



# Choices @ 16+

## Information for parents and carers

### Who's who?

**Julie Nuttall and Sharon Yoxall** are the Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance Co-ordinators. If you have any questions please feel free to email on [julie.nuttall@croftonacademy.org.uk](mailto:julie.nuttall@croftonacademy.org.uk)

**Zoe Field** – Independent Careers Adviser. Contact on [zoe.field@prospepects.co.uk](mailto:zoe.field@prospepects.co.uk) or [zoe.field@croftonacademy.org.uk](mailto:zoe.field@croftonacademy.org.uk) or 07920071716. Zoe works Wednesdays and Thursdays at Crofton Academy. Her role covers Post 16 option consultation (including apprenticeships), career choice, qualification choice plus counselling to help remove barriers to achievement, such as: anxiety, low motivation, behavioural issues and any other life events that affect progress. Pupils can ask for an appointment through their year group team, Julie Nuttall or speak directly to Zoe. You can ask for an appointment to see Zoe at parent's evening and she will also be available on Y11 Results day.

Year 11 pupils will receive 'Impartial Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance' through their PSHCE lessons leading up until Christmas, by which time their post 16 applications are expected to be completed. They will be introduced to the types of courses available to them post 16 and decision making skills will be discussed. Each local college will have been into their assemblies to launch their 2018 prospectus. We also have software on the school computer network called Fast Tomato which pupils can access to can give them a job profile based upon a personality questionnaire. Other useful sites are <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk> and [www.connexionswakefield.co.uk](http://www.connexionswakefield.co.uk)

Due to the raising of the Participant Age **RPA**, young people now have to stay in education up until the age of 18. This includes full time education, apprenticeships and 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training.

### **ONLINE APPLICATIONS** – [www.ucasprogress.com](http://www.ucasprogress.com)

All our year 11 pupils are asked to apply for their college or training provider place through the internet, using the online prospectus above UCAS progress. This site itself is extremely useful as it holds information on all the providers of post 16 qualifications in the area. Applications will initially be started in school, but can be finished at home, once the process has been explained and fully understood. (Pupils will be given passwords and usernames) The site can of course be used at home for information at any time without passwords.

**OPEN EVENINGS** - All the local colleges have Open Evenings. The dates of these are on our web page college links (Post 16 Progression and Careers). 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.

**CHOICES** – What qualifications are available? Each qualification is recognised as a particular 'Level'. There is something for everybody. Colleges, 6<sup>th</sup> forms and training providers offer a range of courses at level 1, 2 and 3. Level 1 is the equivalent of GCSE grades G-D/1-3; level 2 is the equivalent of GCSE grade C/4 and you need to have achieved 5 GCSEs at grade C/4 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.

**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 A\*-C or 9-4 including English Language and Maths. There are some subject specific requirements, such as level 5 in Maths and B in Science for Psychology and level 6 in Maths and B in GCSE Biology for Biology. These requirements are the ones currently being asked, but they could possibly change for 2018 entry. 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 A\*-C or 9-4 including English Language or Maths. These requirements are the ones currently being asked, but they could possibly change for 2018 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.

**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. Zoe Field can support pupils through this process. The advice is to apply for a college place as a back-up as an apprenticeship place is not guaranteed.