

Preparing for Year 11 and the future

A guide for students and their parents/carers

2022-2023

Introduction

Dear Student and Parents/Carers,

We know that starting Year 11 can feel daunting, not only for students but for their parents and families too! At Sutton Community Academy, we want you to know that you are not alone, there is a whole range of support available to support you through this time and help you to research and prepare for life after Year 11. We are committed to ensuring that you progress on to the best possible pathway for your future!

I have created this guide to help you have all the information you need in one place, inside you'll find information about the events and activities that will take place during the year, along with some of the additional things you can do outside of school to help yourself. You'll also find a timeline for the upcoming year, a list of useful websites and a checklist of tasks to help you prepare for leaving Year 11.

Students can find me in the Careers Office, located in the Sixth Form Area (Specialist Base). Students and Parents/Carers can also contact via Class Charts message or by emailing: jayne.cooke@attrust.org.uk

Please remember that I am here to support and help students and their families, you just have to ask!

I look forward to working you with during Year 11,

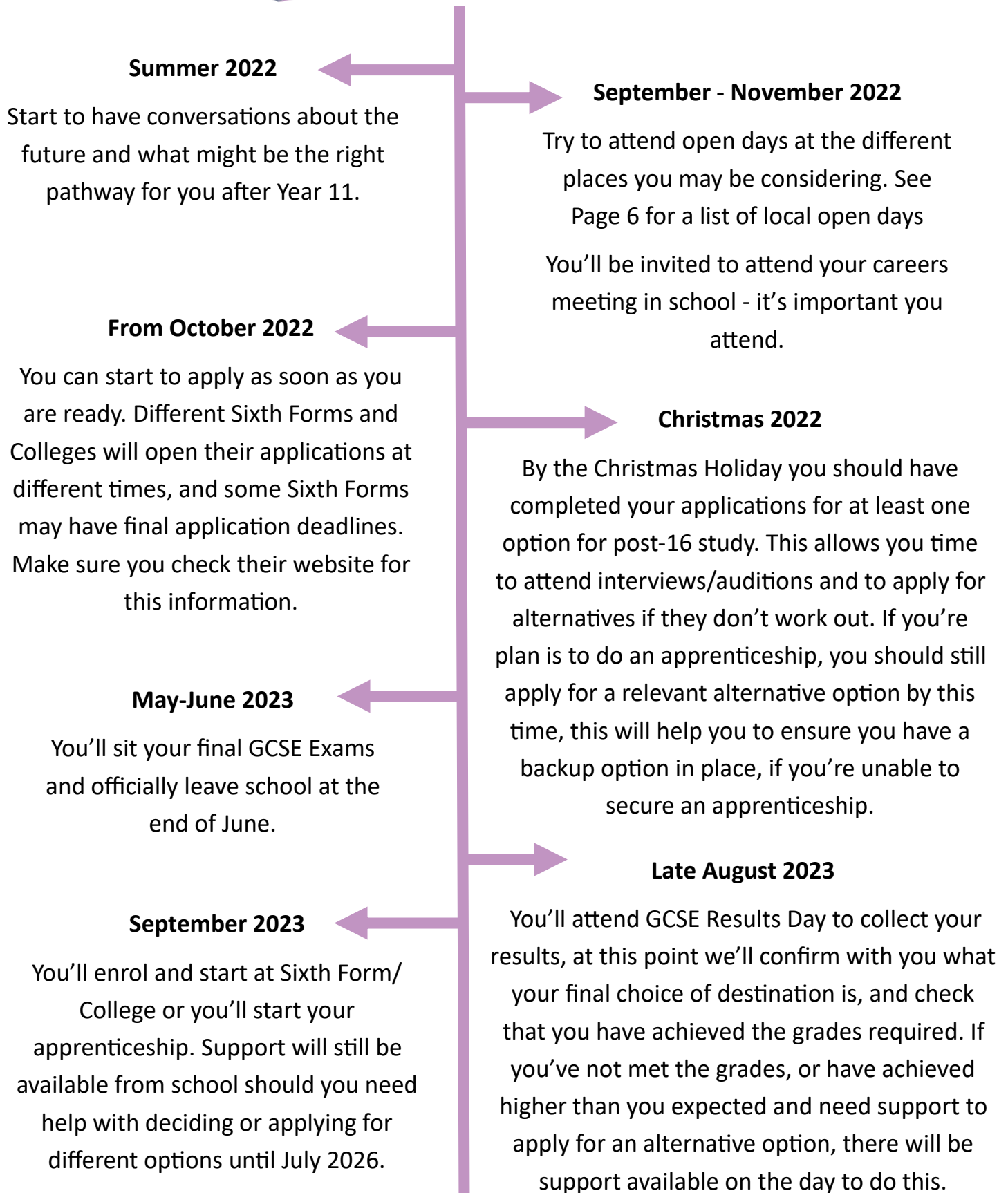
Kind regards,

Jayne Cooke

Careers Leader



Application Timeline



Pathways

There are lots of different things to consider when deciding on Post-16 pathways.

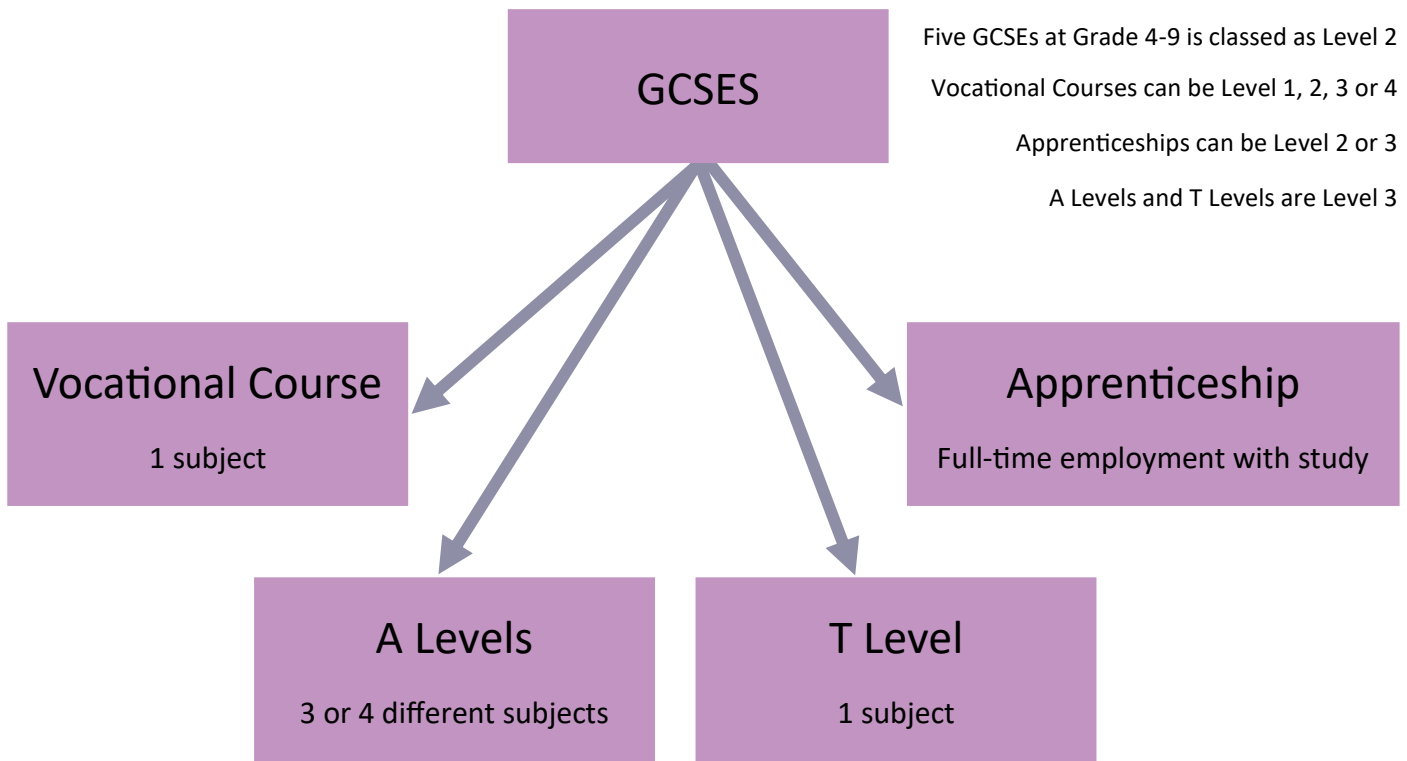
A common question that gets asked is 'What's the best option?', which seems an easy question but actually, the answer is quite complex. The best option is always a personal decision, what is best for one student may not be a good choice for another student.

After Year 11, students have so many options, they get the opportunity to study the subjects that interest and intrigue them, to help them pursue a job in an industry that excites them. So whilst it can feel overwhelming to think about what comes next, it is a very exciting time! There are different pathways for students to consider, and each have their own merits. This brief guide should help to give you an overview of the different options, and which might be the most suitable for you to explore further. The most important thing is that you choose what you feel is right for you, don't just follow your friends or do what an older sibling or cousin has done, and make sure you research where that pathway can lead to.

You might feel worried, or under pressure about picking the wrong option. Try to do your research, and speak to Mrs Cooke for careers guidance if you are still unsure. It's worth knowing that if you do decide on one pathway and then realise it's not right for you, then you can change course/subject, or even move to a totally different pathway completely. This might mean it takes you a year or two longer to reach your goal, but it's still completely achievable.

It's always a good idea to have a backup idea too. This might be another course option that requires lower grade requirements or it might be applying for a vocational course as an alternative in case you don't secure an apprenticeship that you are hoping for. Submitting an application does not mean you have committed to going somewhere, you don't make this commitment until August/September 2023 when you enrol or sign a contract with your chosen option.

Students who get five GCSE subjects at grade 4 or above should be aiming to complete a Level 3 qualification as their next step. There are some vocational areas where you may be required to complete a Level 2 course/apprenticeship first, this is usually where industry specific skills and knowledge is required such as Hairdressing and Mechanics. It's important that you always check the entry requirements for any course option, if you are not sure you can ask Mrs Cooke for help.



After GCSEs you will go into to ONE of the above options.

If you are going to study a Level 1 or Level 2 course, they will each last 1 year. Some Level 3 courses will be 1 year long, but most will last 2 years. You must stay in some form of full-time study for at least 2 years after leaving school. Any of the above options are classed as full time study.

Once you have completed any of the above at Level 3, you can then choose to progress on to university, or onto a higher/degree apprenticeship should you wish to. You don't need to make a final decision on this right now, but it's a good idea to do your research and have a plan of what you would like to aim towards. University study may not be the right choice for everyone straight away. Many people choose to work full time for a number of years and then decide to go to university later in life, and this is a perfectly valid route too!



Open events

Attending open events for local post-16 providers is an important way of helping to decide on the right place for you to study. On these pages you'll find a selection of local providers and their open dates. You might need to book a free place for some of them, so always check their websites.

Sutton Community Academy Sixth Form (SCA6)

Date: **Monday 14th November 2022**

Time: **5pm-7pm**

Address: *High Pavement, Sutton in Ashfield, NG17 1EE*

Website: www.suttonacademy.atrust.org.uk/post16/welcome-message

ATTFE College

Dates: **Wednesday 28th September 2022** (Ollerton) **3.30pm-5.30pm**

Wednesday 5th October 2022 (Sutton) **3.30pm-5.30pm**

Wednesday 23rd November 2022 (Ollerton) **3.30pm-5.30pm**

Monday 28th November 2022 (Sutton) **3.30pm-5.30pm**

Sutton: High Pavement, Sutton in Ashfield, NG17 1EE

Ollerton: The Dukeries Complex, Whinney Lane, New Ollerton, NG22 9TD

Website: attfe.org.uk/16-19-years-provision/attfe-college-16-19-years-provision

Confetti Institute of Creative Technologies

Date: **Saturday 8th October 2022**

Time: **10am-4pm**

Address: *Convent Street, Nottingham, NG1 3LL*

Website: confetti.ac.uk/open-days

Nottingham College

Date: Not yet announced - check their website regularly

Various locations across Nottingham, check here for full details:

www.nottinghamcollege.ac.uk/about-us/locations/centres

Website: www.nottinghamcollege.ac.uk/about-us/events/open-days

West Nottinghamshire College

Dates:	Thursday 22nd September 2022	(Sixth Form)	5.30pm-7.30pm
	Saturday 1st October 2022	(Main Campus)	10am-1pm (Quiet Hour 9-10am)
	Thursday 3rd November 2022	(Main Campus)	5.30pm-7.30pm
	Thursday 1st December 2022	(Eng. & Con.)	5.30pm-7.30pm

The college is located across various locations:

Main Campus: Derby Road, Mansfield, NG18 5BH

Construction Centre: Lowmoor Road, Station Park, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, NG17 7RB

Engineering Innovation Centre: Julias Way, Station Park, Kirkby-in-Ashfield, NG17 7RB

Sixth Form Centre: Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield, NG19 7BB

Website: www.nottinghamcollege.ac.uk/about-us/events/open-days

Bilborough Sixth Form College

Date: Not yet announced - check their website regularly

Address: *College Way, Nottingham, NG8 4DQ*

Website: bilborough.ac.uk/about/open-days/

Ashfield Sixth Form Centre

Date: Not yet announced - check their website regularly

Address: *Sutton Road, Kirkby In Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, NG17 8HP*

Website: www.ashfield.ttct.co.uk/post-16/prospectus/

Quarrydale Sixth Form

Date: Not yet announced - check their website regularly

Address: *Stoneyford Road, Sutton In Ashfield, NG17 2DU*

Website: site.quarrydale.co.uk/index.php/sixth-form

These dates were correct at the time of publishing, but may be subject to change. Please always check directly with the provider before attending an event.

Events

Throughout Year 11 there will be a number of events to help you with preparing for your future. These events are designed to help you learn more about the options available to you, to help you with researching and deciding what pathway you would like to follow, or what industry you might be interested in working in. These events are open to all Year 11 students, and many of them are a compulsory part of their GCSE studies. Some students may also be invited to attend subject specific events/activities.

Below you will find a quick overview, and full details of each event will be shared with you at the appropriate times. Where an event is open to parents/carers, we encourage you to attend with your child, to help you all to feel prepared and informed.

University of Nottingham Campus Visit

8th/9th September 2022

Students

This visit will allow students to learn more about university study and wider student life. They will take part in activities with academic staff and student ambassadors, as well as having the opportunity to tour the university campus. The letter and consent form for this visit will be sent out shortly, please keep an eye out for this and make sure to complete the consent form before the deadline.

Careers Fair

29th September 2022

Students and Parents

This event will allow students to talk to a wide variety of businesses and education providers, including local colleges, universities from across the UK, local businesses and national employers. There will be a variety of short insight talks to help students learn more about some of the options available. Parents are also invited to attend this event from 3-4pm and we hope to see many of you there.

Post-16 Providers Week

3rd-7th October 2022

Students

During this week students will hear from different post-16 providers during an assembly each morning, and they will then have opportunity to speak with the provider during breaktime in the Common Room.

Year 11 Parents' Evening & Revise Right

Monday 3rd October 2022

Students and Parents

This event allows parents and students the opportunity to meet with teachers and discuss predicted grades, as well as to help prepare for upcoming exams with revision strategies and support.

SCA6 Sixth Form Open Evening

Monday 14th November

Students and Parents

Students and parents will have opportunity to learn more about continuing with Sutton Community Academy by hearing about the benefits of staying on for sixth form, as well as chance to speak with teaching staff about the content of the A level courses. There will be support to complete application forms on the evening too. To study at Sixth Form, students will need a minimum of five GCSES at grade 4+ including English and Maths.

National Careers Week

6th-10th March 2023

Students

During this week there will be a variety of activities during tutor time for students to learn more about different industries and career paths. There will also be information shared on the school social media for parents and students to access at home.

Virtual Work Experience

Ongoing opportunities throughout 2022-2023

Students

See page 11 for more information about Virtual Work Experience opportunities.

Careers meetings

During Year 11, each student will be invited to attend a careers meeting with Mrs Cooke. It's important that students attend this meeting, even if they have already decided on what they want to do, as it is every student's right to receive professional careers guidance.

Your careers meeting is an impartial one to one meeting, it's not a test and it's not like a job interview as there is nothing you can get wrong. It is all about you and your future, so it's important that you are honest and ask any questions you have.

The aim of the meeting is to help students to think about their future career choices based on interests, skills and qualifications. It will help you to make decisions about what pathway is best for you to take after school. It will also give you information about the jobs you are interested in and where you can find out more.

Your Careers Advisor will ask you lots of questions, and they might challenge some of your answers, this all to help get a clear picture of the best way they can help you, and to help you improve your career planning skills. It doesn't matter if you don't know what you want to do yet, the Careers Advisor will help you at whatever stage you are at.

The date and time of the meeting will be communicated via tutors and students are also given a meeting card, which they should show to their teacher at the start of the lesson, before they leave to attend their meeting. Students will also receive an email from Grofar detailing the date and time. Students and parents can also request additional meetings throughout the year if further support is required at any point during the year, and even after students have left the school (up to 3 years after leaving).

Virtual Work Experience

Students are encouraged to apply for Virtual Work Experience opportunities through the Speakers 4 Schools website: www.speakersforschools.org/experience-2/work-experience

Although Covid-19 restrictions are no longer as such a big part of our daily lives, there are still a lot of businesses who are suffering from the impact of the pandemic. A lot of workplaces are still allowing their staff to work from home, with some businesses downsizing their offices, and other businesses are still limited on their ability to accept visitors including students on work experience. As a result of this we have made the decision that our previous model of Work Experience is still not feasible, and places too much pressure on our local businesses to accommodate a whole year group in a one week period. However, we are encouraging all students to apply for and attend Virtual Work Experience through Speakers 4 Schools. All placement applications are checked by school before being submitted to employers for consideration. This process allows students to have a realistic experience of searching for and applying for jobs, and waiting to find out the outcome of their applications, helping to further prepare them for the future.

There are a wide range of opportunities available, with new experiences being added regularly. There is no limit to the amount of opportunities students can apply for, and we encourage students to explore the different areas that they may be interested in or are considering in the future.

You can access a range of how-to guides, including how to create an account, and apply for opportunities by visiting this link: <https://speakersforschools.elevio.help/en/articles/12-creating-an-account-young-person>

Whilst we cannot currently support students going on in-person work experience during KS4, we do encourage students and parents to seek out any volunteering opportunities during the school holidays or at weekends wherever possible. These experiences are always a valuable addition to your CV or application forms.

Useful Resources

Grofar

We encourage you to use your Grofar profile as much as possible, this platform helps you to create a digital record of all of your experiences and skills that will help you at during your future applications to show employers and training providers here you have developed key skills that they are looking for. By inputting your interests and ideas for the future into your Grofar profile, we can help to ensure that the activities and experiences we organise at school are relevant to you and supporting you to reach your goals! You can also use the resources on the platform to help you research your ideas further and find out information about different job roles, study pathways and industries.

You can login here: auth.grofar.com using your school email address. If you've forgotten your password you can reset it using the link on the login page.

Careers Hub

You can find a range of information in the Careers Hub in school, this is located next to the Careers Office and is available for all students to access throughout the year. There are a variety of books, brochures for different companies, apprenticeships and training schemes, and a range of course prospectuses for local colleges/sixth forms and national universities.

Websites

Some key websites to help you with your research:

Prospects: www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles

UCAS: www.ucas.com

National Careers Service: nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

iCould: icould.com