



# Preston School

## Careers Information

### Your Future - Helping you Plan

#### Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

Young people who left year 11 in the summer of 2014 or later must continue in learning (education or training) until at least their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Staying in learning doesn't mean you have to stay in school; there are a number of options you can choose:

- Full-time education e.g. at a college or sixth form
- An apprenticeship or traineeship
- Part-time education, but must be alongside employment, self-employment or volunteering that is for 20 hours or more per week

#### Full-time Education

Further education courses can be studied at a **college** or a **sixth form**. There are a wide range of courses available, these can be studied at different levels, each course will have a specific entry requirement. Typical qualifications offered at colleges and sixth forms include;

- **Vocational Courses** eg. Engineering, Hairdressing, Business - available in Levels 1, 2 and 3
- **A levels** (academic subjects) eg. English, Biology, Law - only available at Level 3

#### Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is where you are learning through hands on experience of a job and gaining a nationally recognised qualification (NVQ). You can apply for an apprenticeship while you're still at school. To start one, you'll need to have finished year 11. They consist of working towards a range of qualifications within an apprenticeship framework. They can take between one and four years to complete, depending on the level studied. As an apprentice you'll:

- work alongside experienced staff
- gain job-specific skills
- earn a wage
- study towards a related qualification (usually one day a week)

If you feel you're not ready for an apprenticeship, a traineeship can help to prepare you for one.

#### Foundation Learning/Entry level programmes/Traineeship options

There are a variety of courses available for young people not yet ready for one of the options above or for those with additional needs. These courses are individually tailored to learning needs, and aim to improve skills so that goals can be achieved and progression to one of the above options, or employment can take place. These programmes are offered at further education establishments as well as some training providers.

## Useful Careers Information

The Careers South West website has lots of useful information and is a good starting point to help you make decisions about your next steps. For further personalised services and support visit

[www.cswgroup.co.uk](http://www.cswgroup.co.uk)

Our **Adviser Online** service can help answer any of your careers related queries and questions. It is available Monday to Friday from 12 noon till 6pm, including during the school holidays. By visiting the Careers South West website [www.cswgroup.co.uk](http://www.cswgroup.co.uk) and clicking on the link you can web chat to a professionally trained Careers Adviser.

You can find information on job areas and specific careers using the Careers Tools and the Job Profiles on the National Careers Service website. Go to [www.direct.gov.uk/NationalCareersService](http://www.direct.gov.uk/NationalCareersService)

Whether you've got a career in mind or you haven't got a clue, Plotr can help you discover your future and guide you to careers you'll love. Go to [www.plotr.co.uk](http://www.plotr.co.uk)

[www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk) can help you plan your study and work and has information about your choices.

To view film and video clips relating to many career areas go to [www.careersbox.co.uk](http://www.careersbox.co.uk)

Kudos provides young people a personalised experience based on their interests and educational aspirations to suggest suitable careers. You can explore these suggestions or look at your own career ideas. Go to [www.cascaid.co.uk/kudos](http://www.cascaid.co.uk/kudos) (helparts82)

If you are considering university or completing a degree course, then research and explore entry requirements before applying to College/Sixth Form. Go to [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk)

[www.ukcoursefinder.com](http://www.ukcoursefinder.com) can be used to find out more about degree level courses.

The Russell Group's guide '*Informed Choices*' provides students with information, advice and guidance about their post-16 subject choices – [www.russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college-in-the-uk/subject-choices-at-school-and-college/](http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/for-students/school-and-college-in-the-uk/subject-choices-at-school-and-college/)

### **Are you interested in an Apprenticeship?**

[www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship) - Find and apply for apprenticeships in England.

[www.careersworld.co.uk](http://www.careersworld.co.uk) - Careers World can support those individuals looking to study or begin a career in their chosen sector.

[www.careermap.co.uk](http://www.careermap.co.uk) - Just enter your postcode to find school leaver apprenticeship jobs in your area.

[www.paidtolearn.co.uk](http://www.paidtolearn.co.uk) - Paid to Learn is a dedicated website for apprenticeship vacancies and careers advice for young people aged 16-18 in the UK, provided by Positive Outcomes.

[www.apprenticeships.qa.com](http://www.apprenticeships.qa.com) - QA offers apprenticeships in IT, software, digital marketing, project management and technical sales.