

Careers – A brief guide to post 16 options and qualifications

Post 16 Options

There are a variety of post-16 options. Different colleges and sixth forms offer different courses so always check their websites for what they are able to offer. The courses on offer can change from year to year too.

The vast majority of our students go on to study at either John Leggott College or North Lindsey College. We have students who go into other education provision (e.g. Bishop Burton College, Grimsby Institute, Queen Elizabeth High School, Engineering UTC Northern Lincolnshire) and an increasing number into apprenticeships, locally and through large organisations such as the Royal Navy or the Army (Army Foundation College, Harrogate).

The landscape of options for our students after year 11 is changing rapidly and so it is really important that the information we all give, formally or informally, is current and not solely based on our own experiences. That is not to say that our own experiences are not valid, just that we need to be mindful that things change.

Where do our students go?

At the end of November 2024, 98% of our 2024 cohort were in a positive destination.

- 119 went to a sixth form college or a school sixth form
- 123 went to an FE college
- 16 students moved into employment with training (apprenticeship/traineeship)
- 1 students moved into employment without training
- 4 students were considered NEET (Not in education employment or training)
- Proportionately more male students went to FE college rather than sixth form
- Other destinations were evenly split between male and female students

These figures are fairly representative of a typical cohort leaving Frederick Gough School.

A levels

A levels are subject based qualifications usually assessed by exams.

There are more than 40 different A level subjects to choose from although not all are available locally. The largest local provider of A levels is John Leggott College.

An A level programme is studied over two years. Most students choose 3 subjects to study, although it may be possible to study 4. It is also possible to combine A levels with level 3 vocational qualifications to formulate a programme of study equivalent to 3 A levels. A levels are grades from A* - E.

Entry requirements vary slightly between subjects but the usual requirement would be a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grades 4-9 for an A level programme. Some subjects have other specific requirements e.g. a grade 6 in that subject at GCSE or a requirement for maths and/or English at 5+.

When choosing subjects it is important to consider which subjects:

- are of interest or pupils are good at;
- may be needed for a certain job or further study;
- will keep options open if future plans are uncertain.

A levels can lead to:

- Apprenticeships (see later section)
- Higher Education (i.e. degree level qualifications at university)
- Employment

There may be opportunities for work experience as part of a college programme.

Frederick Gough Case Studies:

Student A - Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University of Leeds after A levels in electronics, maths, physics.

Student B - Degree apprenticeship with Renishaw after A levels in computer science, further maths, physics.

Student C - Economics, University of Newcastle after A levels in biology, chemistry, economics.

Student D - Aerospace Engineering, University of Sheffield after A levels in biology, chemistry, maths.

Student E - Apprentice accountant with Forrester Boyd after A levels in PE, geography, accounting.

Student F - Business Admin apprenticeship with Arcelor following A levels in biology, chemistry, maths.

Student G - Music, University of Cambridge following A levels in music, maths, psychology.

Student H - Degree apprenticeship with the Metropolitan Police following A levels in biology, psychology and criminology.

Student I - Degree apprenticeship in Adult nursing with Castle Hill/University of Hull after A levels in biology, chemistry and psychology.

Apprenticeships

To start an apprenticeship you'll need to:

- Be 16 or over
- Live in England
- Not be in full-time education

An apprenticeship is a job, lasting for at least a year where you'll:

- Earn a wage and get the other benefits of anyone else employed at the organisation
- Work alongside experienced staff
- Gain job specific skills
- Get time for training and study related to your role and leading to a qualification relevant to your job. This training might be at your place of work, a college, a training provider, at a specialist training centre or online

There are over 800 different types of apprenticeships and these are available at a variety of levels. Some apprenticeships start at level 2 regardless of previous qualifications, others start at the level above previous attainment.

Intermediate – level 2

Advanced – level 3

Higher – level 4 or 5

Degree – level 6 or 7

Entry requirements vary, however any student who has not achieved a 4 or above in maths and English will be required to retake them or complete level 2 functional skills.

An apprenticeship can lead to:

- Higher education (which in some circumstances could be paid)
- Another apprenticeship (at a higher level or in a different area)
- Another job (with the same organisation or a different organisation)

Frederick Gough Case Studies:

Student J – Social Media and Digital Marketing (Wren Kitchens) straight from school

Student K – Audit Accountant (BDO Leeds) following A levels

Student L – Weapons Systems Engineering (DSTL) following A levels

Student M – Engineering (Arrow Engineering) following BTEC L2 Electrical Installation

Student N – Chef (Forest Pines) straight from school

Student O – Maintenance and operations engineering (British Steel) straight from school

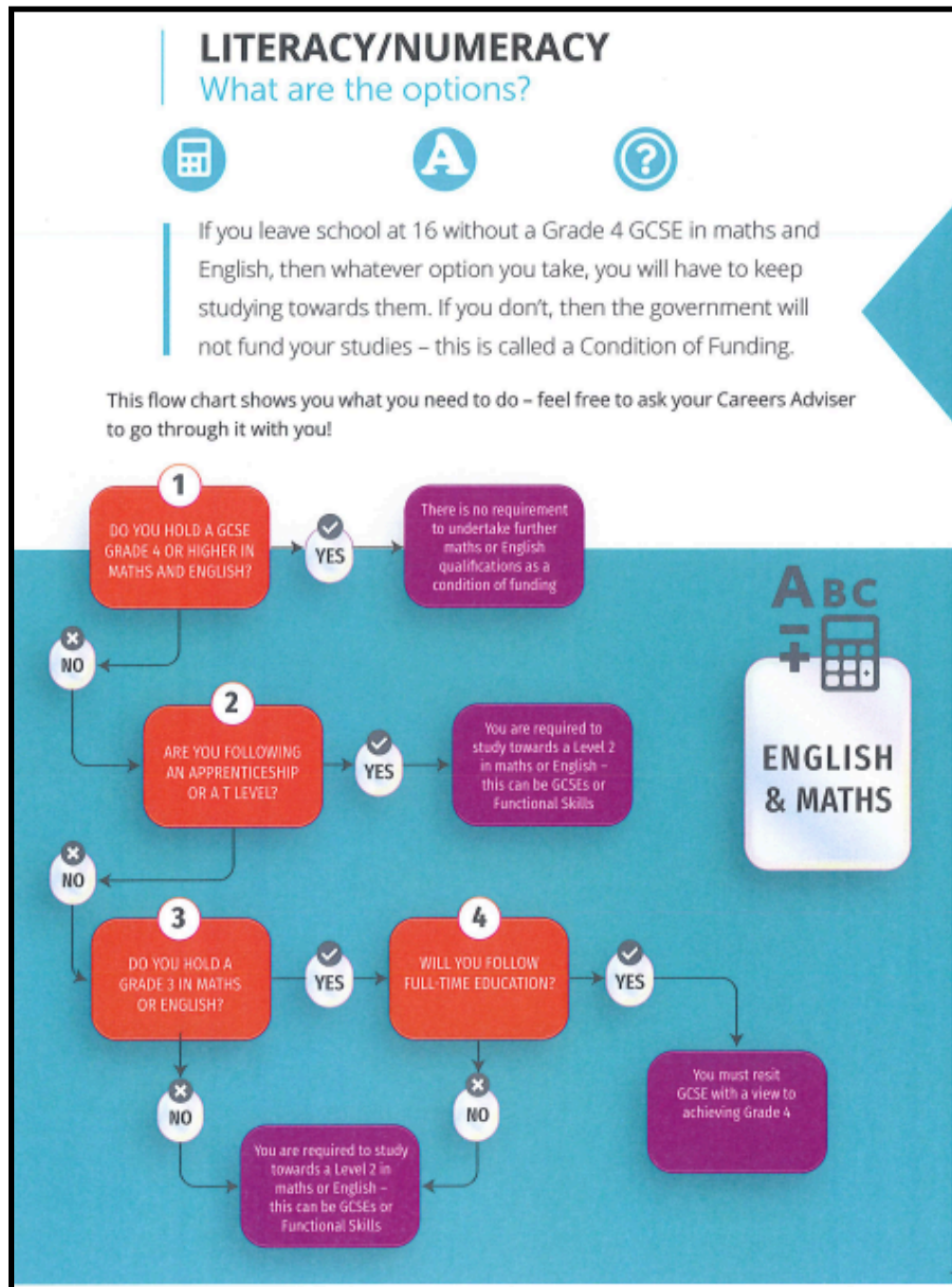
Student P - Dental Nursing straight from school

Student Q - Veterinary Nursing after one year of A levels

Student R - Engineering (Wienerberger) straight from school

GCSEs

It may be necessary to continue to study maths and/or English after year 11 if a grade 4 or above has not already been achieved. It is a condition of funding for further qualifications.



It is not possible to 'resit' year 11 and retake all GCSE's. Maths and English are studied alongside other programmes.

T levels

A T level is classroom based technical training for 16-19 year olds. It is a two year programme and is equivalent to 3 A levels. It focuses on building the vocational skills needed to enter a particular occupational area. T levels are graded pass, merit, distinction, distinction*.

Approximately 80% of course time will be spent in the classroom and 20% on a work experience placement with an employer. The work placement will be for a minimum of 45 working days.

T levels are available in several subject areas – not all subjects are available locally although the offer is likely to increase year on year.

John Leggott offer the following:

- Digital production, design and development
- Education and Early Years
- Health
- Business management and administration (from September 2026)
- Legal, finance and accounting (from September 2026)

North Lindsey offer the following:

- Business management and administration
- Digital production, design and development
- Education and Early Years
- Engineering and Manufacturing - Maintenance
- Health

Entry requirements vary between providers and also between courses. GCSE grade 4 or level 2 functional skills in English and maths are required to complete a T level.

It may be possible to study a **T level Transition Programme** to give additional support prior to starting a T level. Applications are directly to the provider and are for students who are not quite ready for a full T level programme in order to give the best chance of passing the course.

A T level can lead to:

- Higher Education
- A related higher level apprenticeship
- Employment

Frederick Gough Case Studies:

Student S – Childhood Studies, University of Huddersfield following T level education and childcare.
Student T - Employment in a pharmacy, working towards dispensing qualifications following T level Health.

Student U - Mechanical Engineering, Sheffield Hallam following a T level Engineering

Student V - Cyber Security and Digital Forensics, University of Westminster following a T level Digital production, design and development.

Student W - Children's nursing, University of Hull following a T level Health.

Vocational Technical Qualifications (VTQs)

VTQs are practical qualifications designed to help to develop the skills needed to start a career or to go onto higher levels of education. They focus on a specific job or a broad employment area such as childcare, engineering or IT.

There are a few different types of vocational technical qualifications including:

- BTECs (level 1 - 7 qualifications);
- Cambridge Nationals (level 1 and 2 qualifications);
- Cambridge Technicals (level 2 and 3 qualifications);
- City and Guilds;
- T levels (level 3).

The minimum length of the course will be one year but the length of the course will be different depending on the level. Vocational qualifications are graded pass, merit, distinction, distinction*.

Entry requirements vary between providers. There is a course level for all regardless of prior attainment. Different courses have their own specific requirements - details of these can be found on college websites or in their prospectuses.

North Lindsey College offers vocational qualifications from level 1 upwards.

John Leggott College offers vocational qualification programmes at level 2 and level 3. At level 3, different size qualifications are on offer so these could be the equivalent to 1,2 or 3 A levels. At John Leggott A levels can be combined with vocational courses to form a full programme of study.

A vocational technical qualification can lead to:

- Apprenticeships
- Higher Education
- Employment

Some vocational courses have a work experience requirement as part of the course.

Frederick Gough Case Studies:

Student X - Adult Nursing, University of York following BTEC level 3 Health and Social Care.

Student Y - Engineering apprenticeship, Arrow Engineering after BTEC level 2 Electrical Installation.

Student Z - Motorsport Technology, University of Bolton following BTEC level 3 Vehicle Technology.

Student AA - Sports coaching and performance science, University of Hull after BTEC level 3 Sport and Physical Activity.

Student AB - Computer games design and animation, Staffordshire University after BTEC Extended diploma in Games Design (Creative Media)

Student AC - Firefighter, Humberside Fire and Rescue following BTEC level 3 business and double BTEC level 3 uniformed services.

Student AD - Animal Welfare Science, UCNL after BTEC level 3 Animal Management.

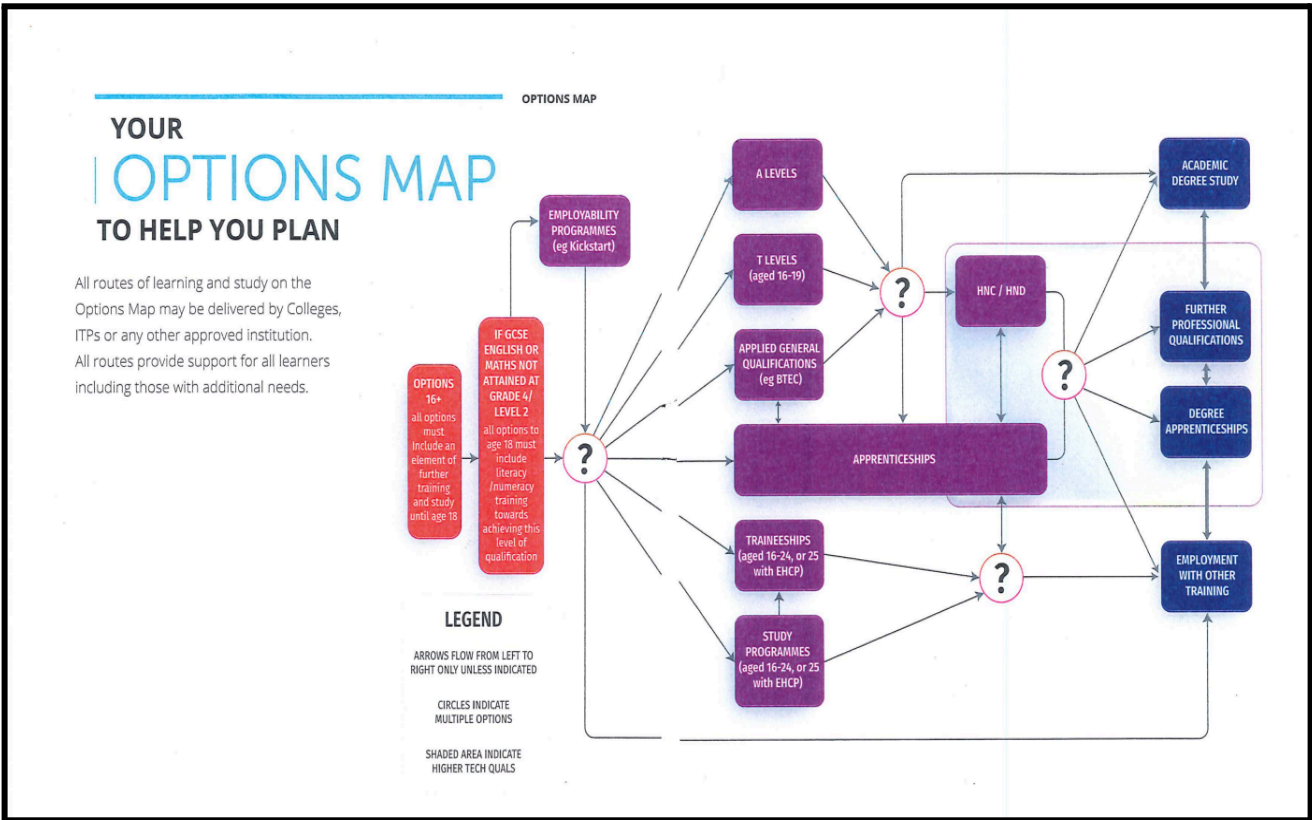
Student AE - Film & TV, University of Lincoln following double L3 creative media and A level Geography.

Student Af - Musical Theatre and Dance, BIMM (Birmingham) following BTEC dance, A level music and A level maths.

Student AG - Music Performance, WaterBear Sheffield following L3 Music performance & production.

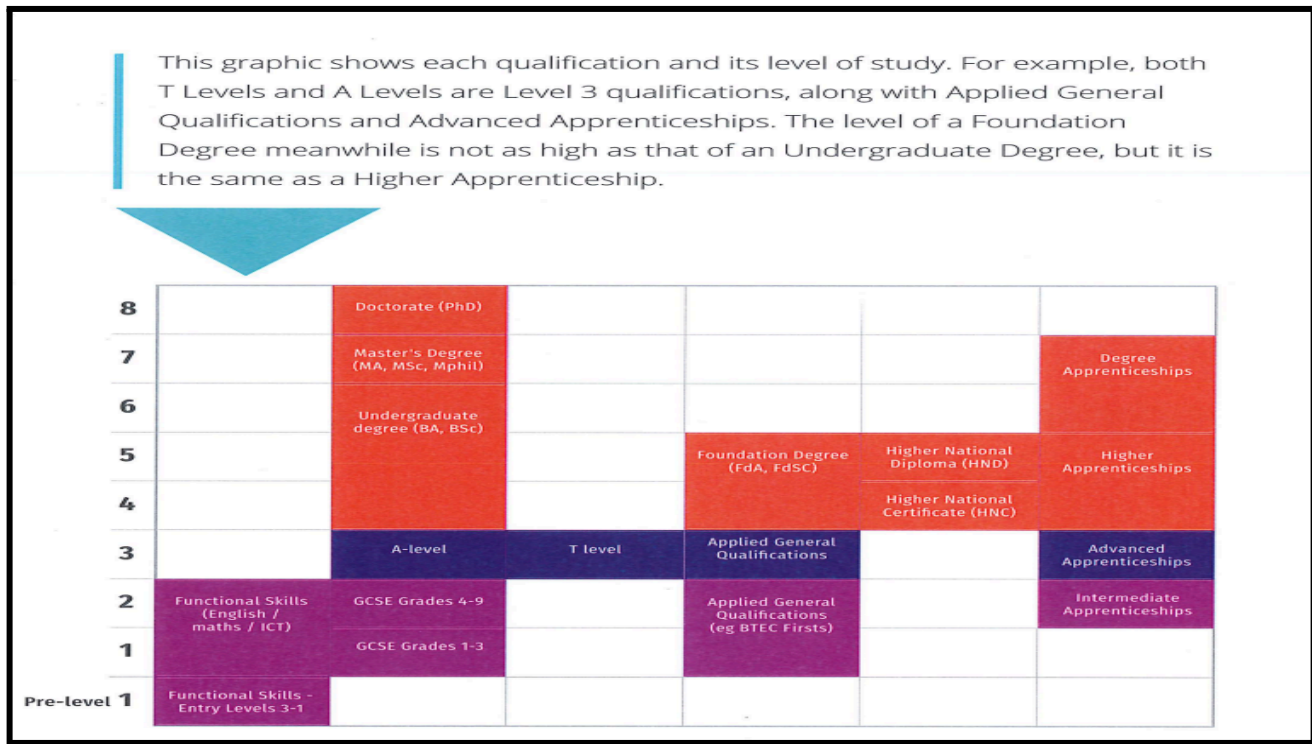
Options Map

The map below shows how the different options link together and shows progression routes.



Levels of study

The diagram below shows the different levels of qualifications and where the different types of qualifications fit in relation to each other.



Sources of information

General

National Careers Service - <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

A useful starting point for job profiles (entry requirements, routes into a job, basic salary information), skills assessment and general information about the options available. This website is not designed specifically for young people but is a very useful starting point.

Labour market information - <https://www.lmiforall.org.uk/>

A database of information with information about patterns in the labour market e.g. wage trends, increase/decrease in jobs in different sectors. There is also a skills quiz to link jobs to your skills and interests.

Greater Lincolnshire LEP labour market information - <https://www.theworldofwork.co.uk/>

Information about the world of work in the Greater Lincolnshire area. Information about the main employment sectors in this area and local case studies.

Morrisby Careers Website - www.morrisby.com

We have a license for a website called Morrisby Careers. It allows you to research a career you are already interested in or to get some ideas of careers which may suit you based on the things you are good at and enjoy. It also includes films from people doing those jobs and information about the routes in. Our code is MC763M13

Apprenticeships

Government apprenticeship site - <https://www.gov.uk/become-apprentice>

Amazing apprenticeships - <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

North Lindsey apprenticeships - <https://northlindsey.ac.uk/apprenticeships/>

HETA engineering apprenticeships - <https://www.heta.co.uk/>

CATCH apprenticeships - <https://catchuk.org/>

Local Colleges

Bishop Burton College - <https://www.bishopburton.ac.uk/college>

Engineering UTC Northern Lincolnshire - <https://enlutc.co.uk/>

Franklin College - <https://www.franklin.ac.uk/>

Grimsby Institute - <https://grimsby.ac.uk/>

John Leggott College - <https://www.leggott.ac.uk/>

North Lindsey College - <https://northlindsey.ac.uk/>

Queen Elizabeth's High School, Gainsborough - <https://qehs.lincs.sch.uk/school/sixth-form>

Higher Education/Degree Apprenticeships

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