



# Aston Academy

## Specialising in Maths & Computing

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Dear Parent/Carer,

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In our role as Careers Lead and Careers Advisor at Aston Academy, we thought we'd get in touch with key information regarding the Careers provision your Y11 child may expect this academic year, including:

- Career Guidance Interviews
- Students options at the age of 16
- Key associated links for your reference
- What parents/carers can do to best support our Careers Programme at home
- Key dates for your reference

### 1. Career Guidance Interviews

Y11 is a crucial year for so many reasons, but not least because each Y11 student is guided into serious consideration of his/her post-16 options, and beyond that, potential Career Pathway.

Students can therefore expect to be given a one-to-one session with Mr. Shaw, our trained Careers Advisor. We already have a schedule for this but parents/carers may contact Mr. Shaw by emailing [james.shaw@astonacademy.org](mailto:james.shaw@astonacademy.org) and he will be happy to respond to any associated queries.

**During a 45 minute 1-1 guidance interview the careers adviser will help your child to:**

- identify personal qualities and skills
- identify the skills the student would like to develop
- come up with ideas for study and work
- explore specific career areas
- explore positive and possible pathways and local labour market
- Support with Applications
- understand the process of job search, writing a CV and going for interviews
- explore interests, likes and dislikes, family influences, personal barriers and work experience
- think about how study, work experience, and home-life can all contribute to employability

### Benefits of the Careers Guidance Meeting

- increased motivation and self- confidence
- greater self-awareness
- identification of more achievable ambitions
- improved decision making skills
- increased awareness of opportunities

This exciting process starts this week (Mon Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>), and we guarantee that all students will be interviewed at least once over the course of this academic year.

### 2. Students Options at the age of 16

There are plenty of different routes to go down when students turn 16, whether that's going to college to do A Levels or a vocational course like a T Level, or starting to earn while learning as an apprentice.

#### Options at the age of 16:



**All adults in school have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children**

- stay in full-time education, e.g. at a college, doing A Levels, T Levels or other academic qualifications,
- start an apprenticeship,
- work or volunteer for 20 hours or more a week while in part-time education or training

### **Levels and Entry Requirements (Some may differ and please check each provision)**

- Entry Level – No qualification requirements
- Level 1 – Entry Level 3 to 4 GCSEs at Grade 2s (inc. English Language)
- Level 2 – 4 GCSEs at Grade 3s (inc. English Language)
- Level 3 and A-Level 5 GCSEs at Grade 4s or above (inc. English and Maths)
- (Please be aware certain A-Level subjects need higher entry grades)
- If Students do not gain a grade 4 in English and Maths they will be supported and have to re-sit these at College.

### **3. Key associated links for your reference**

#### **Vocational Route Courses**

Vocational subjects – Start from Entry Level to Level 3 and are related to a broad employment area such as business, engineering, IT, health and social care. Previously called BTECs and OCR Cambridge Nationals, if they are at Level 3 these are now called Applied Vocational Qualifications. These courses are offered at College such as Rotherham and Sheffield and many more.

Tour Video of Rotherham College [https://youtu.be/KeD2Ly5eqWs?si=2gP9\\_5Futu\\_lvCwy](https://youtu.be/KeD2Ly5eqWs?si=2gP9_5Futu_lvCwy)

Tour Video of Sheffield College <https://youtu.be/myzJBjffTRg?si=RX-5mSldktu6eRJm>

#### **A-levels**

A-levels are a two-year course of study.

Most students study three A-levels, but you can also combine them with other qualifications.

After A-levels, many young people go onto higher education at college and/or university to do degrees and higher technical qualifications, while others begin working at age 18.

Video Parents Guide to A-Levels <https://youtu.be/1kf43BZ68LY?si=bvVUtyFPyUyVTjw>

Aston Post 16 Information <https://www.astonacademy.org/page/?title=About+Us&pid=95>

#### **Apprenticeships**

Apprenticeships combine study with training in a paid job.

Apprentices spend most of their time at work, with at least 20% of their time spent learning on the job.

Apprenticeships are offered at all levels, but most 16-year-olds would enter an apprenticeship at Level 2 or 3. Level 2 is equivalent to GCSEs and Level 3 is equivalent to A-levels and T-levels.

Apprenticeships are offered by employers, who advertise when they have vacancies. Vacancies are also advertised locally, for example through colleges, or on national websites such as National Apprenticeship Service <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Video Guide to Apprenticeships <https://youtu.be/fzllhm7Q3d8?si=3SMESHU-osJK7-ZE>

#### **T- Levels**

A T-level is a two-year course that focuses on technical skills. One T-level is equivalent to three A-levels.

T-level students spend approximately 80% of their time at college or school, learning the knowledge and skills that employers need, and 20% of their time on an industry placement.

After T-levels, young people can either choose to continue into employment (including opting for an apprenticeship) or select a higher education course aimed at the career they want. This could be a higher technical course or a degree.

Video Guide to T-Levels [https://youtu.be/7rua65bHjMw?si=IHZaKY87\\_ScPWUdk](https://youtu.be/7rua65bHjMw?si=IHZaKY87_ScPWUdk)

In addition, Y11 students will attend PSHE sessions during tutor time with a specific careers focus as below: (add details) as well as receiving local employers into Y11 Assemblies to brief them on such matters as: apprenticeships, T Levels, technical education at post-16.

We will be celebrating National Apprenticeships Week and National Careers Week in February and March 2024 respectively, which will give us the opportunity to “flood” these weeks with associated information and resources, as well as inject into lessons further tasks, ideas and subject-specific detail.

Useful Websites to support Careers Decision Making:

Aston Academy Careers Page: <https://www.astonacademy.org/page/?title=Careers+Advice&pid=76>

Local Labour Market Information: <https://southyorkshire.startprofile.com/page/explore-sheffield>

National Careers Service <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

Prospect Careers <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/>

UCAS – (University) <https://www.ucas.com/>

National Apprenticeship Service <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Careers Pilot <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

NHS <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>

#### 4. What parents/carers can do to best support our Careers Programme at home

We invite you to support the Careers Programme in school, please by firstly talking to your child about his/her future aspirations and how they have a direct link to performance and attitude in school during these last 8 months.

You could, in addition, spend time researching Apprenticeships in our local area, or job sectors in the region or the UK Labour Market in general.

For some teens the decision on what to study after their GCSEs will be fairly straightforward. If they know what they want to do when they leave school at 18, this may influence their choices. For example, someone who hopes to train as a dentist will need to take the sciences (Biology and Chemistry) at sixth form or someone that wants to go into IT may want to take digital business.

Alternatively, if they know what they enjoy they may decide to continue similar studies in greater depth – for example, someone that loves languages may want to study French, German and Spanish.

In many cases, it may be a good idea for your teen to make choices which give some experience in lots of areas so students can find out more about what they do like rather than limiting their options by taking similar subjects. Additionally, they may want to consider the type of qualification they'd most enjoy studying and then decide what subject they will study based on what's on offer for that qualification type.

Useful websites

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-your-education-and-training-choices>

<https://www.theparentsguideto.co.uk/tips/categories/options-at-16>

5. Key Dates for your reference:

Y11 Parents' Consultation Evenings: Monday October 9<sup>th</sup> & Monday February 5<sup>th</sup>

Y11 Employer Encounter Assembly: Monday October 30<sup>th</sup>, "Planning for the Future", Everild Hindley, NHS

Y11 Higher Education Assembly: Monday December 4<sup>th</sup>

National Apprenticeships Week 2024: 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February

National Careers Week 2024: 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> March

We thank you in anticipation of your support for your child as s/he makes informed choices about the future.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. A. Booker

Assistant Vice Principal, Personal Development

Mr. J. Shaw

Careers Advisor