



CAREERS @ NEWSTEAD



Choosing GCSEs, A'Levels & other options

Message from Mrs Brown

This issue we explore the range of post 16 and post 18 options available to you.

This month our wonderful Year 12 and Year 10 Career Ambassadors will be popping into Year 9 and Year 11 forms to share their own personal experience of choosing their options and will be available to answer your questions.

*As a general rule when choosing subjects/options, keep in mind our top 3 tips:
What do you enjoy?
What are you good at?
What do you need?*

Explore your options to the fullest so that you can truly say you made an informed decision and the best decision for you.

Best Wishes, Mrs Brown

Remember - it's absolutely fine to have no idea as to which career path you will follow, don't panic. However if this is the case, choose subjects that will keep your options open, to provide a broad and balanced programme

How do I choose which subjects to take at GCSE or A Level? What other options are available?

It can be very daunting when choosing GCSE or A'Level subjects, or to choose a different pathway, here are a few general tips:

Enjoyment: choose subjects that you enjoy

Aptitude: choose subjects that you are good at

Commitment: Be prepared to be committed to a subject, for example, if you are thinking of taking drama, you may have to spend time rehearsing after school for a performance

Independence: Don't choose subjects that your friends are doing, because you like a particular teacher or even because a teacher tries to persuade you to continue with their subject. Be strong, make your own decisions and follow your own path



Choosing your A Levels/choosing your degree

- *Always choose a subject that you like
- *Read the syllabus carefully ie: if deciding on a History A Level, check it will cover the period of history that you are interested in.
- *Think about the workload ie: do you like writing long essays
- *Medicine, Veterinary Science & some engineering courses may need 3 specific subjects, so research, research, research!

If you don't know what to do at university, there are facilitating subjects listed by Russell group universities, to help you keep your degree options open until you decide on which course to take:

English Literature, Geography, History, Maths, Further Maths, Modern & Classical Languages, Physics, Biology or Chemistry

Subject choices at school and college
(russellgroup.ac.uk)



Other options to your future education

Vocational qualifications

These are work-based awards. Students are trained and tested on competency in the workplace rather than academic skill. Many unis will accept VQs as an alternative to A Levels

Traineeship

This a fully-funded education and training programme for 16-24 year olds to build employability skills & gain valuable sector-based experience through a work placement.
Traineeships | National Careers Service

Foundation Year/Diploma in Art and Design

These are year-long courses which gives the opportunity to explore various art & design disciplines, experiment with a range of materials, methods & approaches, and build a portfolio of work
Why you should consider a foundation year | Prospects.ac.uk

Gap year

Gap years give you time to focus on future choices & will enhance CVs while offering students amazing experiences
Gap Year Ideas - What To Do In Your Gap Year | UCAS



Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are real jobs with real employers, allowing you to work, earn a salary & gain valuable qualifications and experience. There is a wide range of levels, with Level 3 generally considered equivalent to 2 A Levels. Degree apprenticeships are also available

Apprentice Stories - Amazing Apprenticeships
Degree apprenticeships - Learn more here (ucas.com)

T Levels

These are aimed at 16-19 year olds, last 2 years and are roughly equivalent to 3 A Levels. They focus on vocational skills as they combine study and work experience. They will suit students who wish to start working towards a skilled occupation or prefer a practical approach to learning.

T Levels | National Careers Service

International Baccalaureate (IB)

IB aims to foster internationally minded and well-rounded students. They last 2 years. Click her for further information
Best Schools - IB Schools in the UK (best-schools.co.uk)

Conservatoires

They provide performance-based higher education, including music, drama, screen and production courses, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels

Conservatoires | Conservatoires | UCAS

Connecting curriculum to careers

Would you like to be part of the NHS but not as a doctor? Read below for just 3 of the 350 different careers in the NHS, all of which make a difference.



Art / Music / Drama Therapist

These are forms of psychotherapy that uses art/music/drama media as its main mode of expression and communication, and helps people deal with complex & confusing emotional issues.

What A levels do I need? Psychology and other relevant subjects...art etc.

What skills do I need? To be creative, flexible and resourceful, also to be resilient in dealing with other people's emotions and able to work with people from all works of life

What could I earn? £35k+

Pharmacist

You could make a difference to the lives of patients through an expert knowledge of medicines and health

What A levels do I need? Chemistry and other sciences

What skills do I need? A love of science with a desire to improve lives and ability to work with a variety of healthcare professionals

What could I earn? £40K+

Medical engineering

This is the process of checking and improving medical equipment to make sure it is safe to use. Great for any student wishing to pursue a career in classical engineering with a medical application

What A levels do I need? Maths and Sciences

What skills do I need? Have a logical mind, be comfortable using technology and complex equipment, good interpersonal skills as will have direct contact with patients and other healthcare professionals

What could I earn? £35k+

Work experience

Planning a career in the medical profession? make sure you gain different types of WEX: volunteer in a care home or hospital, work in your local pharmacy, shadow any healthcare professional (dentist, midwife, community nurse), work with children who have learning disabilities, complete a first aid course with the Red Cross or a free short course with the Open University All our free courses – OpenLearn – Open University

What's coming up at Newstead

"Future You" Careers Fair: Monday 20th March 2023

* * *

Our Year 12 Career Ambassadors represented the Careers Team at the recent Sixth Form Open Evenings

* * *

Year 11 Careers Guidance Interviews will continue into the New Year

* * *

Mock interviews for Year 13s