LUDLOW C.E. SCHOOL

Year 10 Careers Newsletter: Friday 24th April 2026

Happy Friday, Year 10

I hope that you found the first careers newsletter of use. I am pleased that a number of you have already requested a 1:1 careers appointment. If you are keen to do the same, please let me know asap and I can slot you in for next week.

This week, I am focussing on what post-16 pathways you can choose. In England, the requirement to continue education or training until age 18 began in stages, with the final phase in **2015.** This does not mean staying in school, but participating in training, apprenticeships, or part-time education alongside work.

Options at 16: After turning 16, young people must choose one of the following until they are 18:
Sixth Form college: A-Levels are like GCSE, but more challenging. Students are expected to choose at least 3 A-Levels and study them for 2 years. Final exams are the most method of assessment, with some subjects including coursework. A-Level students are usually expected to have achieved at least 4-5 GCSE Grades at 5 and above, including English and Maths. Typical A-Level subjects are English, History, Business Studies, Criminology and Psychology. To study Maths and Sciences, it is often expected that students have achieved at least a Grade 7 at GCSE in those subjects. Universities have traditionally required A-Levels for entry to university. However, there is a far greater range of post-16 pathways available now and so universities also accept a wider selection of qualifications.
Local Sixth Form colleges: Ludlow, Hereford, Shrewsbury Colleges Group.

College (Vocational subjects / BTEC: Colleges offer more work-focussed subjects, e.g. Hairdressing, Plumbing, Agriculture…). Although the option to gain work experience is limited, the focus is on more practical, hands-on learning. Students wishing to study these courses can choose from Entry Level, where no specific GCSE grades are required to Level 3, where the expectations are similar to those required to study A-Levels. Vocational / BTEC qualifications are ideal for those who are looking for a more practical-based career, with a focus on job-ready skills.
Local colleges offering vocational courses: Herefordshire and Ludlow College (Based in Hereford), Holme Lacy, Walford, Hereford Sixth Form, Shrewsbury Colleges Group.

***T-Levels:** This qualification allows students to study in the classroom with a 45 day work placement. T Levels are two-year qualifications, designed with employers to prepare students for skilled work, further study, or apprenticeships. T-Levels are the equivalent to three A- Levels and are more demanding than apprenticeships. They also tend to have a more technical focus than apprenticeships, e.g. engineering.
Local Colleges: Herefordshire and Ludlow College (Based in Hereford), Shrewsbury Colleges Group.

Art College Students who wish to pursue a career in Art, Performing Arts, Music or Theatre Production, may choose to study at an Art college. BTEC and A-Levels are offered only in these subjects. Therefore, students must be sure that this is the career route they wish to follow. **Local Art Colleges: Hereford College of Art**

Apprenticeship:
(4 days paid work and 1 day studying in college/Training provider. Apprenticeships are available in pretty much any career: Electrician, Early Years education, Hair and Beauty, Equine care, Car mechanic, Chef, Engineer, Lawyer….). It is the student who has to find an employer who is willing to take on the training. Apprentices do not always have to attend college because the tutor / assessor may visit the workplace instead.
Local colleges offering apprenticeships: Herefordshire and Ludlow College, Shrewsbury Colleges, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Group Training Association, SBC Training (Shrewsbury).

Part-time education or training (20+ hours a week work/volunteering). This might suit students who are talented in a particular domain, e.g. football, dance, athletics and wish to pursue it as a career. They will study online, or with a tutor, but with the flexibility to allow them to dedicate themselves to the intense requirement their training needs.