

Next Steps

ENABLING PARENTS AND CARERS TO SUPPORT THEIR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH POST-16 PATHWAYS

Welcome to our second Next Steps newsletter!

Under legislation introduced in 2013, young people in England are required to continue in education, employment or training until the age of 18.

Between their [school leaving age](#) and 18, a young person must do one of the following:

- Stay in full-time education, for example at a college
- Start an [apprenticeship](#) or [traineeship](#)
- Spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training

In response to this, our newsletters aim to provide parents and carers with information to help you support your young person to make the post-16 education or training choices that are right for them. To complement the newsletters, our [series of online sessions](#) provides the opportunity for you to learn more about the options available, hear from relevant organisations and ask any questions you might have. You can also explore the government's [Skills for Careers website](#) and the [National Careers Service website](#), which provide lots of helpful information, including [advice for young people with SEND](#). This is in addition to all the careers information, guidance, activities and events already being provided by your young person's school or college, whose Careers Leader or Careers Advisor is always on hand to answer questions or offer support.

[READ ON TO DISCOVER MORE!](#)

Online Parent and Carer Information Sessions



Our online sessions explore some of the different possibilities open to your young person. Our first one took place in October and provided an overview of Post-16 Pathways. You can view a recording of it [here](#). The second session, which explored Pathways to Higher Education, and was supported by [Higher Horizons](#), is available to watch back [here](#).

Still to come is a session exploring apprenticeships and another looking at T Levels. It'd be great if you could join us! Click the links to register in advance

for the sessions you want to attend. As part of the registration process, you'll be asked to provide the name and post code of the school/college attended by your young person.

- **Apprenticeship Pathways**
Mon 5 February, 6pm [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)
- **T Level Pathways**
Weds 17 April, 6pm [CLICK TO REGISTER](#)

Levels of Apprenticeships		
Apprenticeship Type	Qualification Level	Equivalent Level
Intermediate	2	GCSE
Advanced	3	A level
Higher	4,5,6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or Master's degree

Additional new T Level subjects available from Sept 2024
Animal Care and Management
Catering
Craft and Design
Media Broadcast and Production
Hairdressing, Barbering and Beauty Therapy
Marketing



SPOTLIGHT ON...

Apprenticeships

Our third parent and carer online session, on 5 February 2024, will focus on Apprenticeship Pathways. Book to join us!

Apprenticeships are real jobs that allow your young person to earn a wage while they learn. They can take between 1 and 5 years to complete, depending on the level. The [Skills for Careers website](#) and government [Apprenticeships website](#) contains lots of helpful information about apprenticeships

The [Amazing Apprenticeships website](#) is also a key resource. Check out their [YouTube channel](#) and [sign up](#) for their newsletter. The Amazing Apprenticeships website will help you:

- Understand the levels of apprenticeships
- Discover what an apprenticeship involves
- Find useful resources
- Access relevant events

There is also advice provided on [finding an inclusive employer](#) and other [SEND resources](#) too. The [Into Apprenticeships](#) guide, from [Disability Rights UK](#), for disabled people, parents and key advisers about applying for apprenticeships in England. It deals with common questions such as how to find an apprenticeship, whether the training will be accessible, and what support is available in the workplace.

Specific apprenticeship support for Parents and Carers, including [Parent Packs](#), the [Parent Perspective](#) podcasts and the [Apprenticeships: Hints and Tips for Parents and Carers](#) guide are available in the Amazing Apprenticeships Parent Zone.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)

The [2023 Success at School Parents Survey](#) looked at apprenticeships from a parental perspective. Only 13% of surveyed parents viewed apprenticeships as a viable opportunity, while 8% doubted that an apprenticeship could lead to jobs requiring a bachelor's degree. Yet there are so many options available at all different levels!

[Career Starter Apprenticeships](#) are great for those looking for their first role after leaving full-time education and this [case study](#), about an ex-Priestley College student who secured a degree apprenticeship with local company, [Driveworks](#), is a brilliant read for any parents or carers wanting to understand more about the opportunities degree-level apprenticeships can provide.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)



FIND AN Apprenticeship

Local Further Education (FE) college websites are a good starting point for exploring potential apprenticeship opportunities. You can also use the [Browse](#) function on the government [Apprenticeships website](#) to search for opportunities with local businesses, FE colleges and independent training providers. To view live apprenticeship opportunities across all three Cheshire and Warrington local authority areas, use the [Cheshire and Warrington Opportunities Portal](#).

Jobs and Apprenticeship Fairs

Cheshire and Warrington Pledge is hosting a series of Jobs and Apprenticeship Fairs during February 2024. If you are a job seeker, seeking an apprenticeship, looking for a change in direction or just keeping your options open, come along to The Pledge Jobs and Apprenticeship Fairs. The events are free and everyone is welcome no matter what stage they are in their career. All the exhibitors will be local employers who have live job or apprenticeship vacancies or who will be recruiting within 2024.

Click the links below to book to attend.

- [23 Jan Cheshire West Jobs and Apprenticeship Fair](#)
- [1 Feb North Cheshire East Jobs & Apprenticeship Fair](#)
- [5 Feb Crewe and South Cheshire East Jobs & Apprenticeship Fair](#)
- [7 Feb Warrington Apprenticeship and Jobs Fair](#)



SPOTLIGHT ON...

T Levels

Our fourth parent and carer online session, on 17 April 2024, will focus on T Level Pathways. Book to join us!

T Levels are an alternative to A levels, apprenticeships and other 16 to 19 courses. They are equivalent to 3 A levels and focus on vocational skills. They can help students into skilled employment, higher study or apprenticeships. Each T Level includes an in-depth industry placement that lasts at least 45 days. 80% of the course is spent in the learning environment, gaining the skills that employers need. The other 20% is a meaningful industry placement, where they put these skills into action. The [Skills for Careers website](#) and the [government T Level website](#) provide lots of information about the qualification, including specific [information for parents and carers](#).

T Levels started in September 2020 at selected schools and colleges in England. There are over 20 [T Level subjects](#) to choose from, covering everything from agriculture to catering and engineering to science, with additional subjects available from September 2024.

The Amazing Apprenticeships website has a [T Levels section](#) and the Gatsby Foundation's T Levels Info for Parents website has lots of useful information, including:

- [Information about T Levels](#)
- [Industry placement information](#)
- [Success stories](#)
- [Resources](#)
- [FAQs](#)

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)



FIND AN T Level

Colleges and Sixth Forms across Cheshire and Warrington offer a wide range of T Levels. A good starting point to find out what's available where is to use the '[Find Your Nearest T Level](#)' search facility on the government T Level website. Pop in your post code and you'll get a list of the institutions in your area and the T Level courses they offer. You can also approach schools, colleges and training providers directly for the most up to date information about the T Levels you could study.

Dates for your diary

2024

You can check out all the Cheshire and Warrington Pledge events on their [website](#).

23 Jan - [Cheshire West Jobs and Apprenticeship Fair](#)

31 Jan - UCAS application deadline (2024 entry applications for the majority of courses)

1 Feb - [North Cheshire East Jobs & Apprenticeship Fair](#)

5 Feb - Parent/Carer Online Session 3: [Apprenticeship Pathways](#)

5 Feb - [Crewe and South Cheshire East Jobs & Apprenticeship Fair](#)

6-12 Feb - [National Apprenticeship Week](#)

7 Feb - [Warrington Apprenticeship and Jobs Fair](#)

1-2 March - What Career Live, [Birmingham NEC](#)

4-9 Mar - [National Careers Week](#)

5 & 6 Mar - UCAS Discovery Day, [Manchester](#)

17 April - Parent/Carer Online Session 4: [T Level Pathways](#)

13 June - UCAS Discovery Day, [Stoke on Trent](#)

14 June - UCAS Discovery Day, [Liverpool](#)

Key Resources and Information

TALKING

FUTURES

Talking Futures is a parent's toolkit for career conversations, created by the Gatsby Foundation. It's a great site for helping you to understand how to have informed and constructive conversations with your young person about the different education and training pathways available to them.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)

Local Offer

The SEND Local Offer helps young people and their parents or carers to understand what services, support and statutory entitlements they can expect from local agencies. It includes information about the support available to help young people move between school phases and the services available to support young people preparing for adulthood. Each of the three local authorities in Cheshire and Warrington must publish, in one place, information about provision they expect to be available in their area.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)

Prospects

Prospects provides information, advice and opportunities for graduates and students. There's lots of useful information about [job sectors](#) and [job roles](#) on their website which can help young people to explore possible careers.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)

International Baccalaureate

The [International Baccalaureate \(IB\)](#) is a global leader in international education. The IB offers [four educational programmes](#) to more than 1.95 million students across the globe. The IB [Diploma Programme \(DP\)](#) and the IB [Career-related Programme \(CP\)](#) are open to students aged 16 to 19. In the Cheshire and Warrington region, Chester International School is the only institution authorised to deliver the IB programmes.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)



Cheshire and Warrington Opportunities Portal

When the time arrives for your young person to start searching for jobs, apprenticeships or courses, the Cheshire and Warrington Opportunities portal is the place to go!

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)

Local Support Services

The [Cheshire and Warrington Your Futures](#) platform aims to ensure SEND students and their parents or carers have access to good quality information about future study options, labour market opportunities and the Local Offer. In addition, there are lots of local support services, within all three Cheshire and Warrington Local Authority areas, which young people can access to support them with their next steps.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)

Success at School

Success at School is a careers website designed for students aged 13-19, which aims to empower and guide young individuals in making well-informed decisions about their future pathways. [Career Zones](#) enable young people to explore careers, what to study and how to get there, there's a useful [Advice](#) section and a live [Jobs Board](#). It's really worth [registering](#) to receive their information.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)

Higher Education Pathways

We spotlighted university and HE in Next Steps Newsletter 1, so this is just a reminder - if your young person is thinking about going to university then, alongside the individual university websites, the [UCAS website](#) is a great place to start exploring. There's a good section on helping young people to [Discover Your Ideal Job](#). The Uni Taster Days website also has lots of [information for parents and carers](#), including a [Parents' Guide to University](#) brochure and the [WhatUni website](#) has a great function for comparing university courses.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)

THE CHESHIRE AND WARRINGTON PLEDGE

The Cheshire and Warrington Pledge Partnership

These newsletters and online sessions are provided by the Cheshire and Warrington Careers Hub and funded by the Careers Enterprise Company. The Careers Hub is part of the Cheshire and Warrington Pledge Partnership, a network of over 500 employers, all local state-funded secondary schools and colleges and multiple community groups. This partnership is supported by all three Local Authorities, The Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership, Youth Federation and a number of local funders. If you are an employer who would like to find out more about the Pledge Partnership then contact pledge@cheshireandwarrington.com.

[FIND OUT MORE>](#)