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

### WHAT IS A DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP?

Companies provide full-time paid employment to young person whilst also paying for their degree. Like an apprenticeship the young person will have to attend university and complete work. Usually the young person will attend a couple of weeks of Uni every few months.

### HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

Usually it takes 4-5 years - slightly longer than the usual uni degree of 3 years. This is because the young person is also working

### WHAT IS THE SALARY?

The average London salary for Degree Apprentices is between £19,000 - 21,000 p/a + free university tuition

### HOW COMPETITIVE IS IT?

It is very competitive - more so than access to some top third Universities.

### WHAT TYPE OF CANDIDATES ARE THEY LOOKING FOR?

Students with excellent communication skills, enthusiasm and previous work experience to talk about. Grades are important but your professionalism, attitude to work and personality are the top traits they look for

# Future JOBS

**WHO WILL EMPLOYERS BE  
LOOKING FOR WHEN YOU  
HIT THE JOB MARKET?**

## What's the difference between a GCSE and a BTEC or Award?

- Typically more vocational, the BTEC and Level 2 Award qualifications involve more coursework than written exams
- GCSE's involve more written exams than practical work.
- Only some courses of the GCSE, like art and product design, involve more course work
- BOTH are accepted by TOP UNIVERSITIES

*What suits your child's learning style best?*



**Financial Sector**  
(Management Consultants, Actuaries,  
Economists and Statisticians)



**Social Workers**



**Directors and CEOs**



**Mechanical Engineers**



**Secondary Teaching**



**Welding**



**Software**



**Graphic Designers**



**Chefs / Cooks**



**Nurses**

## HOT DEGREES

Including the most popular and best prospects

Engineering and technology

Vetinary Sciences &  
Medicine/dentistry/healthcare

Media & Communcations

Architecture & Built Environment

Sports Science

Law & Economics

Education

Computer Science

Anthropology