



South Dartmoor Community College

Transition Support for Year 11 students and their parents/carers



Introduction

At South Dartmoor Community College and the Atrium, we are committed to supporting all Year 11 students to make an informed choice about their next steps.

Year 11 may mark the end of your school days, but you must stay in education or training until the end of the school year when you turn 18.

Where can I get support:

- Your tutor
- The school's careers department – we have prospectus and information about different careers
- Our careers advisor – all students will be given an appointment to see our careers advisor. Students are able to request an earlier appointment by email (careers@southdartmoor.deveon.sch.uk)
- Sixth form/ College/ Apprenticeship websites (see page 10)
- <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>
- <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/>

What can you do next? Your main choices are:

- Full-time study, such as A-levels or a level 1,2,3 course
- An apprenticeship or traineeship
- Employment with part-time training

Things you need to consider when you are choosing what to do:

- Your grades – this will impact on what you are able to do. Pages 6 and 7 will look at the different course levels and the GCSE grades which will be needed to get onto these courses.
- What you are interested in
- What you want to do as a career – what does the course you want to do lead on to?
- How you will get to the college, sixth form, apprenticeship

What to do next

It is worth looking ahead, as decisions you make now may narrow your choices later.

1. Go through prospectuses and look online at the different courses/apprenticeships available to you. Look at what qualifications lead or progress onto.
2. Look at career options – what qualifications do you need for the careers identified?
(a useful website is <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>)
3. If the career you are interested in states that you will need to go to university, it is a good idea to check the entry requirements of this university course, as often they will specify a particular A level or course (a useful website for this is www.ucas.com).
4. Talk to your tutor or make an appointment with our careers advisor to talk about your options.
5. Attend Open Days – (information about these will be on individual college/school websites)
6. Apply for courses – you are able to put in applications to multiple colleges. When applying don't use your school email address.

Choosing a career

There are many different tests you can do to help you identify suitable careers:

- <https://www.ucas.com/careers/buzz-quiz>
- <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/skills-assessment>

When choosing a career you need to ensure that the educational and training requirements are attainable.

Another good question to consider when choosing a career is, is it possible to build a career in this field? You can find the answer by looking at labour market information.

What Is Labour Market Information?

Labour Market information looks at the world of work; it considers different careers, their entry routes, salaries paid, skills and qualifications needed, etc. It also looks at future employment demands and considers what kinds of jobs will be in demand after leaving school and what kinds of skills will be needed.

Useful websites for local labour information are:

- <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/parent-zone/choices-at-18/what-are-the-top-jobs-of-the-future>
- <https://www.devon.gov.uk/economy/employment-inward-investment/>
- <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/> -

Choosing a course: What the levels mean

Entry level

This is the first level of education

Entry requirements after GCSEs: – None

Progression: Level 1

Example: *Vocational Tasters Entry Level*

“This a one-year course where you will study in a variety of different areas across a College, including Catering, Brickwork, Sport, Woodwork, Animal Care, Childcare and Automotive.

The course has been designed to help you find areas that interest you and provides potential progression routes to mainstream College courses. You will work in small groups with curriculum support, alongside dedicated tutors, and within our fantastic specialist facilities.”

Level 1

Equivalent to GCSE grades 3, 2, 1 or grades D, E, F, G

Entry requirements after GCSEs: depends on course (some require 3 grade 2s, others may just require an interest in the subject)

Progression: Level 2

Examples:

- Electrical installation
- Carpentry
- Child Care
- Hair and media makeup

Level 2

Equivalent to GCSE grades 4,5,6,7,8,9 or grades A*, A , B and C

Entry requirements after GCSEs: depends on course (could be 3 grade 4s or 3 grade 3s)

Progression: Level 3

Examples:

- Armed Force Preparation
- Computer Aided Design
- Youth and Community
- Animal Care
- Adult Care Worker
- Accountancy

Level 3

Equivalent to A levels

Entry requirements after GCSEs: this will depend on the course (usually 5 GCSEs at grade 4/5)

Progression: Employment, Level 4 qualifications, foundation degree or degree (it is important to check progression routes). The careers department can help with this.

Examples:

- A levels
- Animal Management
- Adventure Sport
- Barbering
- Boat building
- Sport

Choosing a course: the terms explained

A-Levels

Advanced Levels or A-Levels are subject-based qualifications that students aged 16 or older must get if they plan to enter university or just want to gain better knowledge in a particular study area or profession they're in to. A-Level courses are provided by Sixth Form Colleges and Further Education Colleges.

Apprenticeships:

With an apprenticeship, you would be working for an employer, earning a wage (at least £4.30 an hour at 16 years of age), and studying for a qualification (often an NVQ) at the same time. You would be linked with a college or training provider to make sure you get all of your work done for your qualification.

Useful websites if you are interested in finding out more about apprenticeships:

- www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
- <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>
- <https://vimeo.com/412215955>

Awarding Bodies

AQA, Edexcel, CACHE, NCFE, OCR and City and Guild – these are awarding bodies. An awarding body is an organisation that is regulated by Ofqual. They will develop, design and certify qualifications. They will ensure that the qualification is quality assured.

BTECS

BTEC stands for the Business and Technology Education Council. BTECs are specialist work-related qualifications. They are a combination of practical learning with subject and theory content.

Cambridge Technical

Cambridge Technicals are vocational qualifications at Level 2 and Level 3 for students aged 16+. They're designed with the workplace in mind.

T levels

A T level qualification is a nationally recognised qualification. T level includes 45-day industry placement to help you learn what a real career is like.

A useful website if you are interested in T levels is:

- <https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/>

Technical qualifications

Technical qualifications are designed to equip learners with specialist knowledge and skills. In some cases, technical qualifications can provide a 'licence to practise' or exemption from professional exams.

Vocational qualifications

Vocational qualifications offer practical learning programmes that relate to specific job roles or employment sectors.

Useful websites

General Careers Information	
https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/	Information about different careers and courses. Local Career Market information.
https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/	Information about different careers, includes salary, qualifications needed and the different progression routes. Labour market information. Skills quiz – linking skills to careers.
https://www.ucas.com/careers-advice	Career information – links to courses.
https://sacu-student.com/	Information about careers. Careers Quiz. Labour market information.
Apprenticeships	
https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship	Shows what apprenticeships are available in different areas of the country.
https://amazingapprenticeships.com/	Information booklets for both students and parents about apprenticeships.
Local Sixth form and Colleges	
South Dartmoor Sixth Form https://www.southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Sixth+Form&pid=6	Information about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses offered • Sixth form
South Devon College https://www.southdevon.ac.uk/	Information about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual tours • Courses
Bicton College https://www.bicton.ac.uk	Information about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual tours • Courses
Exeter College https://exe-coll.ac.uk/	Information about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual tours • Courses