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**Options for Pupils and Students in Year 9, Year 11 and Year 13**

**Options at Age 14**

Pupils have to stay in education or training until they are 18.  Below you will find information about the places you can study, other than secondary school, at age 14.

**The range of places you can study other than school are:**

* [University Technical Colleges](https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/places-to-study/university-technical-colleges-for-14-18-year-olds) - government-funded schools that offer 14 to 18 year olds both academic and technical education, related to specific job sectors. Our nearest UTC is [Liverpool Life Sciences UTC](https://lifesciencesutc.co.uk/)
* [Studio Schools](https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/places-to-study/studio-schools) - teach through enterprise projects and real work. This approach ensures students' learning is connected to the real world and helps them develop the skills they need for life and work. Our nearest Studio School is [Liverpool Studio School](https://thestudioliverpool.uk/)
* [Free Schools](https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/places-to-study/free-schools) - these are like academies but are set up to meet the needs of a local community. Find local Free Schools: [Find a free school | New Schools Network](http://www.newschoolsnetwork.org/find-a-free-school)
* [Some Pre-16 college courses](https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/further-education-at-16) - a few pupils may go to a Further Education college to study vocational courses through a specific pre-16 programme while they are still learning at school.

**Options at Age 16**

You can leave school on the last Friday in June if you'll be 16 by the end of the summer holidays.

The law says that you must continue to do some kind of education or training until you are 18. This will give you the best possible chance to gain the knowledge, skills and qualifications you need to be successful in the future.

**What options do I have?**

**Full-time education**

* You can stay in sixth form at your current, or another school. You can go to a sixth form college, or study at a Further Education, or specialist college.

**Local Schools and Colleges are listed here:**

[Birkenhead High School Academy](https://www.birkenheadhigh.gdst.net/)

[Birkenhead School (Independent)](https://www.birkenheadschool.co.uk/)

[Calday Grange Grammar School](https://www.calday.co.uk/)

[Co-op Academy Bebington](https://bebington.coopacademies.co.uk/)

[Hilbre High School](https://www.hilbre.wirral.sch.uk/)

[Liverpool Life Sciences UTC](https://lifesciencesutc.co.uk/)

[Pensby High School](https://www.pensbyhighschool.org/)

[South Wirral High School](https://southwirral.wirral.sch.uk/)

[St John Plessington Catholic College](https://www.stjohnplessington.com/)

[St Marys Catholic College](https://stmaryswallasey.com/)

[The Oldershaw School](http://www.oldershaw.wirral.sch.uk/)

[The Studio School](https://thestudioliverpool.uk/)

[Weatherhead High School](https://weatherheadhigh.co.uk/)

[West Kirby Grammar School](https://wkgs.org/)

[Wirral Grammar School](http://www.wirralgirls.co.uk/)

**Local Colleges**

[Birkenhead Sixth Form College](https://www.bsfc.ac.uk/)

[City of Liverpool College](https://www.liv-coll.ac.uk/)

[LIPA Sixth Form College](https://www.lipasixthformcollege.org/)

You can choose to work towards A Levels, or other academic or work-related qualifications. You might follow a personalised programme that will give you a little more time to get extra skills and confidence.

**Qualifications Explained**

* [A levels](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/career-choices-at-16#a-levels)
* [T Levels](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/career-choices-at-16#t-levels)
* [Applied qualifications](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/career-choices-at-16#applied-qualifications)
* [Technical and vocational qualifications](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/career-choices-at-16#technical-vocational-qualifications)

**An Apprenticeship**

* You can work and earn money at the same time as getting training and qualifications. There are hundreds of different types of Apprenticeships. Your options will depend on your qualifications, experience, and what is available locally.
* You will receive hands-on training in the workplace. You will also go to college or a training provider for off-the-job training.
* For more information see: [gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide](http://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide)

**A Traineeship**

* You can take a course that helps you to get ready for a job or an Apprenticeship. A Traineeship includes work experience and extra help to brush up your English and maths.
* You won’t be paid. You may get help with your travel, or some other expenses.
* For more information see: [gov.uk/find-traineeship](http://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship)

**Other options at 16**

* You can work full-time, be your own boss, or volunteer after year 11. You must also spend time studying for qualifications.
* There is more information about your rights and responsibilities as a young worker in the ‘Employing people’ section of [gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk/).
* There is more information about working for yourself (self-employment) on [princes-trust.org.uk](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/) , and the ‘Businesses and self-employed’ pages at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk/).
* There is more information about volunteering (unpaid work) in the ‘Citizenship and living in the UK’ section of [gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk/). There is also information on V. Inspired (<https://vinspired.com/>).

**Options at Age 18**

If you are about to choose your options at 18 there are plenty of things to choose from. **you could consider at 18**

* Doing a [higher education level course](https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/higher-education-at-18) – either full-time, part-time or by distance learning, at a university or a college;
* Doing an[Intermediate, Advanced, Higher or Degree Apprenticeship;](https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/apprenticeships)
* Getting a [job that offers training](https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/working-and-learning);
* Doing [a vocational course at a Further Education College](https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/higher-education-at-18/types-of-he-level-courses-level-4)
* [Taking a year out (a gap year)](https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-18/gap-year)**Higher education**

If you have Level 3 qualifications like A Levels or vocational qualifications like a BTEC Level 3 or Tech Level you could explore higher-level study. If you haven't, but would be interested in higher-level study later, there are lots of ways in through [Access Courses](https://www.accesstohe.ac.uk/Pages/Default.aspx)and through [study alongside work](https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/working-and-learning).

If you are thinking that university is not for you then you could explore alternatives, such as:

* [Work](https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/working-and-learning) (preferably with training)
* [Apprenticeships](https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/apprenticeships)
* [Sponsored degrees](https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/working-and-learning/employer-sponsored-degrees)
* [Further Education College](https://careerpilot.org.uk/information/further-education-at-16) courses.

The [Not Going to Uni site](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/#./) and [Student Ladder site](http://www.studentladder.co.uk/) have lots of information about the alternatives and advertise vacancies and opportunities for the different options.

**Why skills are also important**