

Information on Post-16 Choices for Key Stage 4 Pupils and their Parents/Carers

Purpose of this booklet

This booklet has been produced to provide Key Stage 4 pupils and their parents/carers with useful information about the choices available after leaving school.

What are the main options at 16?

- AS and A' Levels
- Apprenticeship/traineeships
- Vocational Courses including the Forces

A' Levels

AS (Advanced Subsidiary) and A' (Advanced) level qualifications focus on traditional study skills, normally take two years to complete full-time and cover a wide range of academic subjects. AS and A' Levels are still the most traditional entry route to higher education.

Each **college and sixth form** has different GCSE requirements for entry - see each prospectus for the specific details. Most establishments will require at least five GCSEs A*-C but will request at least B grades for subjects chosen for A'level.

Apprenticeships

This is a **work-based learning** programme where you earn a wage and gain on-the-job experience whilst learning new skills which lead to nationally recognised qualifications. Apprenticeships have no set length as the time taken depends on the ability of the apprentice and the employer's requirements. The minimum pay is over £100 per 40 hour week, however the most recent survey showed that on average an apprentice can earn £170 per week. There are different levels of apprenticeships- intermediate, advanced and higher.

Most of the apprentice's time will be in employment as most training takes place on the job. However, off-the-job training can be completed on day release or over a number of days in a block; the amount of time depends on the type of apprenticeship. The new Higher Apprenticeships can offer a route into university qualifications from the Advanced Apprenticeships.

Further information about apprenticeships can be found at www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Traineeships

- A traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience which is focused on giving young people the skills and experience that employers are looking for.
- It includes work preparation training, English and Maths for those who need it and a high quality work experience placement.

Vocational Qualifications

Vocational courses (e.g. Childcare, Engineering, Hairdressing, Catering, Business) offer a more practical programme equipping students with skills that relate directly to work. Emphasis is put on coursework rather than examinations. There are different types of vocational qualifications offered by a number of different awarding bodies.

Each **college and sixth form** has its own entry requirements for each course and these will be set out in the prospectus. Here is a general guide for the requirements for each level.

Level	Example of qualifications	Example of entry requirements
Entry	Introductory course Basic skills course Traineeships	No formal qualifications. Entry by interview.
Level 1 - Foundation	BTEC Introductory Diploma City & Guilds NVQ Level 1	No formal qualifications or a few GCSEs grades G-D. Entry by interview.
Level 2 - Intermediate	BTEC First Diploma NVQ Level 2 GCSE Intermediate Apprenticeship	GCSEs grade D-G or above and perhaps 2 grade C or above
Level 3 - Advanced	BTEC National Diploma BTEC Extended Diploma NVQ Level 3 A' Levels (AS and A2) Advanced Apprenticeship	4 or 5 GCSEs at grade C or above
Level 4	Higher National Diploma Higher National Certificate NVQ Level 4 Foundation Degree Professional courses Higher Apprenticeship	A' Levels Level 3 NVQ or Diploma, often Merit or Distinction

Local Education and Training Providers - what do they offer?

	A' levels	BTECs	Apprenticeships
Accrington & Rossendale College		x	x
Alder Grange Sixth Form	x	x	
BRGS	x		
Blackburn College	x	x	x
Bury College	x	x	x
Burnley College	x	x	x
Elite Childcare Apprenticeships			x
Haslingden High Sixth Form	x		
Hopwood Hall College		x	x
Myerscough College		x	x
Nelson & Colne College	x	x	x
North Lancs Training Group			x
Rochdale Sixth Form	x		
RWP Apprenticeships			x
St Christopher's Sixth Form	x		
Training 2000			x

Application Deadline for 2014/15

Each education and training provider sets their own application deadline date and these are available on the respective websites. The earliest date is for Bury College which is **14 November 2014**.

There is an internal school deadline of **FRIDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2014** for all A' level and BTEC applications. This helps to ensure that Fearn's pupils are given priority consideration by local providers for the courses they want to study next year as many post-16 courses are very popular and can become over-subscribed. It also ensures that pupils can devote their time to their GCSEs as early as possible in the year, without the distractions of applications and interviews.

All post-16 applications need to be submitted via, or notified to, Mrs Ashworth, in the Careers Office so that she can log them on the School's careers database.

Careers Support for Key Stage 4 pupils

A range of activities and support is provided to Year 10 pupils so hopefully when they arrive in Year 11 they will already feel they have had the opportunity to prepare and reflect upon the choices they need to make.

All pupils will have access to a range of support and information in school to continue to help them make informed choices about what they want to do once they leave Fearn's in the summer of 2015.

These include.....

- A one-to-one careers interview with a qualified careers adviser, available upon request to all pupils.
- An information evening for parents and pupils on **Thursday 18th September**, providing information and advice about post-16 choices and attended by post-16 providers.
- Lunch-time career drop-ins on the last Thursday of the month between September and December, attended by local education and training providers.
- A series of assembly talks in year 11 by all local education and training providers.
- A mock interview.
- A programme of dates for all local open events.
- Access to a comprehensive career resource room including prospectuses for all local education and training providers, university prospectuses and the use of networked PCS for doing career research and applications.
- Access to the School's online careers resource CASCAID.
- Application and CV support and advice.
- Access to apprenticeship vacancies and application support.

Ways that parents/carers can help their child make informed post-16 choices

- Attend as many open events as possible (all open event dates are available on pages 7 and 8 of this booklet).
- Speak to Mrs Ashworth, the School's Careers Adviser about any concerns you may have or to clarify any questions about the post-16 application process.
- Visit the useful websites below to find out more information about your young person's career plans.
- Provide your young person with support completing applications but ensure the application is their own work as they will need to speak to it at their interview.

- Encourage them to ask for help in school, via a careers interview or CV/application support, if required.
- Accompany your young person to college/apprenticeship interviews, where required.

Raising the Age of Participation

All school leavers are legally required to be in some form of education or training until at least their 18th birthday, following a recent change of legislation. Further information about this law can be found at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/participation/rpa/a00201391/raising-particip-age>

Useful Websites

www.cascaid.co.uk - The main programmes to use for Year 11s are 'Kudos' and 'Kudos Inspire'.

The School pays an annual licence fee to use an online careers package called CASCAID. All Year 11 pupils should already have an account set up but if they need to set one up the School's licence code is 'Chefred83'. There is a wealth of information on the site about different careers.

www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/youngpeople - This is the UK's national careers website and it has a helpful section for 13-16 year olds, looking at the different stages of decision making and what's available. There is also more general information about a wide range of careers. There is also a free career guidance facility available either by telephone or online.

www.apprenticeships.org.uk - The UK's national apprenticeship organisation which provides a wealth of information about the range of apprenticeships available along with a comprehensive apprenticeship vacancy facility.

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk - Lots of useful information about other post-16 and post-18 routes other than going to University.

www.icould.co.uk, www.plotr.co.uk & www.careersbox.co.uk - Three excellent free websites with lots of information about career choices and information.

University websites

www.prospects.ac.uk

www.ucas.ac.uk;

www.university.which.co.uk

www.whatuni.com

Main Contact

Mrs S Ashworth, Careers Adviser

Email: sdashworth@fearns.lancs.sch.uk

Tel: 01706 873896

Mrs Ashworth is the school's dedicated Careers Adviser and her normal working days are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, during term time. Mrs Ashworth holds a Level 6 NVQ in Career Guidance and Development and is a member of the Career Development Institute (CDI) which is the UK's main professional body for the career guidance profession.

Year 11 Assembly talks 2014/15

All the main post-16 providers will be coming in to school during the autumn term to deliver a short talk to Year 11 pupils during assembly. Here is the programme of talks for 2014.

Date	Organisation
9 July	Accrington and Rossendale College
17 September	Haslingden High Sixth Form
24 September	Hopwood Hall College
1 October	Blackburn College
8 October	Bury College (TBC)
15 October	Burnley College
12 November	Alder Grange Sixth Form
19 November	Training 2000
TBC	Myerscough College, Preston

Open events at local education and training providers - 2014/15

All post-16 providers will hold open events at their organisation which are aimed at prospective students and their parents/carers. The format of these events varies but it usually includes the opportunity to tour the facilities and main buildings, meet staff and existing pupils and possibly try out some post-16 courses or activities. Here are the dates for 2014/15. A copy of this information is also available on the school's website at http://www.fearns.lancs.sch.uk/index.php?category_id=17

Open Days 2014/2015

Accrington & Rossendale College	Thursday 18 th September	18.00 – 20.00
	Thursday 16 th October	18.00 – 20.00
	Thursday 15 th October	18.00 – 20.00
Alder Grange Sixth Form	Thursday 20 th November	18.30 – 20.30
Blackburn College	Thursday 2 nd October	16.30 – 20.00
	Thursday 7 th October	16.30 – 20.00
BRGS	Thursday 16 th October	18.00
Burnley College	Wednesday 1 st October	17.30 – 20.30
	Wednesday 8 th October	17.30 – 20.30
Apprenticeship Open Evening	Monday 13 th October	17.30 – 20.30
	Thursday 6 th November	17.30 – 20.30
	Tuesday 20 th January	17.30 – 20.30
Bury College	Thursday 2 nd October	17.30 – 20.00
	Wednesday 8 th October	17.30 – 20.00
Haslingden High Sixth Form	Wednesday 15 th October	17.30 – 19.30
Holy Cross	Tuesday 7 th October	17.30 – 20.00
	Thursday 16 th October	17.30 – 20.00
Hopwood Hall College	Saturday 18 th October	10.00 – 14.00
	Wednesday 19 th November	16.00 – 19.00
	Saturday 24 th January	10.00 – 14.00
	Wednesday 24 th April	16.00 – 19.00
Myerscough College	Saturday 13 th September	9.45 – 12.30
	Saturday 11 th October	9.45 – 12.30
	Saturday 8 th November	9.45 – 12.30
	Saturday 6 th December	9.45 – 12.30
	Saturday 7 th February	9.45 – 12.30
	Saturday 14 th March	9.45 – 12.30
Rochdale Sixth form	Saturday 11 th October	10.00 – 14.00
	Saturday 15 th November	10.00 – 14.00
St Christopher's CE Sixth Form	Wednesday 15 th October	18.00

St Mary's College Blackburn	Thursday 16th October	17.30 - 20.30
	Thursday 6th November	17.30 - 20.30
Training 2000 Nelson	Thursday 5th November	17.30 - 20.00
Training 2000 Blackburn	Wednesday 11th February	17.30 - 20.00
	Thursday 12th February	17.30 - 20.00
Nelson & Colne College	Monday 6th October	18.30 - 20.00
	Thursday 6th November	18.30 - 20.00
	Wednesday 19th November	18.30 - 20.00