



**THE
BURGESS HILL
ACADEMY**

Year 11

Your Choices

2020-2021

BELIEVE IN YOUR BEST

September 2020

Dear Student

Your Choices ~ 2020-21

As from September 2014, the law has changed so that all young people will be required to continue in education or training until their 18th birthday. This does not necessarily mean staying in school; young people will have a choice about how they continue in education or training post-16 which could be through:

- Full-time study in school, college or with a training provider;
- Full-time work or volunteering combined with part-time education or training;
- An apprenticeship or traineeship

This booklet provides you with information to help when choosing the most suitable path after leaving The Academy.

“Moving On” meetings will be arranged during the Autumn and Spring terms with our Independent Careers Advisor: Kate Beecham from Elev8Careers. These will be either individual or group meetings. At this meeting, Kate will look at the further education courses and if applicable, apprenticeship options that would best suit you.

Virtual video tours are being created by the local Sixth Form and vocational colleges. These will be emailed out to all Year 11 students. Links will also be available on the Academy website under <https://www.theburgesshillacademy.org.uk/teaching-and-learning/careers>. It is strongly recommended that students watch all the videos in order to be able to make an informed decision.

In order to provide as much support as possible, once you have completed the online application for your chosen Post 16 provider, please email me at l.dorgan@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk with which college and which subjects. This will enable us to help and support you in making the best choices for you, thus avoiding you any additional stress or delays at a later stage. **Please ensure that the email address given on the application form is checked regularly as many colleges use this facility to notify students of interview dates.**

The Careers department also has a twitter page @TBHAcareers where information can also be found.

If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact me via email at l.dorgan@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk.

Please remember your success on results day and moving on to your chosen destination is dependent upon your attitude during the whole of Year 11. The more effort you put into your work, the greater the chance of success.

Good luck!

Yours sincerely

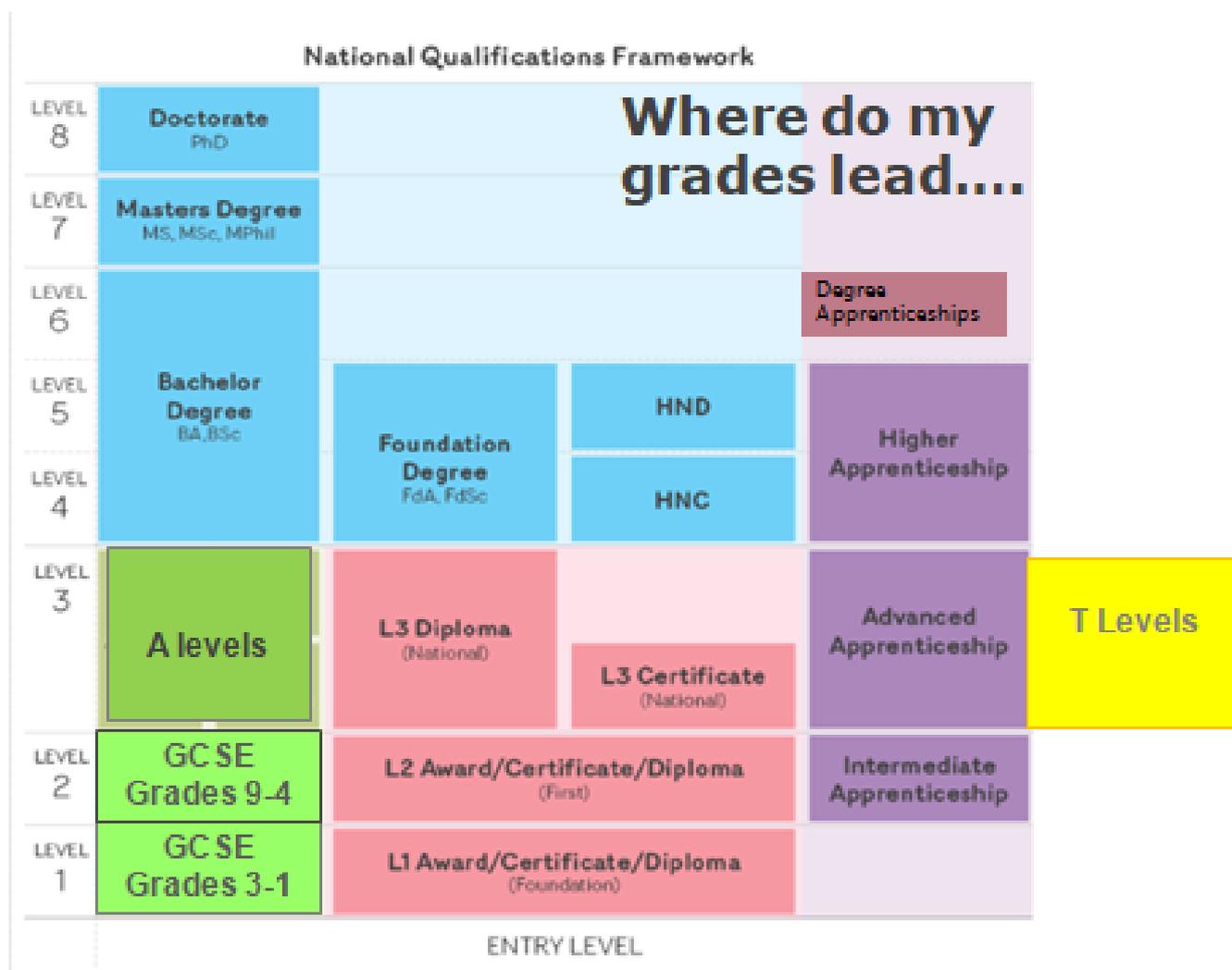


Mrs L. Dorgan
Careers Leader

THE RIGHT COURSE FOR YOU

You will be leaving The Academy with either **Level 1** GCSE grades 3- 1 or Cambridge National Level 1 Distinction, Merit or Pass or **Level 2** GCSE grades 9-4 or Cambridge National Level 2 Distinction, Merit, Pass qualifications. You will move on to study for the next level up in college in the vast majority of cases.

The level of the course gives an idea of how demanding the course is going to be – the higher the level, the more advanced the qualification. Every level contains different types of qualifications. Some are subject based, (eg A Levels) and some are vocational (work based) (eg BTECS, City and Guilds, Apprenticeships).



When considering the courses you wish to take, you should ask the following questions:

- What level am I currently working at?
- What level will I achieve when I leave The Academy?
- What are the entry requirements for the qualifications/job I am interested in?
- If I want to go to university, what grades/results/qualifications/subjects will I need?

A LEVEL (LEVEL 3)

The 'A' in A level stands for 'Advanced' and these qualifications are the next step up from GCSE Grade 9-4 (Level 2). A levels are two year courses with exams at the end.

Some colleges will allow students to take A levels alongside other qualifications such as BTECs, but some do not; you must check with the college if this is a route you wish to pursue. A levels are graded A* - E and score UCAS points which count towards university entrance or degree apprenticeship entrance. They may also allow you to enter the job market at a higher level than if you just had GCSEs.

Please check entry requirements for each subject at every college as they may vary.

GCSE

For students who achieve Level 1 grades at the Academy, there is the option to study a limited range of GCSEs at most sixth form colleges with a view to achieving grades 9-4. In most cases this will be a GCSE resit in Maths and English and occasionally Science combined with a Level 2 BTEC course.

What if my GCSE English and/or Maths is a 4 or below?

For students who have not yet achieved a grade 4 or above in English or Maths, some colleges offer the option of a GCSE resit. In most cases to sit a GCSE resit you will need to have achieved a grade 3 in your GCSE subject. If you achieved less than a grade 3 it is likely you will be put forward to do Functional Skills English and Maths before progressing to the GCSE. You will continue to do either Functional Skills or GCSE Maths and English until you achieve a grade 4 or Level 2 equivalent or until you are 18, whichever comes first. In most cases you will only be offered the chance to re-sit English and Maths GCSEs together with a level 2 BTEC course.

VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

These are workplace courses which are normally taken when you are working or training. Relating to around 900 occupations they recognise your ability to work well in the work place. These qualifications include NVQ, VRQ, City and Guilds Certificate, but there are a great many more available.

BTEC DIPLOMAS

This qualification is designed to provide specialist work related qualifications. They can be studied at Level 1, 2 and Level 3. At **Level- 2** (BTEC Firsts) there are three types of BTEC: Certificate, Extended Certificate and Diploma. These are usually equivalent to 2, 3 or 4 GCSEs.

At **Level 3** (BTEC Nationals) there are a range of types of BTEC. These BTECs can either be single, double or triple option as this will determine whether you study this subject alone or are able to mix with other A level/BTEC subjects. It is essential that you investigate which option is best for you.

BTECs are currently made up from a mixture of exam, course work and practical work. The % of exam will depend on the course; this could be anything from 25-45%. To take on a BTEC you will have the challenge of learning the theory required for A level standard as well as the practical application of your learning. BTECs are available in a range of industry related professions such as engineering, construction, business management, sports science, beauty, catering and many more. BTEC level 3 subjects also carry UCAS points for university entry or progression to Higher Apprenticeships and Sponsored degrees.

T LEVELS

T levels are being introduced this year. They are a 2-year technical qualification which is equivalent to 3 A levels (therefore you will only study this subject). They entail 900 hours of study per academic year which includes 45 days of industry work experience across the two years of the course. It is a Pass to Distinction* grading system. Currently they are only available through the Chichester College Group, the East Sussex College Group (Lewes) and Collyer's and the subjects are Education & Childcare, Construction Design or Digital. More will be offered in the future.

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE DIPLOMA ***(Only available at Varndean College)***

A challenging alternative to A Levels, which is taught worldwide and is internationally recognised and understood by universities and employers as an excellent preparation for further study and employment. The IB takes two years and is broadly equivalent to four A Levels. You will need to be organised, be interested in studying a broad range of subjects and should be expecting to achieve at least 6 GCSEs at Grades 9-6 including English and Maths.

Students study 6 elements plus an extended essay, Theory of Knowledge and Creativity, Action, Service. Students will study 3-4 elements at Higher level and the rest at Standard level. The IB is good for students who are not sure which path they want to follow.

Universities accept this qualification but students should check course requirements to ensure that the IB is accepted for the course they may wish to study. For some specialist degree courses such as medicine, A levels are preferred.

FOUNDATION LEARNING

Students who do not achieve Level 1 qualifications may wish to look at Foundation learning programmes. They are designed to promote progressions into Level 1 qualifications together with helping students to achieve nationally recognised qualifications at Entry Level and Level 1. The course includes:

- Vocational knowledge, skills and understanding
- Functional Skills (Maths, English, ICT)
- Personal and Social development
- Vocational subject based courses –e.g.: Land Studies, Cookery

APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships are available at 16, 18 or degree level. Some students will prefer to learn on the job and go to work instead of full time college. Apprenticeships are available across a huge number of occupational areas. For school leavers they are also available at Level 2 and Level 3 with the opportunity to lead to higher apprenticeships at university degree level. Entry requirements vary; some require specific qualifications and some require an initial assessment. Apprenticeships are paid according to National Levels and usually take between 1-3 years to complete.

There are a wide range of Apprenticeships varying from office based such as Accountancy, IT, Customer Service or more practical Apprenticeships such as Engineering, Hairdressing, Beauty and Construction. The training will take place in a variety of ways; day release, block release, evenings or on-job training.

Any students interested in pursuing an apprenticeship should register via <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Students must have a job before they will be accepted onto an apprenticeship. **Students should also apply to college as a backup** in case they are unable to find employment.

For further information, please contact Mrs Dorgan (l.dorgan@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk).

TRAINEESHIPS

A traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience that unlocks the great potential of young people and prepares them for their future careers by helping them to become 'work ready'.

Designed to help young people aged 16 to 24 who don't yet have the appropriate skills or experience, traineeships are unpaid but provide the essential work preparation training, English, maths and work experience needed to secure an apprenticeship or employment or to move onto higher level courses at colleges. For further information, log on to <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traineeships-programme>

GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry requirements are listed in college prospectuses however, generally to study Level 3 courses of three full A levels / Level 3 BTEC equivalent to 3 A levels / T-Level, the college will require to achieve grades 9-5 in 5 GCSEs (some will require 6 GCSEs at grade 9-5); they may also ask for anything up to grade 7/8 in the subject you wish to study. English and Maths will be a requirement for all Level 3 courses. For courses which the colleges deem more demanding such as English, Psychology and Maths etc., they may well ask for a level 6 in English and Maths GCSE. It is essential you check each college's entry requirements as they may differ. For creative courses, in addition to the academic grades you may also be required to produce a portfolio of your work or to attend an audition.

Colleges will also contact the Academy for a reference to give an indication of other factors such as attitude to learning, attendance and any extracurricular activities you may be involved in.

To study Level 2 courses – you will need 4 or more grade 3 GCSEs and where possible a grade 4 in either Maths or English, however this will not exclude you from a level 2 course.

Students should remember that you are entitled to up to three years funded further education as long as you are showing progress in your learning so students who do not reach these entry requirements can start on a Level 1 course and progress onto Level 2, or start on Level 2 courses and progress onto Level 3. Alternatively, students who have chosen to change their course at the end of their first year may be entitled to start again for an additional 2 years of study.

If you do not achieve a grade 4/5 in your English and Maths and are looking to resit or retake the course, you will need to check with the college whether they will offer this opportunity to you. In some cases, you may be offered the opportunity to take an equivalent course, not a GCSE. If you require any further guidance, please contact the college to which you are applying.

There are many course levels and qualifications available and choosing what is right for you can be confusing. If you are uncertain do seek help and advice from our Independent Careers Advisor, Kate Beecham –Mrs Dorgan is available to answer any queries or concerns.

THE GUIDANCE PROGRAMME

This year The Burgess Hill Academy offers advice and information in the following forms:

1. Virtual Post 16 Information Evening – Thursday 15th October 6pm
2. Sixth Form College prospectuses are available from the Careers Office in T Block on Thursday break and lunch time or Mrs Dorgan. Prospectuses will also be available in Year 11 tutor rooms.
3. Interviews:
 - [a] Every student will be allotted an interview time with Kate Beecham, our independent careers adviser. Interviews may be conducted individually or in small groups.
 - [b] College interviews will take place between November and March. **Students will need to take their Year 10 report together with their latest tracking sheet and mock results when available.**

FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS WHO ARE IN GREAT DOUBT AND NEED FURTHER GUIDANCE, INTERVIEWS WITH CAREERS STAFF AND/OR SENIOR STAFF MAY BE ARRANGED BY REQUEST VIA MRS DORGAN.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email at l.dorgan@theburgesshillacademy.org.uk if you have any queries or concerns.

TRAVEL

Further Education is at present still free but parents/students have to pay travel costs. However, a new railcard has been introduced for 16-17 years olds which costs £30 per year but gives a 50% discount on all train tickets for that year. Further information can be found here.

<https://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/blog/introducing-the-16-17-saver/>

16 to 19 Bursary Fund

This provides help to pay for essential education-related costs if you're aged 16 to 19 and in further education or training. Unfortunately you can't apply if you're studying at university.

The Bursary Fund can help pay for costs like:

- equipment you might need for your course
- lunch
- transport to and from your school or college

You could get a bursary of £1,200 a year if you're in one of the following groups:

- people in care or care leavers
- people claiming [Income Support](#)
- disabled people getting [Employment and Support Allowance](#) and [Disability Living Allowance](#)

If you aren't in one of these groups, you could still get a bursary depending on your personal circumstances.

For more information about the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund, download 'The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund: your questions answered'. Applications for this bursary are made through the colleges direct.

UNIVERSITY

If you are thinking of going to university, please note that you must have a grade 4 (or in some cases grade 5) in English Language and Maths. Most require that a student takes at least 3 subjects through to the full A level / level 3 BTEC equivalent or T Level equivalent. Some University subjects will require that the student has studied the same subject at A level.

There are also university courses available for students who have not completed 3 A levels or a full level 3 BTEC. For further information on university courses and entrance requirements, please visit the UCAS website at www.ucas.com or speak to Mrs Dorgan about all your university options.

THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A COLLEGE

Courses	The same course at different colleges may contain differing modules. Please ensure that you check the course details. Also check course requirements as some courses will require specific grades at GCSE to take the subject at A level.
Progression	If you wish to go onto Higher Education, your chosen subject area may have specific requirements at GCSE and A level.
Quality	Look at the individual subject pass rates to see which college is best for the subject you wish to take
Travelling	Make sure that you know how you will get there every day and that you can afford it.
Talk to	Your subject teachers Careers Adviser Friends Parents Students currently at the college (when attending the Open Evening) - they will be able to provide practical information.

BHASVIC and Varndean Colleges operate a joint application form. Your application will only be received at your first choice college as you CANNOT apply to both colleges.

CAREERS WEBSITES

National Careers Service – <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

Provides lots of information on job profiles, how to write a CV, interview techniques. There is also the facility to speak to an adviser.

Barclays Lifeskills - <https://barclayslifeskills.com/>

Free to register and offers a wealth of information on interview techniques, CV writing, essential skills for work

Apprenticeships – www.apprenticeships.org.uk or www.apprenticeships-in-sussex.com

For information on Apprenticeships. Remember if you are choosing the Apprenticeship route, please apply to colleges as a backup if you are unable to secure employment with apprenticeship.

Other valuable sources of information :

Get Career Confident - <https://www.getcareerconfident.co.uk/>

Elev8careers - <http://www.elev8careers.org.uk/>

How2become - <https://www.how2become.com/>

What Uni - <https://www.whatuni.com/>

First Careers - <https://www.firstcareers.co.uk/>

UCAS - <https://www.ucas.com/>

USEFUL COLLEGE DATES

BHASVIC	11 th and 12 th November – check https://www.bhasvic.ac.uk/admissions/open-evenings for details
BIMM	www.bimm.ac.uk/open-days - Online booking required
Burgess Hill Girls	Thursday 8 th October 7pm to 9pm – Virtual, book online www.burgesshillgirls.com/admissions/open-events
Brighton Metropolitan College <i>(formerly City College)</i>	3 rd /4 th /5 th November check website for further information www.gbmc.ac.uk/contact/news-events/open-event-met
Crawley College <i>(formerly Central Sussex College)</i>	15 th October 4.30pm-7pm and 7 th November 10am-1pm check website for information https://www.crawley.ac.uk/study-courses/open
Collyer's College	11 th and 12 th November see website for further information http://www.collyers.ac.uk/admissions/open-evenings/
DV8 (Brighton)	13 th October and 24 th November – email to confirm place admissions@dv8sussex.com
Haywards Heath College	9 th and 10 th November 5pm to 7.30pm http://www.haywardsheath.ac.uk/virtualopenevent
Hurstpierpoint College	check website for information https://www.hppc.co.uk/admissions/open-mornings-and-visits/
Northbrook College <i>(all campuses)</i>	3 rd /4 th /5 th November check website for further information www.gbmc.ac.uk/contact/news-events/open-event-met
Plumpton College	7 th October 4pm-7.30pm 7 th November 10am – 1pm For information on how to register for these virtual events https://www.plumpton.ac.uk/news-updates/calendar-of-events/

St Pauls Catholic College For information please check the website
<http://www.stpaulssixthform.co.uk/>

Sussex Downs College Hastings- Wed 14 Oct and Thurs 15 Oct
Lewes- Wed 21 Oct and Thurs 22 Oct
Eastbourne- Wed 11 Nov and Thu 12 Nov
Check website for details on these virtual events
<https://www.escg.ac.uk/whats-on/open-events/>

Varndean College Open Day Saturday 26th September (11am – 2pm)
Open Evenings Tuesday 20 & Wednesday 21 October
(6.30pm – 9pm)
International Baccalaureate Information Evening – **Thursday 15 October – Virtual
Event**

PLEASE CHECK COLLEGE WEBSITES PRIOR TO THE OPEN EVENINGS TO CONFIRM TIMINGS

USEFUL ADDRESSES and TELEPHONE NUMBERS

West Sussex Education Department (Grants & Awards), County Hall, Chichester,
PO1-1RF. 01243 777990

Northbrook MET College, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, BN12 6NU.
01903 606060 www.northbrook.ac.uk

St. Paul's Catholic College, Jane Murray Way, Burgess Hill, RH15 8GA.
01444 873898 www.stpaulscatholiccollege.co.uk

Varndean College, Surrenden Road, Brighton, BN1 6QW.
01273 508011 www.varndean.ac.uk

Brighton MET College, Brighton & Hove, Pelham Street, Brighton, BN1 4FA.
01273 667788 www.ccb.ac.uk

Brighton, Hove & Sussex Sixth Form College (BHASVIC), 205 Dyke Road, Hove,
BN3 6EG. 01273 552200 www.bhasvic.ac.uk

Sussex Downs College - Lewes Sixth Form Centre, Mountfield Road, Lewes, BN 2XH
01273 483188 www.sussexdowns.ac.uk

Plumpton College, Ditchling Road, Plumpton, Nr Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 3AE.
01273 890454 www.plumpton.ac.uk

Burgess Hill Girls, Keymer Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 0EG
01444 241050 www.burgesshill-school.com

Hurstpierpoint College, College Lane, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, BN6 9JJ
01273 836937 www.hppc.co.uk

Crawley College, College Road, Crawley, RH10 1NR
01293 442200 www.crawley.ac.uk

The College of Richard Collyer, 82 Hurst Road, Horsham, RH12 2EJ
01403 210822 www.collyers.ac.uk

DV8, 12 Queen Square, Brighton, BN1 3FD
01273 550432 www.dv8sussex.com

BIMM, 38-42 Brunswick Street West, Hove, BN3 1EL
01273 626666 www.bimm.co.uk

Haywards Heath College, Harlands Rd, Haywards Heath RH16 1LT
01444 711900 <http://www.haywardsheath.ac.uk/>