**A BRIEF GUIDE TO OPTIONS BEYOND WCSA**

**Diplomas, T Levels & BTECs** Ideal for students with one specific subject or vocational area in mind, with a practical and ‘hands on’ learning style and an emphasis on work experience. Many of the courses run at level 1, 2 & 3 so most GCSE results satisfy entry requirements. You can also progress to a degree or apprenticeship with these qualifications.

**A Levels** Ideal for students with clear aspirations for university, those who do not have one specific subject area in mind, or those who feel more secure in a ‘scholastic’ environment. You can progress to a degree or an apprenticeship with these qualifications.

Our local colleges offer A Levels and several schools in our area offer A Levels at their 6th Forms. We recommend that students visit as many further education facilities as possible to explore and compare what each can offer.

**Apprenticeships** Ideal for students who are looking to leave classroom activity behind and enter the world of work. Each Apprenticeship has its unique entry requirements, however all Apprenticeships are essentially a full time job, involve additional portfolio work as well as some required day release. They require a high level of maturity to apply for vacancies, be interviewed and secure a role. Many apprenticeships do not require any college time but all will be visited on a regular basis by an Assessor to check on progress.

**Traineeships/Foundation Studies** A pre-apprenticeship/college course programme in place to support students who would like to be an apprentice/full time student but may be lacking the grades, confidence or experience.

**More facts & suggestions…**

* All colleges and 6th Forms offer additional learning support if required and additional enrichment activities.
* We recommend visiting and applying to several Colleges and 6th Forms for several course options. You will be invited to attend interviews to obtain more information about each course and be offered your places. You can make your final decision much later in the year.
* Colleges and 6th Forms hope to receive applications during December but some accept further applications in the spring and summer too.
* Considering A Levels but unsure of whether to go to a school 6th Form or College? Our advice is to apply for both and have a look around as a family. Colleges and 6th Forms have different environments and what suits one student may not suit another.
* Apprenticeships? Register on <https://www.gov.uk/become-apprentice> Start browsing vacancies and get a feel for the website now and start applying for Apprenticeships in the spring time. Please take note the start date of your chosen job is after you’ve left school in the summer. The jobs listed are all live vacancies that have closing dates in the near future.

**Colleges and 6th Forms in the area include-**

* Weston College – [www.weston.ac.uk](http://www.weston.ac.uk)
* Bridgwater & Taunton College - [www.bridgwater.ac.uk](http://www.bridgwater.ac.uk)
* City of Bristol College - [www.cityofbristol.ac.uk](http://www.cityofbristol.ac.uk)
* South Glos and Stroud College - <https://www.sgscol.ac.uk/>
* Winterstoke Hundred Academy – <https://winterstokehundredacademy.clf.uk/post16/>
* King Alfred 6th Form - <https://www.tkasa.org.uk/new-index>
* Churchill 6th Form - <http://www.churchill-academy.org/Sixth-Form/Apply-to-the-Sixth-Form/>
* Backwell 6th Form - <https://www.backwellschool.net/sixth-form>
* Nailsea 6th Form - <https://www.nailseaschool.com/sixth-form/welcome-to-sixth-form/>
* Clevedon 6th Form – <https://www.clevedonschool.org.uk/Sixthform/Sixth-Form/>
* Gordano 6th Form - <http://www.gordanoschool.org.uk/sixth-form/>
* Boomsatsuma - [www.boomsatsuma.com](http://www.boomsatsuma.com)

**Next steps-**

All year 11 students will be invited to a progression 121 meeting before Christmas to talk through ideas and plans. In the 121s, I will have prospectuses to hand out and you will receive an Action Plan to follow. Please feel free to contact me if you would like further opportunities to talk, I am more than happy to help as much as required to ensure you make the right choices for you.

Please look out for our monthly careers bulletins that are emailed home and posted on the school Facebook page. These will contain forthcoming dates for College and 6th Form open events and tours to help you explore your options further. We will offer some College and 6th Form taster days during school hours but it is also important that you work together as a family and visit Post 16 options outside of the school day too, so you get a feel for all that are of interest to you.

Many 6th Forms ask that you apply before Christmas. Although the Colleges are more flexible, they would also ideally like you to apply by January. As we have said before, you can apply to several different destinations and make your final choice closer to the summer. All will now ask that applications are made online.

I hope you have found this information useful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. lcuthbertson@worle-school.org.uk

**Travel is an important factor when choosing your next step beyond school.**

**We are very fortunate to have some outstanding Colleges and 6th Forms nearby. This guide has been created to help you consider your travel a little more carefully.**

Travel times are based from Worle train station or the bus stop near McDonalds.

Train: Train Link – 16-17 Saver Card costs circa £30 per year and saves you 50% on all train tickets.

Bus: Most Colleges sell a reduced rate bus pass. Contact Colleges / 6th forms for further information.

Some example travel routes…. **Weston College**

* Knightstone Campus – Worle to Weston Train Station takes about 7 minutes with a 15 minute walk from the station or First Bus number 3, 5, 7, X1/ X2, X5 takes about 20 minutes.
* Loxton Campus – First Bus number 7 takes about 45 minutes.
* South West Skills Campus– Worle to Milton Train Station takes about 5 minutes with a 10 minute walk from the station or First Bus number 3, X1/ X2, X5 takes about 15 minutes.

**Bridgwater & Taunton College**

* Bridgwater Campus – Worle to Bridgwater Train Station takes about 26 minutes or the Bakers Bus number 612 takes about 40 minutes.
* Cannington Campus (animal care & Nuclear engineering)– connecting buses from Bridgwater Campus take about 20 minutes.
* Taunton Campus – Worle to Taunton Train Station takes about 40 minutes.

**King Alfred 6th Form**

* £600 travel bursary for all PLT students is available.
* Worle to Highbridge Train Station takes about 18 minutes with a 15 minute walk from the station.

**Churchill 6th Form**

* There is a local bus from WsM/Worle with a short walk when arriving in Churchill.
* Bakers Dolphin (private company) coaches pick up from WsM/Worle and take you directly to 6th Form. The journey to Churchill takes about 35 minutes. Bursaries are available dependent on family income.

**Backwell 6th Form**

* Worle to Nailsea and Backwell Train Station takes about 11 minutes with a 15 minute walk from the station.
* The X1 bus takes about 30 minutes with a 10 minute walk from the bus stop.

**Nailsea 6th Form**

* Worle to Nailsea and Backwell Train Station takes about 11 minutes with a 15 minute walk from the station.