



# Manor High School

## Post 16 – understanding your different options

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# Understanding Post 16 Options

What level am I? Which route is best?

- GCSEs are a Level 2 qualification.
- A Levels are a Level 3 qualification.
- BTEC courses are offered at Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3.
- T-Levels are offered at Levels 2 and Level 3.
- Apprenticeships – Intermediate (Level 2) & Advanced (Level 3) and up to Level 7 (Masters Degree).

*Success comes from good decision-making and NOT following the crowd!*

*Choose the route that you feel will get you the best results!*

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# Advanced Levels

ALL A-levels are **2 year courses** and if you drop one you do not get UCAS points (points needed for university).

A-levels now depend **solely on exams** you take at the end of your 2nd year.

HOWEVER, there are still some exceptions:

Creative subjects still tend to have an element of coursework e.g. Music, Drama.

Also, Chemistry, Biology and Physics include a practical element throughout the course.

Regardless of the subject, these non-exam assessments only ever account for **20%** or less of the final grade.

## ***Entry requirements for 'A' Level***

*Post 16 providers generally expect **GCSE grades of 5 and above**, some even ask **for 6 or 7** (depending on the subject)*

*Universities generally require 3 A levels for entry (even Oxbridge) & often prefer an EPQ to 4 A levels*

*SOME students still opt for 4*



# A levels are right for you if...

## A levels are the right course if....

You like the traditional subjects

You prefer exam-based study

You perform better in exams

You want to keep your options open (3-4 different subjects)

You have the correct entry requirements – you are expected to get at least 5's and above

You want to go to University (or don't)

You want to do a Degree Apprenticeship (or don't)

You want to enter the working world after you finish in Year 13

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- <https://www.whatuni.com>



# BTECs

A BTEC is a practical-based, **vocational qualification** that can be studied at a college or school.

BTECs provide the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in a field or subject and are a viable alternative to the more theory-focused, classroom-based ways of learning which you might be put off by.

BTECs have become a more popular **path to both university and particular jobs** in place of, or in addition to, 'A' levels.

In 2018, 26% of students accepted on to a university course held at least one BTEC, but according to University and College Admissions Service (UCAS) this has now than doubled (2020).

## **Entry requirements for BTEC**

*While they are commonly known as an alternative to 'A'-levels, BTEC qualifications can actually be studied at a number of different levels including GCSE level and P18 at degree level:*

*Level 1 – no specific entry requirements*

*Level 2 (GCSE equivalent) – Grades 2 to 3 in four GCSEs*

*Level 3 (A level equivalent) – Grade 4+ in 4-5 subjects to include maths & English*

*Level 4-7 these are Degree level BTECS*



# Are BTECs right for you?

## BTECS are the right course if...

You prefer coursework and continual assessment  
(have end of module tests)

You don't want to study more than one subject (OR  
you DO)

You like hands-on and practical learning

Your predicted grades are below Grade 5 (or above  
Grade 5)

You DO or DON'T want to go to university

You like the idea of work experience

### *The different BTEC levels:*

- L3 EXTENDED/ADVANCED Diploma – 3 'A' levels

- L3 Diploma (National/Technical) = 2 'A' levels

- L3 Extended Certificate = 1 'A' Level



# Technical (T) Levels

'T' Levels are new courses which follow on from GCSEs and are equivalent to 3 'A' levels. They will eventually take place of BTECs.

2-year courses, which have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work, further training or study.

They offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (45 days) per year. They are 80% college based and 20% workplace based.

'T' levels will come with UCAS (university points) – Leicester College offer many T level options.

## ***Entry requirements for T level***

*Level 2 (GCSE equivalent)*

*Level 3 (A level equivalent)*

***You need to check each provider for their own entry requirements.***



# Technical (T) Levels

## T levels are the right course if....

You prefer coursework and continual assessment  
(have end of module tests)

You like the idea of work experience

You don't want to study more than one subject (OR  
you DO)

You have a specific career sector in mind

You like hands-on and practical learning

Your predicted grades are below Grade 5 (or above  
Grade 5)

You DO or DON'T want to go to university



# Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are created when a business (company) and an training provider (college) come together to design and implement a training plan which allows an individual the opportunity to learn on the job and gain a recognised qualification.

Many young people AND companies prefer this method as it allows a company to train the individual in a 'hands-on, practical and focused way.

## Entry requirements

**Intermediate (L2 GCSE equivalent)** – 5 GCSE passes at 4-9 including maths & English

**Advanced (L3 A level equivalent)** – 5 GCSE passes at 4-9 including maths & English

**POST 18 Higher & Degree L4, L5 & L6**  
- University level

*You need to check each provider for their own entry requirements.*



# Apprenticeships are they right for you?

## An apprenticeship is the right course if....

You want to train for a specific role

You like the idea of earning while you learn

You DON'T or you DO want to go to University (they have UCAS points)

You want to balance work with college learning

You like the idea of work experience

You want to leave full-time education

Apprenticeships are available within many career sectors BUT not all.



# How can we support?

## School –

- excellent teaching
- revision sessions
- 1 to 1 mentoring (when & if needed) citizenship lessons to cover a range of topics including CV's, interviews and revision
- 1 to 1 advice and guidance meetings through Cheryl McCarthy
- exam and stress management techniques

## Students –

- good attendance/punctuality
- good attitude/hard work
- revise and complete any work set

## Parents/carers

- provide a good working environment at home
- encourage work at home
- ensure attendance is the best it can be, schedule, where possible, appointments outside of school hours

**Homework – there is always work students could be doing**

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