

WELCOME TO  
FIND YOUR PATH 2025

# AIMS OF THIS EVENING

- ❖ To outline the legal requirements for post 16 study
- ❖ To highlight the range of opportunities available to students
- ❖ To explain the application process and advise you of key events and dates
- ❖ To meet representatives from local Colleges, companies and organizations

# THE BASICS

- ❖ Students should stay in full time education/training until 18
- ❖ Students have the option to stay until 19
- ❖ Students can go to 6<sup>th</sup> form, an FE college or do an apprenticeship with an employer.

# UNDERSTANDING LEVELS

- ❖ GCSE grades **1-3** are Level **1** Qualifications
- ❖ GCSE grades **4-9** are Level **2** Qualifications
- ❖ Gain enough Level 2 = move on to Level 3
- ❖ This normally needs to include your Maths and English Language.

# LEVEL 1 CHOICES

- ❖ Foundation Learning Programmes
- ❖ New skills might mean starting on Level 1  
eg. Electrician
- ❖ Level 1 and 2 courses usually only last for one year.
- ❖ Pass this and you can move up to the next level.



# LEVEL 2 CHOICES

- ❖ GCSEs
- ❖ Vocational Qualifications (AAQ / BTEC etc)
- ❖ Apprenticeships and NVQs
  
- ❖ Generally you will need 3-5 GCSEs grade 3 or higher
  
- ❖ Most providers will support you in re-sitting Maths/English Language if you did not achieve a grade 4.

# LEVEL 3 CHOICES

- ❖ A levels
  - ❖ Vocational Qualifications ( BTECS, AAQ, UAL, etc.)
  - ❖ Advanced Apprenticeships and NVQs
  - ❖ T Levels
  - ❖ International Baccalaureate
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- ❖ Generally you will need 5 or more GCSEs grade 4+ (including Maths & English Language)
  - ❖ You may need grade 6+ to study some subjects

# HOW MANY SUBJECTS?

- ❖ Level 3 – equivalent to 3 A Levels
- ❖ Combination of courses open to you
- ❖ All courses are worth UCAS points for University
- ❖ Level 1 & 2 courses usually studying one subject plus Maths/English Language if needed
- ❖ Less time at college than school, more independent learning expected



# WHAT CAN I STUDY?

- ❖ All the subjects you have taken so far can be continued
- ❖ There is a huge range of new subjects to choose from too:

Motor vehicle maintenance and repair

Travel and tourism

Film and broadcast

Uniformed services

Philosophy

Environment

Animal care

Floristry

Hairdressing

Business

Graphic design

Equine Studies

Sociology

Media Studies

Music Technology

Law

Hospitality

Engineering

Animal Care

Forestry

Criminology

Statistics

Estate Agency

Plumbing

Sports Massage

Carpentry

Games Design

Economics

Psychology

Politics

Geology

# HOW DO I CHOOSE?

- ❖ Got a particular career in mind? Research what it needs  
( Unifrog accounts, UCAS website)
- ❖ No particular career? Then ask yourself:
  - ❖ What am I interested in?
  - ❖ What am I good at?
  - ❖ What type of studying suits me best?

# MYTH BUSTING

- ❖ **A levels are harder**
- ❖ Not harder, just assessed differently. Pick what suits you
- ❖ **You need A levels to go to University**
- ❖ You need UCAS points, which all level 3 courses give you
- ❖ **This subject is “a waste of time”**
- ❖ All subjects give you transferable skills for your working life
- ❖ **You have to go to X college to be successful**
- ❖ All our local providers have brilliant results

# WHAT NEXT?

- ❖ Look at the full range of courses open to you
- ❖ Attend college open evenings
- ❖ Do research on careers and LMI
- ❖ Parental log in for Unifrog : DWCSparents
- ❖ Pick what interests and excites you – you will do much better!
- ❖ **Let your child choose their own path**



# HOW TO CHOOSE A PROVIDER?

## ❖ Ask these questions:

- ❖ What are the facilities like?
  - ❖ How will you travel there? Cost? Time?
  - ❖ Do you like the feeling/ethos there?
  - ❖ What do the current students say about the college?
  - ❖ What guidance and support will they give you ?
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- ## ❖ DON'T JUST FOLLOW THE HERD!



# APPLICATION PROCESS

- ❖ **All online** – college websites
- ❖ Predicted grades from your Year 10 or Year 11 report
- ❖ You cannot apply to **both** Varndean **and** BHASVIC
- ❖ Always apply to **more than one** college, no limit to how many you can apply to.
- ❖ Want an apprenticeship? Sign up to the government website and apply to college as a **back up**
- ❖ Key date: **Friday 5th December** for priority applications

# APPLICATION PROCESS

- ❖ Check your email for invites to interviews
- ❖ Let school know when you have an interview
- ❖ Take your most recent school report with you
- ❖ Interviews will take place between applications opening and March
- ❖ You can accept multiple placements – have back ups
- ❖ You do not have to decline other placements until results day

# NEXT SUMMER

- ❖ **GCSE RESULTS DAY – Thursday 20th August 2026**
- ❖ Email/Phone your college to formally accept or decline your place
- ❖ Grades not met? – talk to your offer colleges first
- ❖ If not happy with their amended offer, call others
- ❖ **Enrolment and new intake days in July and August**
- ❖ You will be expected to attend so check these dates **before** booking holidays!

# I HOPE THIS HAS HELPED!

- ❖ You are not in this alone
- ❖ Student survey shortly to see how you are feeling
- ❖ You can pop in to see me in my office next to DT6 or in the Library Classroom at Break Time Mon-Thurs
- ❖ You can email me on [careers@downlands.org](mailto:careers@downlands.org)
- ❖ You can ask for a careers interview



NOW GO AND  
FIND YOUR PATH!