



## A Parents' Guide to Progression Opportunities

### So Where Do You Go From Here?

Today's students are faced with a wider array of post-18 options than ever before and it is crucial they are making informed decisions.

For those students looking to study at university - choosing the right course at the right university is an important decision, involving a significant investment of time and money.

Other students may be thinking of sidestepping university and exploring other ways to make the next career step.

At Weymouth College, we ensure that every student has access to a 1:1 guidance appointment and we operate an impartial careers education, information, advice and guidance programme through both tutorial and Moodle. You can find full details of our Careers Programme on the College Website.

So where do you go from here?

### Higher Education

If a student is looking to continue their studies at university then information regarding application deadlines, finance (tuition fees and living costs), how to choose the right course at the right university and how to complete the application progress can all be found at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com).

At Weymouth College students are offered 1 to 1 guidance for their UCAS applications and we systematically deliver presentations on student finance and the application process in a timely manner, which you can access below

HE personal statement PowerPoint

SFE presentation

SFE factsheet

And UCAS have created a dedicated parents pack to explain the process to parents  
<https://www.ucas.com/file/185091/download?token=4Pf51fWt>

All parents of Level 3 students will be invited to a ***One Future: Progression Options Beyond Weymouth College*** Event in March. This event will offer both the students and parents/carers information on applying to Higher Education, Student Finance and Apprenticeships.

### Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

**Higher apprenticeships** provide an opportunity to gain Level 4 qualifications or above, with most apprentices gaining an NVQ Level 4, HND, or foundation degree. Some offer the opportunity to progress to Level 7 (which is postgraduate degree level).

A higher apprenticeship can take from one to five years to complete, and involve part-time study at a college, university, or training provider.



**Degree apprenticeships** are a new type of programme offered by some universities. Students can achieve a full bachelor's or master's degree as part of their apprenticeship.

These programmes are being developed by employers, universities, and professional bodies working in partnership.

Degree apprenticeships combine working with studying part-time at a university. Apprentices are employed throughout the programme, and spend part of their time at university and the rest with their employer. This can be on a day-to-day basis or in blocks of time, depending on the programme and requirements of the employer.

They can take between three to six years to complete, depending on the course level. Currently, the scheme is only available in England and Wales, although applications may be made from all parts of the UK.

Degree apprenticeships are still quite new, so there are a limited number of vacancies. It's anticipated that the number of vacancies will grow over the next year or two.

For further information see:

UCAS: Degree Apprenticeships

<https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/apprenticeships/apprenticeships-england/what-apprenticeships-are-available/degree-apprenticeships>

Prospects Website: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships>

## **Apprenticeships**

Work while you study – an apprenticeship is a way to gain the skills, knowledge and experience needed to get into many careers. They combine work, training and study - letting you 'earn while you learn'.

There are many different apprenticeships available across a wide range of industries, and for a wide variety of job roles. As a paid employee, each apprentice works alongside their studies. There are no student fees – training costs are funded by the government and your employer.

It's an ideal option if you have a clear idea of the career path you want to follow, providing practical, on-the-job training, and classroom-based instruction.

See **Weymouth College**: <https://www.weymouth.ac.uk/level-of-study/apprenticeships/>

**Amazing Apprenticeships Parents' Pack Apprenticeship Information**

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/app/uploads/2019/03/Parent-Pack-March.pdf> for more details

**Rate My Apprenticeship**: <https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/>

**GOV.UK Find An Apprenticeship**: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

## **Traineeships and School Leaver Programmes**

Traineeships prepare young people for future careers by helping them become work-ready. They are for 16 – 23 year olds, and young people with learning difficulty assessments up to age 25.



A traineeship could be suitable if:

- you're aged 16 — 19 and qualified below Level 3 (equivalent to two A levels at grades A to C)
- you're aged 19 — 23 and qualified below Level 2 (equivalent to five GCSEs at grades A\* to C)
- you think you'll be ready for employment within six months of starting a traineeship

You can find further details at:

**GOV.UK:** <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/traineeship-information-for-trainees>

**UCAS:** <https://www.ucas.com/further-education/apprenticeships-and-traineeships/traineeships-and-school-leaver-programmes>

## Directly into Employment

Students may progress from college straight into employment and our **Student Job Shop** - [www.weymouth.ac.uk/employers/student-job-shop/](http://www.weymouth.ac.uk/employers/student-job-shop/) - will be able to help them access vacancies available within our area.

## So How Can You Help?

Help them research what they want to do and consider all the options

### For HE

- Help them with their research into the right course and the right institution for them
- Encourage them to attend university open days and the Dorset UCAS fair (the college will arrange transport to and from Weymouth College for those students wishing to attend the Dorset UCAS Fair)
- Encourage them to get input from the college on drafting their personal statement and help them edit and refine it
- Encourage them to attend college presentations on the application process
- Explore and understand the finance opportunities offered by Student Finance England (SFE)
- Know the application deadlines. The 'on-time' deadline is in January (earlier for Oxford and Cambridge) but many institutions will take applications later if they have course places still available. Find out about Extra <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/types-offer/extra-choices>

### For apprenticeships, traineeships and school leaver programmes and direct employment

- Help them find the right apprenticeship or job vacancy for them. The Weymouth College Apprenticeship Team will help with identifying apprenticeship opportunities ([www.weymouth.ac.uk/level-of-study/apprenticeships/](http://www.weymouth.ac.uk/level-of-study/apprenticeships/))
- Help them get a good CV together – looking at relevant extracurricular activities and work experience in particular
- Explore the possibility of online tests which are being used by more and more employers as an additional filtering tool



- Help them prepare for an interview (which could be in person, by telephone or by Skype). Weymouth College will be happy to arrange for mock interview practice.

You will find some useful information on alternatives to university study and how to best prepare your application at:

<http://purepotential.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/AlttoUniF.pdf>

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

If you have any questions about progression opportunities, funding, the application process, CV/personal statement writing or interview techniques for your student - please give us a call on 01305 761100 and we will be pleased to arrange a suitable time to meet with you to explore further.