

Post 16: the process



When & how should I apply?

For 2020/21 open evenings are likely to be virtual tours for which you will need to book online. Please check the school/employer/college website for up to date information.

Colleges:

- The application process runs from September to July of year 11
- Some colleges may set an earlier deadline – check their website
- Late entries are accepted, right up to September of year 12
- Interviews can start as early as October in year 11 e.g. Hartpury
- Check which campus the course is at and make sure you can get transport there

Private schools:

Scholarships become available from September of year 11. You need to apply directly to the school as the entry criteria and assessment process varies. Each scholarship is different so ask the school how much money it provides.

Sixth forms:

- Look out for open evenings and open days on the sixth form website.
- Applications for external students usually open in January of year 11 and often have very short deadlines, eg. February 10th. You need to check the school website for details.
- You will need to apply online or download the specific school application form from their website then email it to them
- Interviews will take place in March-April of year 11 and may be at the specific sixth form or may be at Winchcombe School. Usually just the student is interviewed but some sixth forms invite parents to attend.
- Late entries might be considered, at the discretion of the sixth form
- Offers are sent out in April/May by letter or email – you will be expected to contact the sixth form to accept or decline
- Some sixth forms offer an induction day in July of year 11

Apprenticeships/work placements:

Apply directly to the employer using their online application form. An employer will expect you have hobbies, work experience and interests linked to the specific career, in addition to your qualifications. These can also be found at 'Find an apprenticeship': <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>. Any apprenticeship opportunities which are sent to school will be emailed out to students, so check your school email regularly!

Or you can apply for an apprenticeship linked college course and the college will then find you an employer. Many employers go directly to the colleges rather than advertising vacancies so this is a good way in. For example, Glos Col have a separate apprenticeship department and can link you with

employers. Prospect Training Service (PTS) also offer apprenticeships and can link you with an employer. Apply direct to PTS online.

Traineeships & employability courses:

Organisations such as Prospect Training Services (PTS), Forwards, Glos RFC and Bridge Training offer post 16 employability courses to help students get ready for an apprenticeship or vocational course. These courses vary in length from 12 weeks to 6 months but at the end the organization will help to link you with an employer.

Forwards (specialising in SEND):

<https://www.forwardsgloucestershire.co.uk/forwards-education/>

Bridge Training: <http://www.bridgetrainingltd.co.uk/courses/>

Prospect Training Service: <https://www.prospect-training.org.uk/youth-training#B>

Glos RFC Hltz programme: <https://www.wearescl.co.uk/gloucester-hitz#:~:text=The%20Gloucester%20Rugby%20HITZ%20Programme,Hygiene%20and%20the%20CSCS%20card.>



- ✓ Apply for several courses; one realistic, one aspirational and one as a back up.
- ✓ An aspirational course would be different for each person but as a general rule would be a course with entry requirements above your predicted grades; something challenging that you can aim to attain.
- ✓ Hold all 3 offers and make your final choice on results day.

Why should I apply for more than one course at the same college?



Sometimes courses get cancelled due to lack of numbers or may be moved from one campus to another. If you've only got one offer and the course gets cancelled then you're really stuck! You can apply for the same courses at different colleges or the same college but different campus, and make your final choice on results day.

The application asks for a personal statement, what is this & how will it be used?

A personal statement is a BRIEF introduction to you. It is an opportunity to sell yourself – tell the school, college or employer all of your skills, leadership experience, hobbies, work experience, jobs etc. Don't just list them, think about what skills you have learnt from a hobby that will be useful for the course you are applying to.

E.g. 'I look after my younger siblings after school' – able to resolve problems / conflicts, first aid knowledge, calm under pressure, organized, plan activities that are age appropriate, mature, good communicator.....

A lot of sixth forms are over-subscribed and it can be the extra skills/experiences that make the difference. E.g. one local sixth form takes about 50 external students for which they have approximately 300 applications. You need to stand out from the crowd. E.g. a second language you speak at home, voluntary work, music awards.

Your personal statement should be tailored to the institution and course, not a general blurb. What you write about may be used to form questions during an interview so make sure it's true!

What happens on results day?



I've got the results I needed.....

- ✓ Choose where you want to study/work
- ✓ Contact that organisation to accept and enroll – schools and colleges are usually open for 48 hours after results day for students to go in and enroll. You will need to take your results information.
- ✓ For apprenticeships, you need to contact the company direct
- ✓ Decline any other offers you were holding so that those places can be released to other students

I didn't get the results I'd hoped for, what do I do now?

- Go to see your first choice place as they may still accept you – really sell yourself especially about extra skills and talents that you have
- On the day there will be organisations in school who can help you find a work placement or college place
- Contact your first choice place as you may be able to still go if you swap courses/subjects
- Ring schools and colleges to see if they have vacancies or enroll on a traineeship programme e.g. Prospects 'Steps into work'
- Speak to Miss Willmott, Head of Careers



SUPPORT:

'What next?' booklet – produced by Gloucestershire Education this booklet tells you everything you need to know about the application process and how to make your choice, and is full of local information.

(2020/21 version:

https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/2093743/gcc_2342-whats-next-booklet-202021online.pdf)

UCAS website – not just for universities! UCAS has a 'further education' section on their website about how to make choices at age 16, the pathways available and how to manage the process: <https://www.ucas.com/further-education>

Winchcombe school website 'careers and Further Education' has links to useful websites to support students, parents/carers and alumni.

Winchcombe School sharepoint 'Careers Resources for Students'.

Check your school email as updates and apprenticeship opportunities will be shared with year 11.

Professional external Careers Advisor meetings for each year 11 student.

Talks by post 16 providers (covid rules permitting).

Tutorial lessons careers curriculum.