MAKING Choices

in year 10-11

PRIESTLEY COLLEGE
WARRINGTON

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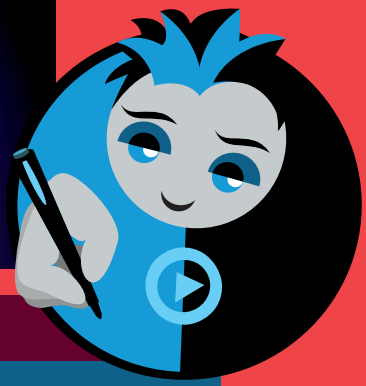

INTRODUCTION

You may not know exactly what you want to do when you leave Year 11, but you do no doubt realise that you will have to make some decisions. Once you have completed your Year 11 studies, you have some important decisions to take about what you do next. There are lots of ways, whether you want to remain in full-time education or you want to move into employment and training.

For some people this is a simple decision, they know what area of work they ultimately want to be in and have researched it thoroughly. They know that a full-time course at a college and then a university degree is right for them. For others an apprenticeship, which combines work with part-time study, or a job with training, may be a preferred option.

For most people, however, this is something they need to spend some time thinking about. The best time to do this is during Year 10 and the early part of Year 11. If you leave it any later you will risk rushing things and may find yourself making the wrong decisions.

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

People make decisions in different ways depending on the choices they have to make. You could make a decision by rolling a dice, copying a friend, or doing what your older brother or sister tell you to do, but any decision you make will affect you.

Once you have had a few ideas, sit back and think about how you feel about those possible options. Do you have a 'gut reaction' to any of them – good or bad? Is your instinct telling you anything?

Take some time to think about what would be right for you.

Ask yourself:

- Why do I want to take this course or job?
- Why would I be suited to it? (You may need to do more research before you can answer this question)
- What are my strengths and skills?
- What do I need to have? (For example, qualifications or work experience)
- How could this option benefit me? (For example, what could you move on to next)

FURTHER STUDY

WHERE TO STUDY?

There are many types of post-16 education providers including:

- Sixth Form College
- General Further Education College
- Studio School
- School Sixth Forms
- University Technical Colleges
- Free Schools
- Apprenticeship Providers

WHAT TYPE OF COURSE?

Academic courses - these courses allow you to study a range of individual subjects that could include;

- Advanced Subsidiary (AS)
- A-Levels

Vocational courses - your study will be linked to a broad area of work that could include;

- OCR Nationals / BTEC Level 2 Diploma
- OCR Nationals / BTEC Level 3 Certificate / Subsidiary Diploma / Diploma / Extended Diploma

What you do will depend on your interests and the qualifications you get in Year 11.

T-Levels - These new 2-year technical courses are equivalent to 3 A-Levels. They involve both classroom and 'on-the-job' learning to prepare you for skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.

At Priestley it is usually possible to add one or two subjects to your main programme, often key subjects like English or Mathematics if you just missed getting a grade '4' at school.

It is also possible to mix and match what you do by taking some subjects you might have studied previously at GCSE with completely new ones, but be sure to check the course content in detail so that you know what you are letting yourself in for.

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

An apprenticeship combines working in a job, learning ‘hands on’, and studying for qualifications like NVQ 2 or 3, Key Skills and Technical Certificates such as BTEC or City and Guilds. The Higher Apprenticeship can also offer you the chance to take a Foundation Degree. There are apprenticeships in lots of job areas; nationally there are more than 200 types of work supported through apprenticeship programmes.

This is why most young people who go into work or training in the Warrington area do so through an apprenticeship.

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF APPRENTICESHIP?

In order to cater for as wide a range of young people as possible there are three levels of apprenticeship for those aged 16 to 24.

- Intermediate Level Apprenticeships
- Advanced Level Apprenticeships
- Higher Apprenticeships

Many employers will also use assessment tests and interviews to help them decide who to take on. In addition depending on your grades in GCSE English and Mathematics, you might need to take a literacy and numeracy test.

As apprenticeship places with some employers are very competitive, you may need GCSEs at a set grade to start a programme.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

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Different post 16 education providers have different entry requirements. To start on a Level 3 programme at Priestley you need to have achieved 5 GCSEs at 4 and 5. If you achieve less than a grade 4 in GCSE English and/or Maths, you will be required to improve in these subjects alongside your chosen programme.

In some cases you may need to have achieved an average GCSE score of 3.8, 4.2, 4.8 or 5.5 to study certain subjects. These subjects are outlined opposite, along with a table explaining how you can work out your average GCSE score.

For more support and advice visit www.priestley.ac.uk

Average GCSE Points Score	Subject Entry Requirements
5.5 or more	A-Level Philosophy
4.8 or above	A Level Computer Science, A-Level Economics, A-Level Maths, A-Level Further Maths, A-Level Single Sciences, A-Level Languages
4.2 or above	BTEC Children's Play, Learning and Development, Edexcel Mathematics Algebra, BTEC Exercise Science
3.8 or above	BTEC Applied Science, BTEC Engineering

CALCULATING YOUR AVERAGE GCSE SCORE:

The following system is used to work out your average GCSE score. This scoring system is currently under review, given the introduction of new GCSEs.

Grade Achieved	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Points allocated	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

Different post-16 providers offer a variety of courses and subjects. It is therefore important that you carefully consider where and what you wish to go on and study after school. We always recommend visiting as many open events as possible and taking the opportunity to find out more about what's on offer. You can visit Priestley's website (www.priestley.ac.uk) to find out more about what we offer, but the list below should give you an idea of the range and variety of subjects on offer:

ART & DESIGN
Architecture (A-Level)
Art & Design (BTEC Level 3)
Art Foundation L3/L4
Computer Games Design (BTEC Level 3)
Digital Photography (A-Level)
Fine Art (A-Level)
Graphic Design & Photography (BTEC Level 3)
Photography (BTEC Level 3)
Fashion & Textiles (A-Level)
3D Product Design & Technology (A-Level)

COMPUTING
Computer Science (A-Level)
Computing (BTEC Level 3)
Information Technology (BTEC Level 3)
Digital Production, Design & Development (T-Level)

EARTH SCIENCES
Environmental Sustainability (BTEC Level 3)
Geography (A-Level)
Geology (A-Level)

ENGLISH
English Language (A-Level)
English Literature (A-Level)
English Literature and Language (A-Level)

HEALTH & EDUCATION
Health & Social Care (Cambridge Technicals Level 3)
Education & Childcare (T-Level)
Early Years, Guidance & Education) (NCFE CACHE Level 3)

HUMANITIES
Extended Project
Classical Civilisation (A-Level)
History (A-Level)
Politics (A-Level)

MEDIA
Film Studies (A-Level)
Media Studies (A-Level)
Media Studies (OCR National Level 3)
Music (A-Level)
Music (BTEC Level 3)
Music Technology (A-Level)

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES
French (A-Level)
German (A-Level)
Spanish (A-Level)

MATHEMATICS
Award in Algebra (Edexcel Level3)
Mathematical Studies - Core Maths (AQA Level 3)
Mathematics (A-Level)
Further Mathematics (A-Level)

PERFORMING ARTS
Dance (A-Level, BTEC Level 3)
Drama (A-Level)
Performing Arts Musical Theatre (BTEC Level 3)
Production Arts (BTEC Level 3)

PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
Business (A-Level)
Business (BTEC Level 3)
Economics (A-Level)
Financial Studies (Certificate and Diploma Level 3)
Law (A-Level)
Law (BTEC Level 3)
Public Services (BTEC Level 3)
Travel and Tourism (BTEC Level 3)

SCIENCE
Applied Science (BTEC Level 3)
Biology (A-Level)
Chemistry (A-Level)
Electronics (A-Level)
Engineering (OCR Level3)
Physics (A-Level)

SOCIAL SCIENCES
Criminology (Certificate Level 3)
Philosophy (A-Level)
Pyschology (A-Level)
Religious Studies (A-Level)
Sociology (A-Level)

SPORT
Physical Education (A-Level)
Sport (BTEC Level 3)
Sport, Football & Futsal Academy (BTEC Level 3)
Sport & Exercise Science (BTEC Level 3)

CHECKLIST

Before you make your final decisions about your choice of courses after year 11, you can use this checklist to make sure you have done all the research and planning you need to do.

I have considered at least three possible places to continue my studies after year 11. I have attended Open Days / Evenings for each of these places	
I know which subjects and courses I will enjoy	
I know what type of course I would prefer - vocational, academic, a combination of both or a Foundation Learning programme	
I have checked the latest information from at least three independent sources about the courses and careers I am interested in, such as: **THE NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE** nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk **UCAS** www.ucas.com **THE NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SERVICE** www.apprenticeships.org.uk **CAREERSBOX TV** www.careersbox.co.uk	
I have spoken with other people about my career ideas and my options - for example teachers, parents or carers, a Careers Adviser.	

For more information please visit our website **www.priestley.ac.uk**
Should you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Admissions Team on **01925 415415**

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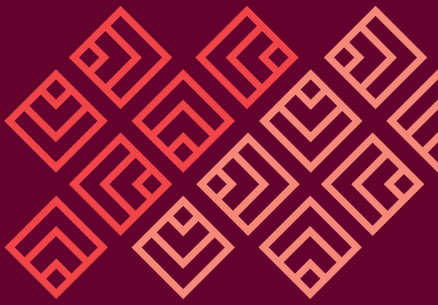

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