

# A GUIDE TO CAREERS AND PROGRESSION AT CROFTON ACADEMY



- ✓ **Guidance**
- ✓ **Counselling**
- ✓ **Coaching**
- ✓ **Care**

When considering careers and post-16 progression choices, it is crucial that both pupils and parents are fully informed and supported. That is where our CEIAG programme comes in.

As part of our 5 year Values Programme, pupils across all year groups will learn about the options and choices that are available. They will consider their strengths, learn how to develop necessary skills and be able to be part of a range of experiences that will provide them with a solid foundation upon which to consider their futures – post-16 and beyond.

Work will take place in Values lessons to teach pupils how to accurately assess their qualities and skills and we will work with them to empower them to be able to present themselves well in interview situations. Also visitors to school and school trips will ensure that pupils have the opportunity to fully appreciate not only the choices that they have post-16, but also what the reality of these choices might be. We are also encouraging aspiration and recognition that resilience is key to ensuring that pupils have a 'toolkit' of necessary skills, qualities and qualifications to support them in achieving their goals.

## WHO CAN HELP?

**Sharon Lord** is our Values Co-ordinator and part of her role is to manage careers advice. She is our **Careers Leader**. Contact Sharon at [sharon.lord@croftonacademy.org.uk](mailto:sharon.lord@croftonacademy.org.uk)

**Tracey Chapman** is our **Independent Careers Adviser**. Contact Tracey at [tracey.chapman@croftonacademy.org.uk](mailto:tracey.chapman@croftonacademy.org.uk)

Tracey works Tuesdays and Thursdays at Crofton Academy. Her role covers post-16 option consultation (including apprenticeships), career choice and qualification choice to help remove barriers to achievement. Pupils can ask for an appointment through their year group team, Sharon or speak directly to Tracey. You can also email Tracey directly if you have any concerns linked specifically to post-16 choices.

**Kate Ashton** is SLT link for Values. Contact Kate at [kate.ashton@croftonacademy.org.uk](mailto:kate.ashton@croftonacademy.org.uk)

Please look at our current CEIAG programme for more information on how we explicitly prepare students for the world of work.

Year 11 students will be supported to make informed choices for their post 16 provision and also for what they might do in their futures. We use First Media and also providers' own application processes. We will ensure that pupils are supported fully in the application process.

## OPEN EVENINGS/DAYS AND INFORMATION EVENTS

All Year 11 will have been invited on taster days at local colleges when they were in Year 10. Continuing our aim to ensure that pupils are well informed, we will be inviting pupils to attend the Skills Yorkshire event in October, where a number of colleges and training providers will be represented. Following on from this, all the local colleges have Open Evenings. The dates of these are on our web page college links. They generally start in October. This is when you can have a look around and speak to tutors and students, to get a better idea of what they have to offer and if it is the right place for your child. Such events are really valuable.

## WHAT QUALIFICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE?

Each qualification is recognised as a particular 'Level'. There is something for everybody. Colleges, 6th forms and training providers offer a range of courses at level 1, 2 and 3. **It is vital that you check the exact entry requirements for each course, for each provider. Some colleges require different subject grades for similar courses. You can check this out on websites, in prospectuses and at Open Evening events.**

Level 1 is the equivalent of GCSE grades 1-3 (previously G-D); Level 2 is the equivalent of GCSE grade 4/5 (previously C) and you need to have achieved 5 GCSEs at Grade 4/5 or above to progress to Level 3 course (A level or BTEC Extended Diploma). Some colleges also have Foundation Courses, where there are no formal entry requirements.

***The following is a guide and as providers can alter their provision, you must check out specific requirements and details of courses with each individual training provider:***

**A LEVELS (Level 3 qualification)** <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/get-the-facts-gcse-and-a-level-reform/get-the-facts-as-and-a-level-reform>

Pupils normally choose 3 subjects from a large range of subjects e.g. Art, Sociology and Law. They typically need to get 5 GCSEs at Grades B9-4 including English Language and maths. There are some subject specific requirements. These requirements are the ones currently being asked, but they could possibly change, so you must check out the requirements for each course with the training provider. A level students are assessed through examinations. The A Levels can lead to a place at university.

**BTEC Extended Diploma (Level 3 qualification)** [www.BTEC.co.uk](http://www.BTEC.co.uk) Pupils chose one course.

The subject areas tend to be work related such as Media or Public Services. They typically need to get 5 GCSEs at Grades 9-4 including English Language and maths. These requirements are the ones currently being asked, but they could possibly change for 2020 entry. BTEC Extended Diploma students are continually assessed through coursework – with fewer exams. A BTEC Extended Diploma can lead to a place at a university.

Currently, NEW College Pontefract offer BTEC Diplomas worth 2 A levels and BTEC Extended Certificates worth 1 A level, which can be studied in combination to a value of 3. You need to check out what other colleges offer.

## **Apprenticeships (Level 2 and 3 qualifications)**

The student usually works for an employer for 4 days a week and attend college on one day to get an NVQ (National Vocational Qualification). Some training providers find placements for pupils, but this is not guaranteed. Pupils wishing to do an apprenticeship will need an up to date CV and must be prepared to find a job themselves. Tracey can support pupils through this process. **The advice is to apply for a full time college course place as a back-up as an apprenticeship place is not guaranteed.**

## **T Levels (available from September 2020)**

T Levels are new courses coming in September 2020, which will follow GCSEs and will be equivalent to 3 A Levels. These 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work.

T Levels will offer students a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.

In September 2020 T Level programmes start for specific occupations in 3 industries:

- digital production, design and development (digital industry)
- design, surveying and planning (construction industry)
- education (education and childcare industry)

More areas will be available from September 2021.

Barnsley College is the local post 16 provider who is running all three T Level courses from September 2020.

Students who pass all the elements of their T Level will get a nationally recognised certificate showing an overall grade of pass, merit or distinction. It will also set out the details of what students have achieved on the course.

The T Level certificate will include:

- an overall pass grade for the T Level, shown as pass, merit or distinction
- a separate grade for the occupational specialism, shown as pass, merit or distinction
- a separate grade for the core component, using A\* to E
- grades for maths and English qualifications
- details of the industry placement

**Please see our website links to allow you to investigate further qualification options at the different training providers.**