



KS4 Pathways 2023

Moving from year 9 into Key Stage 4

Important dates for your diary...

Thursday 16 February 2023 (5.00 - 6.30pm) – Pathways Information Evening

Monday 27 February 2023 – Pathway forms go live for subject choice selection

Friday 3 March 2023 @ 3pm – DEADLINE for submission of subject choices

Important Notes –

1. We will not accept subject choices on the evening of 16 February. The actual process for selection of subjects will be an online, paper-free process. This process will go live on Monday 27 February. In order for this to work, we need your most up to date mobile telephone number – please make sure we have it!
2. We cannot guarantee that your child will be able to study the first-choice subjects that they select. Whilst we will do our very best to do this, we will also consider their prior attainment in the subjects they choose, and whether the choice of subject is most suited academically to their needs, as well as our own staffing and timetable restrictions. It is for this reason that we ask students to select a reserve subject choice. As a last resort, we will consider subject choices on a first-come first-serve basis.

Pathways Structure

		Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4
Pathway	Achieve	Triple Science	History/ Geography	German	Choice
	Excel	Computer Science	History/ Geography	Choice	-
	Inspire	History/ Geography	Choice	Choice	-
	Succeed	Choice	Choice	Choice	-
	Flourish	Functional Skills	Personal Development	Choice	-

-Students are placed into the 5 pathways above based on you results from Ds1 and your end of KS2 data.

- Students will also be doing Maths, English, Literature and Science, which is compulsory.

Lists of Subjects Available

GCSE	BTEC
Maths	Sport
English	Creative iMedia
Science-Double (2 GCSEs)	Information Technology
Science-Triple (3 GCSEs)	Business Studies
Literature	Dance
German	Drama
Art	Music
History	Catering
Geography	Child Development
Religious Education	Health and Social Care
Computer Science	

Frequently asked questions:

How will your child's performance be measured at Oldbury?

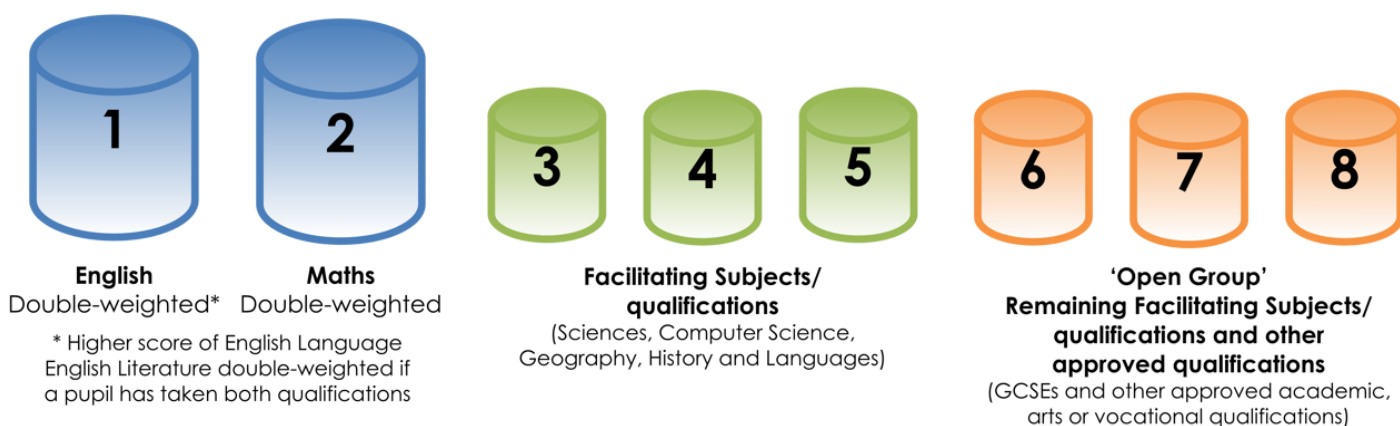
From 2016, the government changed the ways that they measure the performance of students in secondary schools. They introduced two measures that reflect the **attainment** of students, and the **progress** of students. These reflect performance in 8 subjects that students study, and are known as –

- **Attainment 8** – a score that reflects the average number of points scored over the 8 subjects in the measure. The higher the score, the higher the attainment.
- **Progress 8** – a score that reflects the amount of progress made by students over the 8 subjects, when measured against KS2 attainment. A student making expected progress across all 8 subjects would have a Progress 8 score of 0.0. A positive Progress 8 score means that progress is beyond expected. A negative Progress 8 score means that progress is less than expected. This score reflects the progress of your child against every other child of similar ability at KS2 nationally. The journey of your child from their KS2 English and Maths score, to their target grade in year 11, is known as their **flight path**.

It is important to note, that the 8 subjects are not just any random subjects. They must include English and Maths, (which are double-weighted and thus have a greater emphasis placed upon them), and will usually include two Science qualifications.

The government have also recently introduced **The English Baccalaureate**, which is a suite of qualifications that include English, Mathematics, Science, History or Geography, and a Modern Foreign Language. The government have introduced this as they feel this balance of qualifications gives students the best possible chance of entering higher education, although it should be noted that this particular group of qualifications is not suitable for all of our learners, and thus not all of our students will be entered for it.

The diagram below will help explain the Progress 8 measure, if the student was studying subjects that made up **The English Baccalaureate** –



So what does this actually mean for my child?

Your child will not leave Oldbury with their overall Progress 8 or Attainment 8 score, but it will be shared with them over the course of KS4 to show them how they are performing. Both measures are useful for identifying areas of underperformance and giving students useful and valuable feedback about how they can improve their grades.

How will subjects be assessed?

In line with government reforms, GCSE subjects will be examined in the summer of 2025, and may or may not include pieces of controlled assessment. This is independent work that is undertaken in controlled conditions. Different subjects carry different weightings of exams and controlled assessment. Our vocational qualifications involve pieces of assessed work that are completed over the entire course.

Have all decisions been made in terms of exam boards and approved courses?

Heads of Faculty spend large amounts of time researching courses, but not all final decisions have been made. Some exam boards have not had their courses fully approved by the DfE (Department for Education), so the information in this booklet is correct at the time of going to press. Any changes will be communicated to you as soon as we know. The school reserves the right to remove a subject from the curriculum if the set size is not viable, if there is a change in staffing, or if the qualification is not approved. In this instance, we will endeavour to give the student their reserve option, or run a similar qualification.

My child has a particular career in mind, so how important are subject choices at this stage?

Whilst these decisions are important, there is no need to worry too much at this stage. We have designed the curriculum to ensure that all our pupils will maintain a balanced combination of lessons and leave us with a balanced set of qualifications. It is almost impossible to limit career options at this early stage.

What happens if sets are over-subscribed?

This can happen and there is no easy solution to this. We cannot simply create more sets as we do not have the staff or rooms to do this. It is for this reason that each pupil is asked to include a reserve subject on their KS4 Pathways form. There is little point in worrying unduly about this. The vast majority of pupils will get their first choice subjects and where set sizes preclude the first choice; your child should be able to take their reserve choice.

How will students be graded in their qualifications?

Students studying GCSE programmes will leave with a grade between 1-9. This has replaced the old model of A*-U from September 2017. 9 is the highest grade, and recognises performance beyond that of an A* level. A grade 5 is considered a 'good' pass, in the same way as a grade C was. Students studying vocational qualifications will leave with grades of either Pass, Merit, Distinction, or Distinction*, which carry an equal weighting to the GCSE subjects.

I still have questions, who can I contact?

At the KS4 Pathways Information Evening you will have the opportunity to talk to members of staff. You are also welcome to contact us at school should you have any questions that are not answered by the information in this booklet, using pathways@oldburyacademy.org.uk

So how do students actually select their subjects?

We are committed to involving parents and carers in this process as much as possible, and to support this, the link to the online pathway form will be sent directly to **your (parents and carers)** phone. This is a very straightforward process, but be aware of the following points...

1. Students will be invited to login to the online pathways platform. Registration details to access this site will be emailed to students' school email address on Monday 27 February.
2. Parents will be sent a text the moment that the Pathways link goes live.
3. Students will be supported in school during form time if they need support accessing the website.

The screenshot displays the 'Humanities' section of the online pathways platform. It shows a selection interface where users can choose courses and reserves. The 'You have chosen' section indicates 0 of 1 courses selected. Below this, two courses are listed: 'Geography GCSE Full Course' and 'History GCSE Full Course', both with a note 'This course is also available in Free Option'. The 'Free Option' section shows 0 of 3 courses and 0 of 1 reserves selected. A list of courses with 'Reserve' buttons is provided, including Art(fine), Catering, Creative Imedia, Drama BTEC, Drama Key Stage 3, History, Music, Sport Btec, Business S, Child Dev, Dance, German, Geography, Informatio, and Religious. A callout box on the left points to the 'Reserve' button for 'History' with the text 'Reserve'. Another callout box on the left points to the 'You have chosen' section with the text 'Number Of choices selected'. A callout box on the right contains the text: 'Have we got your correct mobile number? It is vital that we have this information!'.

Number Of choices selected

Reserve

Have we got your correct mobile number? It is vital that we have this information!

What subjects do we offer at Key Stage 4?

Please note, not every subject here will be available for your child to select. The subjects your child can select will be determined by the pathway they have been placed on. Students have been informed of their pathways during form times.

Core Curriculum -

All students will study English Literature, English Language, Mathematics and double-award Science* at GCSE.

English Literature and English Language -

Why limit your life to being one character; when you can read and become so many? In English, becoming immersed in a range of exciting texts is the first step towards accessing the new Eduqas (previously WJEC) qualifications in English Literature and Language. It is 100% exam for both qualifications. There are two exams for English Language and Literature. In each component there is an element of reading fiction/non-fiction texts and writing using a range of skills and purpose. Solicitor, journalist, historian, writer and editor are only a few of the potential career paths, however, the reading and writing skills gained from the course will be invaluable in any profession.

Mathematics -

Maths is everywhere, and impacts everyone, everyday! At Oldbury, Maths centres on real life scenarios and problem solving to enable students to access the wide world and everything mathematical within it. Our enthusiastic staff and creative teaching methods encourage students to challenge themselves, work independently and develop a wide skill set in this fundamental subject. The subject will be assessed through three formal examinations at the end of the course, which will encompass calculator and non-calculator papers.

Science -

There is a world beneath the microscope, you're already a part of it. However, do you want to understand that world? Science is the only subject that will take you around the Universe, from the very large to the very, very small. The visible to the invisible. Science is the why. Edexcel GCSE combined science and triple science, help you think about the world in different ways, it answers all those big questions, why is the sky blue? How does a paracetamol know where the pain is? Why does a cappuccino cool down more slowly than a latte? Science touches every area of your life, and every career encompasses Science; doctors, pharmacists, engineers, teachers, forensic detectives, the list is endless. Science is a journey of discovery, GCSE study is the gateway to understanding what you see on that journey. Edexcel GCSE sciences are 100% exam and include questions on core practicals. Triple Science students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately and will be awarded three GCSEs.*

**Some students may choose to study Triple Science GCSE and some students will be entered for a single-award Science qualification. This is based on the academic needs of the students concerned.*

Core PE -

Students will undertake one lesson per week of PE in KS4. This will give them the opportunity to take part in range of sports to contribute to a healthy lifestyle. This is also applicable to those students who choose to study BTEC Sport.

Academic Subject choices -

These subjects follow a more traditional route, some including a piece of controlled assessment with a formal examination at the end of the course.

History GCSE -

Students study the Edexcel GCSE History course. Over the two years, students study and prepare for the examination of three papers, Paper 1: Medicine in Britain and the Historic Environment, Paper 2: Elizabethan England and Superpower Relations and Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany. As part of their studies, they will learn about the role of key individuals, the significance of key events and the consequences of various decisions that have been made in different time periods. They will also learn to analyse historical sources and question their usefulness. The qualification is 100% exam based, with no coursework or controlled assessment. History is a highly academic subject which is well regarded by both colleges and the top universities. The skills that students gain from studying History at GCSE provide huge scope in the higher education courses that they choose and professions they can enter such as journalism, archaeology, law, education, politics and many more.

Geography GCSE -

Geography is a subject that unlocks understanding of the world around us and beyond. Throughout the course there is the opportunity to study a wide range of places and events from around the world that have and continue to shape the world we live in. There will also be a range of opportunities for those studying Geography to enjoy learning outside of the classroom with at least two fieldwork investigations that pupils need to venture beyond the classroom to complete.

A GCSE in Geography is a prerequisite for a number of post 16 qualifications including A- Level in Geography, Geology, Environmental Science and Economics. It is also highly valued for entry to social science courses such as Sociology. This GCSE also develops a range of skills that will benefit students in a wide range of both academic and vocational based qualifications post-GCSE.

RE GCSE -

In Religious Education, KS4 students study the Edexcel Syllabus B (Beliefs in Action). This consists of two religions and two areas of study. In year 10 students follow religion and ethics from a Christian perspective, while in year 11 they will follow religion, peace and conflict from a Buddhist perspective. Each of these areas consists of four distinct topics, two religious based, such as 'beliefs' and 'living a religious life'. The other two topics for each area are moral issue based, such as 'crime and punishment' and 'peace and conflict'. At the end of the course students will sit two exams, which make up 100% of their grade, there is no coursework. Religious Education continues to be a popular option that, as an academic subject, is highly valued within further education and is a steppingstone for a wide variety of courses in some of the best universities. It is also considered to be an asset in numerous careers paths, including law, social sciences, health care, community and youth work and many more.

German GCSE -

The study of another language provides many opportunities, not only because you will practise important skills such as speaking and presenting, but because we need speakers of other languages to ensure the future development of the global economy. In German, you will study various topics - daily life, festivals and celebrations, environment, world issues - and will be studying for the Edexcel GCSE in German. There will be four exams at the end of Year 11; Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, each worth 25% of your grade. German is highly regarded by colleges and universities and a wide variety of jobs will be open to you - interpreter, journalist, teacher amongst others. Some universities now also demand a language at GCSE level in order to be considered for a place. Don't limit your options, choose German GCSE and who knows where it will take you!

Computer Science GCSE -

GCSE Computer Science provides an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work and how they communicate. Students will also gain computational thinking skills, learning to develop computer programs and solve problems through programming. Students will cover the following topics: systems architecture, memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security, system software, ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns. Assessment will consist of two final exams. Computer Science opens up a world of career possibilities in the modern world. Whether it be programming video games, developing automated picking systems in supermarkets or just developing the next big app to name a few. As the world continues to change and evolve digitally, Computer Science provides the groundings required to explore it later in higher education or industry. Preparing the next generation for a world of jobs that don't currently exist.

Art GCSE -

In Art, students develop knowledge, understanding and skills through integrated practical, critical and contextual study. The first component of the Art course is worth 60% of their overall GCSE mark. This is a portfolio of work that must include a sustained project developed in response to a subject, theme, task or brief and should evidence the journey from initial engagement with an idea to the realisation of intentions. Examples of coursework project titles include- 'Abstract' and Personal response to a chosen theme' where students may work in any medium or combination of media. They can work in a wide range of media. The 60% coursework requires students to work consistently in lesson and at home. Students will also need to undertake a 10 hour practical examination at the end of the course based on an externally set assignment. This component is worth 40% of their GCSE mark. This course is exciting and challenging, stimulating independent thought and creative responses. It can result in career opportunities including theatre design, product design, fashion design, industrial design, photography, interior design, fine art and graphic design to name but a few.

Vocational Subject choices -

These subjects follow a more vocational route, often including several pieces of internally assessed work. Generally there are fewer formal examinations and externally assessed components will have a smaller weighting attached to it.

Dance BTEC –

BTEC Dance is an exciting pathway alternative to GCSE Dance. The course consists of two internally assessed units and one external unit which is marked by an examiner. Component 1 includes the creation of a portfolio which explores the analysis of a professional performance. Component 2 explores a professional piece of repertoire that students will take and perform in front of an audience. Logbooks and evaluations will accompany this practical performance to allow learners to continuously evaluate their work. Finally, Component 3 allows students to utilise what they have learned in the previous components and create their own dance piece in groups based on a given stimulus by the exam board, this is accompanied with logbooks and an evaluation. Over the two years students will build and develop skills that would help them if they are interested in continuing into dance performance, choreography or the dance theatre. This course also allows students to develop transferable skills that they can take into any course or workplace such as leadership, resilience, teamwork, confidence and literacy skills.

Drama BTEC -

BTEC Drama is an exciting pathway alternative to GCSE Drama. The course consists of two internally assessed units and one external unit which is marked by an examiner. Component 1 includes the creation of a portfolio which explores the analysis of a professional performance. Component 2 explores a professional piece of repertoire that students will take from page to stage and perform in front of an audience. Logbooks and evaluations will accompany this practical performance to allow learners to continuously evaluate their work. Finally, Component 3 allows students to utilise what they have learned in the previous components and create their own play based on a given stimulus by the exam board, this is accompanied with logbooks and an evaluation. Over the two years students will build and develop skills that would help them if they are interested in continuing into acting and work in the theatre

industry. This course also allows students to develop transferable skills that they can take into any course or workplace such as leadership, resilience, teamwork, confidence and literacy skills.

****NOTE: Due to the Dance BTEC and Drama BTEC being the same course you can only choose one of the disciplines****

Music BTEC -

In Music at Key Stage 4, students study the Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice. Through a combination of practical experience and written assignments, this vocational qualification provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to make the first steps towards a career in the music sector together with the understanding that employers in global markets look for. The qualification enables learners to develop their skills, such as using musical elements, music creation, performance and music production, using realistic vocational contexts, and their personal skills, such as self-development, responding to a brief, planning and time management through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

The course focuses on four main areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- *development of key skills that prove learners' aptitude in music, such as responding to a musical brief using musical skills and techniques*
- *processes that underpin effective ways of working in the music sector, such as the development of musical ideas, and using skills and techniques for rehearsal, creation, production and performance to respond to a music brief*
- *attitudes that are considered most important in the music sector, including personal management and communication*
- *knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as musical skills and styles.*

Sport BTEC -

In KS4, students that opt for Sport will study Pearson's BTEC First Award in Sport (Edexcel). BTEC Firsts in Sport can help you take your first steps towards a career in sport and fitness. You'll learn essential skills such as training for personal fitness, organising and leading activities as well as developing a theoretical understanding of anatomy and physiology. Your practical performance is assessed in two sports alongside your knowledge of the rules, regulations and scoring of each sport. You will also develop your analysis of performance and evaluation skills and be assessed against these. The BTEC is a vocational qualification which is assessed through a combination of practical experience, written assignments and an online exam. Learners will study four units; Fitness for Sport and Exercise (online exam), Practical Sports Performance, Leading Sports Activities and The Sports Performer in Action. Homework is set to support learning outside of the classroom and attendance at extra-curricular clubs has a positive impact upon your progress.

Business BTEC -

This course consists of a combination of internal and external assessments. The external assessment, which is worth 40% of the final grade, will take place in the final year of study. The remaining 60% of the course are two set assignments issued from the exam board. These two components are also assessed internally, however they are formally supervised. Topics include Exploring Enterprises, Planning and Presenting a Micro Enterprise Idea and Marketing and Finance for Enterprise.

Creative iMedia (Cambridge National Level 2 Award)

Digital Media is ever expanding, changing the way we live our lives on a daily basis. There is a demand from employers for an increasingly skilled and digitally literate workforce to develop the ever-expanding range of media content. Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia provides students with specific and transferable skills and a solid foundation in understanding and applying this subject. Students will have the opportunity to develop such projects as Graphics, Video creation, Photography or Animation to name a few, providing transferable skills for later life, whether it is in employment or higher education. Assessment consists of one exam and two controlled units. Creative iMedia provides the underlying principles and foundation for potential careers in Radio, Publishing & TV / Film.

Digital Information Technology BTEC -

The Digital Information Technology BTEC can help you take your first steps towards a career in the digital industry. You'll learn the skills to produce, design and analyse IT systems and user interfaces. You will also complete a unit in advanced spreadsheets through Microsoft Excel. The exam component of the course is based around Cyber Security. The course is assessed through one exam and two coursework Components.

Health and Social Care BTEC -

Health and Social Care can help you take your first steps towards a career caring for people and communities. You'll learn the essential skills needed to support people with a wide range of needs, from babies and toddlers to adults and the elderly. The BTEC First Award in Health and Social Care aims to prepare students for work in the world of healthcare, you will study four units in total, three of which are internally assessed, and could include: Effective Communication, Individual Rights, Equality and Diversity, Healthy Living and Health and Social Care Values. There will be an external exam to assess your knowledge of the fourth unit: Human Lifespan Development. This could lead our students to study Health and Social Care at Level 3 in post-16 education and also to university with career pathways for primary school teachers, child care workers, nurses or social care workers.

Children's Learning and Development BTEC -

This qualification is for learners who want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by planning, developing and adapting play opportunities suitable for young children across five areas of development as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. The qualification will broaden the learners experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to: A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects, study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC Level 3 National in Children's Care, Learning and Development or a vocational qualification in a related sector such as a BTEC Level 3 National in Health and Social Care. These qualifications prepare learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or for a move to higher education to study a degree in the early childhood or childhood and youth areas or in related sectors such as nursing and social care.

WJEC Level 2 Award in Hospitality and Catering -

If students are interested in a career in the Hospitality and Catering industry, the vocational award in Hospitality and Catering would be most suitable. The WJEC qualification is a good stepping stone to moving onto qualifications in professional food and beverage skills or to working in the hospitality and food sector. During the two-year course, students will study all aspects of the hospitality and catering industry, this will include a heavy emphasis on practical work with students cooking every week. This course is not suitable for students who have not cooked regularly during food lessons in KS3. There is an external exam in year 11, an internal written assessment and an assessed piece of practical work which may include participation in the planning and organisation of a school event with catering.

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So what next for students?

1. Based on your Pathway - Go through this booklet and consider which of these subjects you would like to choose.
2. Talk with your parents to discuss your potential choices, and discuss the reasons for your choices.
3. Talk with subject teachers; ask them questions about studying their subject at KS4.
4. Select your choices from Monday 27th February. Your parents/carers will receive the link to submit your form!
5. Deadline for submitting options on Friday 3rd March.

What's your next move?

Compare your options after GCSE

QUALIFICATION	DESCRIPTION	LENGTH OF TIME	ASSESSMENT	LEVEL OF STUDY	AWARDS UCAS POINTS?	ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	WORK EXPERIENCE	WHAT DOES IT LEAD TO?
APPRENTICESHIPS	A real job with training and a salary.	1 Year minimum	Apprenticeship dependent (inc. demonstrations, presentations and/or exams)	2/3 With the possibility to progress to higher apprenticeships up to level 7	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employer dependent - Age 16+ - Evidence of interest and ability to complete 	Yes (paid job, with at least 20% off the job training)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Higher level or degree apprenticeship - University/College - Work
<small>www.apprenticeships.gov.uk</small>								
A LEVELS	An academic qualification, similar in style to GCSEs, that prepares you for further study.	2 Years	Mostly exams at the end of the course	3	Yes	For individual schools and colleges to decide (commonly 5 GCSEs at grades 4 and above)	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apprenticeship - University/College - Work
T LEVELS	A technical study programme, equivalent to 3 A levels, with an industry placement that makes up 20% of the course. T Levels are designed to give you the skills that employers need.	2 Years	Exams, projects and practical assignments	3	Yes	Set by each school/college	Yes (80% classroom, 20% work)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apprenticeship - University/College - Work
<small>www.tlevels.gov.uk</small>								
TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS	Qualifications which teach you how to do tasks specifically related to the industry and role you want to be in.	Course dependent	Course dependent (coursework & exams)	1+	Some (course & awarding organisation dependent)	Course dependent	Course dependent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apprenticeship - College - Work
<small>(e.g. some Pearson BTECs, Cambridge Technicals, City and Guilds Diploma, AQA Technicals, VET Diplomas and many others)</small>								
APPLIED QUALIFICATIONS	Qualifications that prepare you for further study by combining academic learning with practical skills to give you a broad overview of working in a sector.	Course dependent	Course dependent (coursework & exams)	3	Yes	Set by each school/college	Course dependent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apprenticeship - University/College - Work
<small>(e.g. Some Pearson BTECs and some Cambridge Technicals, NCFE Diploma, AQA Certificates, NCFE Applied and many others)</small>								
TRAINEESHIPS	A work focused study programme that prepares you for an apprenticeship or work.	6 Weeks - 6 Months	A formal job or exit interview with written feedback. Coursework and exams are course dependent	N/A	No	Have little to no work experience and qualified below Level 3	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apprenticeship - Work
<small>www.gov.uk/government/collections/traineeships</small>				▽ ▽ ▽ ▽ ▽				

Levels are designed to indicate the complexity of qualifications and apprenticeships, allowing people to draw comparisons and understand where they sit in relation to the other options which are available. There are 8 levels plus entry level, with the higher levels offering the highest difficulty.

Find out more about the different levels at www.gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean
Visit nationalcareers.service.gov.uk for information about careers, training and work.



HM Government

Links to Sixth Form

King Edwards Five Ways

- A minimum of 6 GCSE passes at grade 6 or above to include 3 grade 7s
- A minimum of grade 6 in English AND maths at GCSE
- A minimum of a grade 7 at GCSE for the subjects wanted to study at A level

King Edwards Stourbridge

- A minimum of 6 GCSE passes at grade 5 or above, including English and Maths
- To be accepted to study a subject at A level, you must meet their minimum entry requirements. Each subject have their own minimum entry requirements so please their website.

