

Careers Newsletter - Year 11s

May 2023 - A guide specifically for year 11s regarding post-16 planning and preparation for results day.

Haven't yet applied anywhere?

If you are still unsure about next year - what your choices are and what might suit you, **follow the below link for a guide to your options**, from academic to vocational qualifications and apprenticeships.

- [What can you do after GCSEs?](#)

You can still apply to sixth forms and colleges and there is not usually a cut-off date to do so. However, you should apply as soon as possible so that you don't end up having to make a rushed decision about courses and where to go at the end of the summer/on results day. Applying soon will also ensure you have time to ask the education provider any questions and so that you receive important information from them such as enrolment, bridging programmes and bursary information.

If you have applied to study A Levels make sure you have a back-up plan in place should you feel there is a risk you will not meet the Sixth Form entry criteria (which will be different per establishment). Equally, if you feel you may not meet the entry criteria for the A Level subjects you have chosen, use the summer holidays to consider any second choice subject/s.

You can apply to more than one college/sixth form and can therefore make your final decision as to where to go over the summer or when you get your results.

Hoping for an apprenticeship or traineeship?

If you have not yet secured an apprenticeship, **make sure you also apply for an education course as a back-up plan**. You can continue to apply for apprenticeships during the holidays and you can even continue to apply for apprenticeships once you have started on an education course in September. If you are offered the perfect apprenticeship job and the employer needs you to start before the academic year finishes, you could leave your post-16 course early, although most employers will delay a start date to allow students to at least finish their exams, meaning time on the course hasn't been wasted and a qualification may often still be gained after year one.

Search for apprenticeship vacancies at [Find an Apprenticeship](#) and set up an alert to be notified about relevant vacancies as they come up. You should be as proactive as possible in searching for a vacancy and also contact employers of interest directly.

If you don't feel ready for an apprenticeship yet, then a traineeship is another option. They last for up to six months and include work preparation training, support in improving English and Maths and a work experience placement with the goal of it leading to an apprenticeship. Find out more at this link [What is a Traineeship?](#)

Find traineeship vacancies at this link [Find a Traineeship](#) and/or talk to your local Further Education college.

Results Day – Thursday 24 August 2023

For information on **what to expect and tips on preparing for results day** follow this link. [GCSE Results Day Preparation and What to Expect](#)

If you get the grades required for your course, well done and you usually just need to confirm this with your course provider.

If you don't get the required grades don't panic! Don't assume you will be accepted on your course unless you have already been advised you will get a place irrespective of your results, but there is often some leeway. Always get in touch as soon as possible on results day with where you have applied to and ask whether you can still study there. For further information and tips if you don't get the results you expected, follow this link [GCSE Results Day](#)

Churchill Academy staff will be available to answer questions, provide advice, and discuss next steps with students and families on results day and the day after. Colleges are usually available to give advice on results day and often the day after – check individual websites for full details.

Maths & English GCSEs

Students that do not achieve a grade 4 or above in GCSE Maths and English (Language or Literature), then wherever you go on to next (sixth form, college or an apprenticeship), you will take extra lessons alongside whatever course you are taking, and re-sit these exams. If it is felt a grade 4 GCSE isn't achievable, then a Functional Skills Assessment may be done instead.

Unifrog

[Unifrog](#) gives you access to a wide range of resources, from exploring pathways, recording skills and activities, searching for opportunities such as apprenticeships and Universities and writing a CV.

You can continue to have access to all areas of Unifrog for four years after leaving Churchill Academy. If you are not staying on at Churchill Sixth Form, you will need to change your Unifrog login details from your school email address to a personal email address before the end of August.

Financial Support

Financial support in the form of bursaries and/or scholarships is available for students that meet the criteria at most Post-16 providers, but you will need to apply to be considered. Bursary funds are often limited and so can be on a first come, first served basis. Below are relevant links to key Post-16 providers in our area, but check the websites or enquire directly if you have applied elsewhere.

- [Churchill Academy & Sixth Form - Financial Assistance](#)



- [Weston College - Bursary](#) (Note that the college are aware the dates are incorrect at this link, but have advised that the information is correct and that applications will open in August).
- [Bridgwater & Taunton College - Scholarships & Bursaries](#)
- [City of Bristol College - Financial Support](#)
- [SGS College - 16-18 Funding Options](#)

Post-16 Destinations Information

All schools are required to record the onward destinations of year 11 leavers on behalf and in cooperation with the Local Authority. This includes Sixth Form, college or apprenticeship/traineeship destinations and whether they are in our Local Authority area or not. If we don't have a record of your post-16 destination in September, we will contact students/families to ask for this information and also to offer support/sign-posting if needed as to next steps.

This destination data also allows us to analyse trends as to where our students go on to, allowing us to target future Academy activities, insights and events accordingly.

North Somerset Local Authority's 'Post-16 Team' will provide support with options and finding a suitable course/apprenticeship/traineeship to any 16/17 year old that has not commenced in education or training (which includes apprenticeships) in September.

Child Benefit and/or Tax Credits/equivalent

Parents/Carers please note that Child Benefit and/or Tax Credits/equivalent will need to be informed of the change of circumstances for 16/17 year olds living with them. This is to advise that from September they are either remaining in full-time education, if on an apprenticeship are now working, or if they are not in education or training.

And finally...

GOOD LUCK FROM EVERYONE AT CHURCHILL!

The Academy's careers adviser is Ms McGonigal, email: smg@churchill-academy.org