

Y10 Careers Opportunity letter

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are contacting you regarding the Careers provision your child may expect this academic year, including:

- Y10 Work Experience Information
- Students' options at the age of 16 – it's not as far off as you may think!
- Key associated links for your reference
- What parents/carers can do to best support our Careers Programme at home
- Celebration of our Gatsby Benchmark success
- Key dates for your reference

Y10 Work Experience Information

Following on from the success of last year, we are delighted to inform you that your child will conduct a week's Work Experience in Y10. Our last year's Y10 cohort found this experience to be both interesting and useful, offering a very valuable insight into the world of work and helping to inform choices and local options available.

You will receive a letter soon giving you more information and inviting you to a presentation about this exciting initiative but for now please save the evening of **Monday 16th October** for the presentation and be aware that Y10 Work Experience Week will run from **Monday July 7th to Friday July 11th** – so please don't book any holidays!

Options at the age of 16:

- 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.

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

Tour Video of Sheffield College <https://youtu.be/myzJBjfTRg?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

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/>

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

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 2 years.

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>

Celebration of our Gatsby Benchmark success

Please do look at our website to see how Aston Academy fared during our very recent Compass + evaluation. We are nearly at 100% in all key areas! These areas are:



Key Dates for your reference:

Y10 Work Experience Presentation Evening – Mon October 16th

Work Experience Week: Mon July 7th to Fri July 11th

Y10 Further Education Assemblies:

Aston 6th Form Assembly – Tues Oct 8th, National Apprenticeship Assembly – Mon Oct 1st

Sheffield College Assembly – Tues Oct 22nd, RNN College Assembly (Rotherham and North Notts) – Tues 3rd December

National Apprenticeships Week 2025: 10th – 14th February, National Careers Week 2024: 3rd – 8th 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 & Mr. N. Raymond
Careers Advisors

