

On From 16

Information Booklet

2018

Information booklet for Year 11 students and their parents / carers

Due to the change in the Law all young people now have to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 18. This means that students will need to attend College or do some form of work based learning (i.e. Apprenticeship / Traineeship) for two years after leaving Downlands Community School.

There are a number of changes to the way that A level courses are taught and examined, therefore it is important to be as informed as possible.

We have produced this booklet to give information to help you with making choices for the next stage of your education and to give some guidance on where you can find the information that you might need to make the next step.

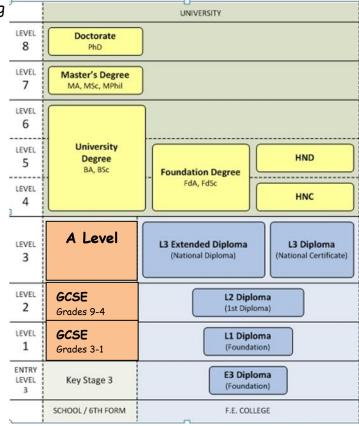
Understanding Qualifications

Which level is right for me?

The level of the course gives an idea of how demanding the course is going to be - the higher the level the more difficult the qualification. There are nine levels ranging from Entry Level to Level 8. Every level contains different types of qualifications. Some are subject based, e.g. A levels and some are vocational (work based) e.g. BTECs, City and Guilds, Apprenticeships.

Students work at a level that suits their abilities and experience in a particular subject. Once you have gained a qualification at one level you can move up to the next. When you are considering what level to study after Year 11 you should consider:

- Your starting point what level are you working at now?
- The end point can you move onto higher level qualifications?
- Job entry requirements most jobs require level 2 qualifications
 and many will ask for qualifications at level 3
 and above
- Higher education requirements most courses require level 3 qualifications and a grade 5 or above in English and Maths
- There is a lot of variety in the courses that students can follow when they leave Downlands and continue their education



A Levels

A Levels are studied for two years with exams at the end of the two years of study. They will contain little or no coursework and fewer practical assessments than previously.

It is possible to take A levels in conjunction with other courses, i.e. BTEC's.

A levels are graded A* - E and score points (UCAS points) which count towards university entrance

It is important to check entry requirements via individual college websites. Some subjects require specific entry requirements. Generally to study 3 A Levels you will need to gain a minimum $5 \times 9-4$ grades at GCSE.

Universities generally require 3 A levels (or equivalent) as entry to most Degree courses. Check www.ucas.com for up to date information.

Applied / Vocational A Levels (BTEC National)

These courses place emphasis on the practical application of skills, knowledge and understanding within a broad vocational area e.g. Business Studies, Health and Social Care.

They also provide a basis for further training, higher education or progression to appropriate employment.

Applied A levels are available in work related subjects as Single or Double awards.

The Double Award (12 units) is equivalent to two academic A levels. The Single Award (6 units) is equivalent to one academic A level.

There is often more practical and assessment work than in academic A levels - you should check individual college course prospectuses for breakdown of assessment and exam

They can be studied alongside academic A Levels

Applied A levels are graded A - E (the same as academic A Levels) and score points (UCAS points) which count towards university entrance

International Baccalaureate (IB)

Is only offered at Varndean College locally but is an internationally recognised qualification. It is a rigorous and challenging alternative to A Levels studied for two years. This is a standalone course that is equivalent to 4 A levels. It gives a very broad-based learning and is good for students who are not sure which path they want to travel.

Students study 6 elements plus an extended essay (research project) Theory of Knowledge and Creativity, Action, Service. Students will study 3-4 Elements at Higher Level and the rest at Standard Level. Subjects are scored out of 7 with a maximum score over all areas is 45. All exams take place in May of Year 13.

Entry requirements are 6 \times 9-5 grade GCSE's, including English and Maths and Science. In addition, certain subjects at Higher level have particular subject requirements. Check prospectus. Universities accept this qualification - but students should check requirements of institutions to ensure that the IB is accepted for the course they may wish to study.

IB Open Evening - Thursday 18th October 2018 from 6.30 - 7.45pm at Varndean College.

Extended Project Qualification - offered in Year 13

If you are aiming to study at a top university you should consider taking the Extended Project Qualification in your second year. Universities value this qualification as a good preparation for higher level study. It involves independently researching a topic and writing a 5-6000 word dissertation - this can work alongside your chosen subjects or something of personal interest.

BTEC

These courses are specialist vocational qualifications valued by industry and higher education alike.

They often tend to be more vocational - work based and can be studied at Level 2 and Level 3.

There are three 'sizes' of BTEC: Certificate, Extended Certificate and Diploma (Subsidiary Diploma and Extended Diploma) equivalent to one, two or three A levels.

All units and overall qualification will be awarded a mark of Pass, Merit or Distinction

The course will involve producing a portfolio of evidence and final exams.

You will need to have an interest in a specific area of work e.g. plumbing / childcare and the course often involves a period of work experience.

As for A Levels you can use these qualifications to gain entry to University. Check <u>www.ucas.ac.uk</u> for entry requirements.

Level 2 courses

It is now a statutory requirement that all students are required to retake GCSE Maths and English Language if they do not attain a grade 4 (or above) in their education to date.

These retakes can be taken alongside A levels, if other entry requirements are met, or alongside a level 2 programme of study. Students can then progress to Level 3 courses the following year.

Foundation Learning

This is an Entry Level / Level 1 programme. This course includes three distinct components:

- Vocational knowledge, skills and understanding
- Functional Skills (Maths, English, ICT)
- Personal and Social development

Foundation learning programmes are designed for students who have had limited achievement at school, for any reason. They are designed to promote progressions as well as helping students to achieve nationally recognised qualifications at Entry Level and Level 1.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are available across a huge number of occupational areas: Accountancy, Business Administration, Animal Care, Construction, Engineering, Hairdressing, Motor Industry, Retail and many more.

Sometimes students would prefer to learn on the job and would prefer to go to work instead of full time college.

It is possible to do an apprenticeship at Level 2 or Level 3 from leaving school.

Level 2 (Intermediate) Apprenticeship

Entry requirements vary. Some require specific qualifications, some require an initial assessment. Apprentices will be paid a training wage (minimum £3.70 per hour) and work towards qualifications in NVQs, Functional Skills and Technical Certificates. Training can take place solely in the workplace or day or block release at college

It usually takes one year to complete a Level 2 and it should then be possible to move up to a Level 3

Level 3 (Advanced) Apprenticeship

This is an A level equivalent qualification

Entry requirements are usually 5 GCSEs grades 9-5, or completion of a Level 2 Intermediate Apprenticeship.

Apprentices will be paid a training wage (minimum £3.70 per hour) and work towards qualifications in NVQs, Functional Skills and Technical Certificates

It usually takes two years to complete a Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship and it should then be possible to move up to a Higher Apprenticeship or progress to a Foundation Degree at University. Training can take place solely in the workplace or day or block release at college.

Students should register on line at

https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch to be alerted of vacancies locally in their chosen occupational area. Students who wish to get an apprenticeship should approach employers in their chosen sector to gain employment.

Please note:

Students interested in applying for an apprenticeship can get more support and information from school careers staff.

Students considering an Apprenticeship should also apply to College as a backup in case an employer cannot be sourced. Students will need a training provider / college place as part of their Apprenticeship.

Traineeships for Young People

What is a Traineeship?

A Traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience that is focused on giving young people the skills and experience that employers are looking for.

At its core are work preparation training, English and maths for those who need it, and a high-quality work experience placement.

Visit https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship to register and find out what work experience placement opportunities are available right now.

What are the benefits of a Traineeship?

A Traineeship will put you in a better position to compete for an Apprenticeship or other job. The opportunity to build your CV and get vital experience with local and national employers. Improving your English and maths skills will boost your chances of getting a job, as well as improving your long-term prospects and earning potential over your lifetime. Employers are at the centre of Traineeships to ensure they give you the skills you need to secure a job and succeed in employment. At the end of the work experience placement you'll get a job interview with the company if a role becomes available or a reference and an exit interview.

How do you find a Traineeship?

Register for Traineeship opportunities which will be advertised on https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship Or contact your local college or training provider to see if they are offering Traineeship opportunities.

General Entry Requirements to Further Education / Training

This varies slightly from college to college, but generally to study Level 3 courses students will need 5-6 grade 9-4 GCSE's which MUST include English and Maths. To take certain subjects at A level a student would be expected to gain at least a 6 at GCSE in that subject

Not all courses are available at all colleges and students need to check what each college has to offer by reading prospectuses, researching their websites and attending open evenings.

To study Level 2 courses students will need 2-5 grade 4-3 GCSE's. Level 1 and Entry level programmes do not require formal qualifications but an aptitude and interest in the subject is essential.

Students should check individual college prospectuses or websites

Students should remember that they are entitled to up to three years free further education - therefore students who do not reach these entry requirements can start on Level 1 courses and progress onto Level 2 courses, or start on Level 2 Courses and progress onto Level 3.

When deciding which subjects to take, students must give careful thought as to what they want to do afterwards: some higher-level courses or employment opportunities require certain subjects at required levels, e.g. to be become a doctor you will need to study Chemistry at A level. It is useful to research possible University courses on www.ucas.com to check specific entry requirements.

Open Evening Dates for your diary

Here are dates for your diary of local 6th Form College Open Evenings.

Try to attend as many as possible to help make informed decisions about subjects and colleges. Also attend talks by Principles at the Colleges to find important information specific to each College.

BACA

An academic college offering A Level and BTEc qualifications alongside sports academies.

Open Evening

Tuesday 13th November 2018

6-8pm

BHASVIC

A 6th form college in Hove that offers a range of academic subjects at Level 3 Open Evening dates:

Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th November 2018 6.30 - 9pm

www.bhasvic.ac.uk

BIMM

Brighton Institute of Modern Music

6th October, 3rd November and 1st December 2018

Places need to be booked via BIMM website and fill up fast!

www.bimm.co.uk/brighton

Greater Brighton Metropolitan College

Is mainly a vocational college offering a range of courses at their five campuses, Central and West Brighton, Shoreham, Durrington and Broadwater Worthing at all levels.

Brighton Central Campus - BN1 4FA and West Campus BN2 5PB

Wednesday 10th October 2018

5-7pm

Shoreham Airport Campus Shoreham BN43 5FF

Shoreham Campus

Wednesday 17th October 2018

6-8pm

for Aircraft Maintenance, Motor Vehicle Maintenance, Motorsport Engineering

14-19 Centre, Broadwater Road, Worthing BN14 8H

Broadwater Campus - Wednesday 17th October 2018

6-8pm

for Business, Beauty Therapy, Childcare, Computing, Construction trades, Engineering, Hairdressing, Make Up, Pathways, Travel & Tourism, Uniformed Services

University Centre, Littlehampton Road, Worthing BN12 6NU

West Durrington Campus - Wednesday 17th October 2018 6-8pm

for Art & Design, Catering & Hospitality, Fashion & Textiles, Foundation Art, Games Development, Graphic Design, Music, Performing Arts, Theatre Production https://www.gbmc.ac.uk

Crawley College

Is mainly a vocational college offering a range of courses at all levels

Open Evening dates:

Saturday 10th November 2018 10am - 1pm Thursday 21st March 2019 4.30 - 7pm

www.crawley.ac.uk

Chichester College Brinsbury Campus

Is a vocational college specialising in land based courses

Saturday 6th October 2018 10am - 1pm

www.chichester.ac.uk/brinsbury

Collyer's 6th Form College

6th Form College in Horsham

Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th November 2018 6.30 - 9pm

www.collyers.ac.uk

BV_d

Specialising in creative courses in Music / Fashion / Media etc.

Wednesday 17th October 2018 6 - 8pm Tuesday 13th November 2018 6 - 8pm

www.dv8sussex.com

Plumpton College

Is a specialist land based college offering a range of courses at all levels.

Information Morning

Saturday 29th September 2018 9am - 12pm Saturday 10th November 2018 9am - 12pm

Taster Day Courses: see Plumpton College website or see Mrs Cutress for more information. Application forms to be handed to Mrs Cutress.

22nd / 23rd October 2018 and 18th / 19th February 2019

www.plumpton.ac.uk

Shoreham Academy 6th Form

An academic college offering A Level and BTEc qualifications alongside sports academies.

Open Evening

Thursday 8th November 2018

St Paul's Catholic 6th Form College

A 6th form college in Burgess Hill offering a range of academic A level subjects

Open Evening

Thursday 15th November 2018

6- 8pm (pre-register for Fast track via

the website)

www.stpaulssixthform.co.uk Apply on line direct to St Paul's via their website

Steyning Grammar School 6th Form

6th Form College in Steyning, West Sussex

Information Evening

Tuesday 25th September 2018 6pm and 7.30pm

Subject information evening

Tuesday 16th October 2018 5.30 - 8.30pm

www.sqs.uk.net

Sussex Downs College (Lewes)

A 6th form college that offers a range of academic and vocational courses

Open Evenings:

www.sussexdowns.ac.uk

Varndean College

A 6^{th} form college in Brighton that offers a range of academic subjects at Level 3 and a smaller range of Level 2 subjects.

International Baccalaureate Open Evening only

Thursday 18th October 2018 6.30 - 7.45pm

College Open Evenings:

Saturday 29th September 2018 11.00am - 2.00pm Wednesday 7th November 2018 6.30 - 9.00pm Thursday 8th November 2018 6.30 - 9.00pm

www.varndean.ac.uk

On From 16 Evening - Thursday 11th October 2018

We are hoping to have the following providers in attendance at our On From 16 Evening

Army RAF

www.army.mod.uk www.raf.mod.uk

BHASVIC Crawley College

<u>www.bhasvic.ac.uk</u> <u>www.crawley.ac.uk</u>

Greater Brighton Metropolitan College Collyer's 6th Form College

www.gbmc.ac.uk www.collyers.ac.uk

Plumpton College St Paul's Catholic 6th Form College

www.plumpton.ac.uk www.stpaulssixthform.co.uk

Steve Willis Training

Sussex Downs College (Lewes)

www.stevewillis.com www.sussexdowns.ac.uk

Varndean College Brit School

www.varndean.ac.uk www.brit.croydon.sch.uk

BVd

www.dv8sussex.com

NHS

www.nhs.net

Sussex Police

www.sussex.police.uk

BACA / PACA

www.paca.uk.com

National Citizen Service www.ncsthechallenge.org

BIMM

www.bimm.co.uk

Sigta

www.sigta.co.uk

Albion in the Community

www.albioninthecommunity.org.uk

Things to consider when completing your College Application

- <u>All</u> college applications must be made by 7th December. Applications received after this date may be added to a waiting list.
- Varndean and BHASVIC have a new shared application from on line. Apply via their individual websites - you can not apply to BHASVIC and Varndean as joint first choice colleges.
- Most College have on line application forms. Check their individual website or see Mrs Cutress for more information or assistance.
- Students are reminded that they should apply for more than one college and that a decision about which college to attend can be made after interview.
- Be realistic about your options are you going to get the entry requirements for the courses that you want to study? Some Colleges are <u>VERY</u> strict about this.
- Students considering an Apprenticeship should also apply to College as a 'back-up'. It is easier to withdraw from a place than to apply late if an Apprenticeship is not possible.
- You must include YOUR mobile number and email address as the College will send you important information about interviews by text or email rather than post. Remember to check your emails regularly!

Careers Advice and Guidance

Mrs Cutress is available in her office every afternoon until 4pm. Please feel free to pop along if you want to discuss course choices, need assistance completing application forms or anything college / career related. If you want to discuss anything in more depth, please request a careers interview.

Making choices

Students should consider these things when making their subject and college choices:

- If a student has a career in mind research to ensure that they study the required A level choices for that career. (www.ucas.com is useful for this)
- If they have no career in mind, they should do what they are good at / enjoy and try to choose a range of subjects in order to keep their options open.
- Some courses have specific entry requirements, e.g. to study French / German A level you will need Grade 6 in that language at GCSE
- Look at how the course is assessed, % coursework / exams. Most A Levels will be 100% exam. Applied A Levels and BTECs will have practical and coursework elements as well as final exams.
- Students are more likely to achieve good results if their choices suit their interests and abilities
- Consider transport and how they will get to college.
- Does the college 'feel right'?
- How will the college support any extra learning needs you might have?
- Results look at their results on their website for the subjects that you want to study. Research specific subject areas, not just the overall results for the whole college.
- Courses vary from college to college, make sure the college you choose offers the modules you
 want to study.
- What support and guidance do they offer for university applications or your chosen next step?

Interviews

Students will be invited to attend interviews at their chosen colleges from February onwards. Colleges will send details of the interviews by either email or text, it is very important that you check your emails regularly and give them an email address that you use and check. Students will be required to take Year 10 reports to their interviews, therefore please keep this safe!

If studying an Art / Photography subject students will be required to take a portfolio of evidence with them.

If students have chosen Dance / Performing Arts they will be expected to attend an audition

College Transport for Students aged 16+

The County Council's policy is that it is normally the responsibility of parents to meet all transport costs for full-time students aged 16+. https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-and-college-travel/help-with-transport/post-16-and-college-transport/for more information.

Students travelling by rail can use a Sussex Student Card to obtain discount when buying monthly season tickets on line. The Sussex Student Card is available, free of charge, using application forms available at schools and colleges or the school transport website (https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-and-college-transport/other-transport-discounts/sussex-student-card/ or your local train station. Once students have enrolled at their college in September, the application form needs to be signed by the College to confirm that they are registered on the courses and then the form can be sent off for processing. Students can then apply for their season tickets on line at www.southernrailwaytickets.com/further-ed/ using the unique number on the Sussex Student Card.

Travel by bus - Young people aged 16 to 19 inclusive, who are in full-time education, are entitled to 25% off standard fares on production of an appropriate ID card, acceptable forms of ID are Citizencards (https://www.citizencard.com/), Sussex Student Cards (https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/schools-and-colleges/school-and-college-transport/other-transport-discounts/sussex-student-card/) on Compass Travel Buses

16-19 Bursary Fund

The Government has set aside some money for schools, colleges, training providers and local authorities to allocate to young people who need financial support to stay on in full and part-time further education or training. It can help with any education-related costs that may arise during the school year such as the cost of travel, uniforms, educational visits, books and equipment.

There are two types of bursaries:

Vulnerable student bursary — You could get up to £1,200 if at least one of the following applies:

- you're in or recently left local authority care
- you get Income Support or Universal Credit in your name
 - you get Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in your name and either Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) or Universal Credit
- you get Personal Independence Payment (PIP) in your name and either ESA or Universal Credit

You may get the full amount if you have expenses and study full-time on a course of at least 30 weeks.

Discretionary bursary - You can apply for a discretionary bursary if you are not eligible for a vulnerable bursary but you need financial help to stay on in further education or training. Your school, college or training provider will have its own eligibility criteria as their funds are limited and they need to make sure it gets to the students who most need financial help to stay on in further education or training. The eligibility criteria might be based on your family's income, whether your parents receive benefits, or whether you have previously been entitled to free school meals. Payment of bursaries will depend on attendance, behaviour and standard of work.

You should make an application as soon as you have decided where you are going to study. The sooner you apply, the sooner you will start to receive support. <u>Students should contact the student support services of the college they are going to</u>.

For further information visit www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund

Learner Support

The Education Funding Agency (EFA) is concerned with providing financial and related support to people who would otherwise find it a struggle, if not impossible, to stay in learning. Visit www.education.gov.uk to find a link to the EFA, where you can find details about the various forms of help available to learners of all ages.

If you have any queries please call the Learner Support Helpline on 0800 121 8989.

Care to Learn

If you are under 20 and have a child of your own and are the main carer, you may be able to claim Care to Learn. This provides help with childcare and travel costs for young parents who are in education. For further details visit www.gov.uk/care-to-learn or call or email the Learner Support Helpline Telephone: 0800 121 8989 / c2l@studentbursarysupport.co.uk

West Sussex County Council

May be able to assist with certain costs for post 16 education (especially transport) where eligibility criteria are satisfied. 01243 526175 - pupil support office at WSCC.

Check out these useful websites:

UCAS

https://www.ucas.com/

University website to search degree courses, Universities and check entry requirements for $\underline{\textbf{all}}$ degree courses

Best Course 4 Me

http://www.bestcourse4me.com/

Information on AS/A levels and BTEC subjects choices and what careers / degree they could lead to, as well as what salary you could expect to learn

Not Going to University

https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/

Online apprenticeships guide that offers you advice on how to become an apprentice

All About School Leavers

https://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/

Search for school leaver programmes, degree apprenticeships.

Volunteering overseas

http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk

Fancy volunteering overseas? Have a look at this website for ideas on gap year projects.

Outset Youth Action

http://www.outsetyouth.org.uk/volunteer/near-you/local/33

Fancy doing some regular volunteering locally - check out this website to see what is available.

Your Space

https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/your-space/

A West Sussex sponsored website for young people with information about careers and life choices.

Apprenticeships

https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch

National Apprenticeship website has lists of current vacancies and more information on employers.

BEACH - Brighton Employability Advice and Careers Hut

http://beach.brightonandhove.jobs.com/

Information about Careers and life choices in Brighton and Hove

TAKEOFF

http://takeoff.gatwickdiamondjobs.com/

Information about Careers and life choices in Mid Sussex

Coastal Pathway

http://pathway.coastalwestsussexjobs.com

Information about Careers and life choices in West Sussex

National Careers Service

https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/

Is a government funded website offering help with CV writing and careers information.

Careers Box

https://www.careersbox.co.uk/

A free online library of careers related films, news and information. Match your skills to work and training opportunities.

STEM Careers

http://www.wherestemcantakeyou.co.uk/

Highlights the huge range of career opportunities to anyone interested in science, technology, engineering and maths.

Careers in the NHS

https://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk/

Did you know that there are over 350 careers available in the NHS? Do the career mapper quiz, research in the A-Z section

Gov. UK

www.gov.uk

Go to the 'Education and Learning' section for information on apprenticeships, financial assistance and learning support

Creative Skillset

http://creativeskillset.org/

For entertainment, media, fashion, textiles, publishing, advertising, marketing & communications. Job profiles and case studies in the creative industries.

Careers in Social Care

http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/

To discover the career opportunities in this sector

Lantra

http://www.lantra.co.uk/

Check out careers in the land based sector

icould.com

http://icould.com/

More than 1000 videos of real life people talking about their career journeys. Search by subject, job type of life theme. Take the Buzz Quiz to give career ideas that match your personality type.

Prospects

https://www.prospects.ac.uk

Research job profiles

Future Morph

http://www.futuremorph.org

This site provides information for young people about careers from studying science, maths and technology.

Hospitality Guild

http://www.hospitalityguild.co.uk/

Find out about careers in the hospitality industry.

Tomorrows Engineers

http://www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk/

Find out about careers and degree courses in engineering

Wired Sussex

http://www.wiredsussex.com/

Check out the digital and media jobs / companies in Sussex

Ted Talks

https://www.ted.com/

TED Talks are influential videos from expert speakers on a huge range of subjects.

MOOC's

https://www.futurelearn.com/ or https://www.mooc-list.com/ Expand your learning by study a MOOC

- Massive Open Online Courses (free online courses) offered by the top universities and colleges in a wide range of subject

Dates To Remember

Thursday 11th October
6.00 - 8.00pm
On From 16 Evening

All on line applications to be made before 7th December

Year 11 Parents Evening
Thursday 1st November

Year 11 reports issued
February 2019

GCSEs start! 14th May 2019

Results Day - Thursday 22nd August 2019

Enrollment at Colleges starts soon after this date so be available!