



The Next Step after Year 11

Parents & Carers

Every Student, Every Subject, Every Grade

Helping your son / daughter with their subject and career choices:

A Levels

Involves studying 3 or 4 subjects in depth, preparing teenagers for higher level learning and for work.

Vocational qualifications

BTEC courses that develop specialised skills relating to a particular area of work. They are qualifications that can take you on to further training, apprenticeship or a degree and offer teenagers insights into the world of work. NVQ qualifications offer a more practical style of learning.

Apprenticeships

These allow teenagers to learn skills and gain qualifications whilst earning money. Apprenticeships are now available in over 80 industry sectors, not just the traditional sectors such as engineering and hairdressing.

Traineeships

This new programme will support young people in developing the skills they need to secure and succeed in employment, including an Apprenticeship. Traineeships were introduced from August 2013 for 16 to 19 year-olds and for young people with learning difficulties up to the end of the academic year in which they turn 25. Further information on traineeships is available on the Department for Education's website.

Foundation Learning

This provides options for teenagers who need more time to build their confidence and skills. They can go on to take more qualifications, apply for an Apprenticeship or prepare for supported employment.

Helpful tips:

- Help your son / daughter to find out as much as possible about the courses and qualifications they can do;
- Help your son / daughter to identify their interests and abilities;
- Help your son / daughter to consider the consequences of their choices;
- Encourage visits to several college open days;
- Ensure applications are made well before the deadline date;
- Apply to at least two colleges;
- Use college prospectuses and websites to research options and course requirements thoroughly;
- Explore and encourage all extracurricular activities;

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- Gently challenge any choices that concern you;
- Support your son / daughter's decision;
- Encourage your son / daughter to make a back-up plan;
- Be ready to help them deal with personal problems;
- Encourage use of careers packages, U Explore at home and school to research post 16 options;
- Encourage them to make the most of opportunities like mentoring, coaching, volunteering and schemes like the Duke of Edinburgh Award;
- Work experience can really benefit your son / daughter when making future applications. Increasingly many universities are looking for students to have relevant work experience. Ask your friends & family for opportunities to spend time in their work place.

School support for your son/daughter during Year 11

- Visiting speakers from colleges and training providers from Stockport & further afield.
- 1 to 1 support from careers staff within Bramhall High and Services for Young People's providing careers information, advice and guidance.
- Drop in sessions during lunch, afternoon registration and after school for individual support.
- Careers Presentations during lunchtime
- Cross curricular careers advice from subject teachers.
- CV writing, letters of application and interview preparation sessions.
- Access to the extensive careers information resource area in the library, including prospectuses and application forms for all sixth form colleges and U-Explore.
- Extra support for students who require additional guidance and for those with a statement of educational needs.

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Useful websites –

START (U-EXPLORE)

Bramhall High School subscribes to this program. Your son / daughter has access to this. Please find a reminder to assist them logging on

Welcome to Start!

These instructions explain how to register for Start at your establishment. To create your own username and password, please follow the simple steps below.



Go to www.startprofile.com and click **Register**



Enter your first name, surname, email address, postcode, date of birth and gender

Tip: if you forget your username or password we will use the email address you provide to send you a reminder



Choose a memorable username and a secure password. Tick to agree to the Privacy, Cookies and Terms of Use policies and click **Get Started**

Tip: your username needs to be memorable – you may want to use your school network login or you can also use your email address



Click **Login** and enter your username and password. Click **Login**

The first time you log in you will be required to complete the following:



Select **“I am Studying in Education and would like to explore my career options.”**



Start typing the name of your school or college to find your establishment



Enter your current year group



Enter your registration code: **(STUDENT CODE)** Available from Ms Joynson



Click **Submit**

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Other Websites

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx> - a national website dedicated to career planning. The 'Planning Your Career' and 'Job Profile' pages have a database of over 750 jobs that helps students explore, research and develop career ideas. It enables students to link subjects to possible careers and to find up to date regional and national Labour Market Information.

www.direct.gov.uk - browse the 'Parents' and 'Young People' pages to find all the information you need on young people choices, financial support for learning and sources of help and including contact with an online careers advisor.

www.sendirect.org.uk - this site provides details of local services giving neutral advice and information to parents of son / daughter with special educational needs.

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship - browse the parents section which focuses on the different questions that you may have about apprenticeships and why they could be right for your son / daughter. You will also find details of current apprenticeship opportunities.

www.theapprenticeacademy.co.uk - an excellent site providing details of apprenticeship opportunities in the Greater Manchester area.

www.ucasprogress.com - a new website that allows students to search, explore and compare courses at school, college, academies and work based learning providers across England and Wales.

www.ucas.com – when choosing post 16 options it is important to look at subject and entry requirements if your son / daughter is considering applying to university after further education.

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk - use the online apprenticeship guide that offers you advice on how to become an apprentice, find traineeships, college courses and much more.

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