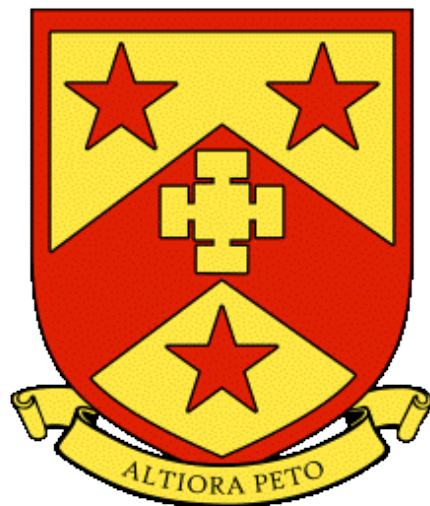


NETHER STOWE SCHOOL

POST 16 PATHWAY INFORMATION BOOKLET

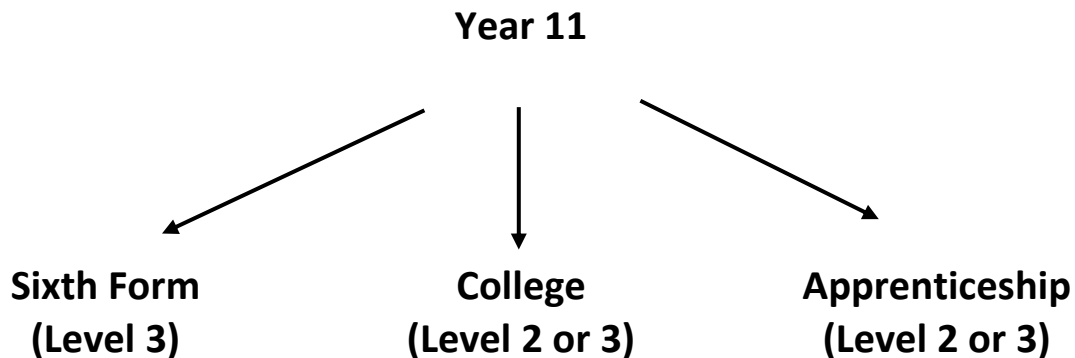


ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE

'THE ROAD AHEAD'

What are my options at the end of Year 11?

During year 11 students will be given the opportunity to look at the options available to them to continue their education post 16. Students will receive an interview to discuss their plans with a senior member of staff and look at how they can be supported with their decisions. Students will need to complete independent research of what is available to them in their area, what their preferences are in terms of subjects and study arrangements and whether their current attainment meets the required entry requirements. Every student will have a different pathway that is suitable to them and here at Nether Stowe we aim to support every student in making the decision that is right for them. It is important that students are realistic but don't underestimate their capability.



NB; Level 2 courses are equivalent to GCSE qualifications. These may be offered if students are not passing GCSE Maths or English. Level 3 courses are equivalent to A Level and BTEC National qualifications.

Sixth Form

- Sixth Forms are often based within school and act as a natural progression for many students making the transition from Year 11. Sixth Forms operate using the same principles as school with compulsory attendance, specific uniform policies and regular tracking of attainment. However, there is often a greater degree of flexibility with regards to study time and free lessons.
- Students are required to study 3 subjects and these can be a mixture of both academic A Levels and Vocational subjects. Subjects being offered will vary each year and it is important to look at subjects that you have been fond of and achieved well in previously alongside new subjects that you haven't studied before. Many students with a specific career path in mind will need to opt for certain A Levels. Guidance for this can be provided

at interviews or through speaking with a member of the Sixth Form team at Nether Stowe. Completion of A Levels can lead on to a number of opportunities including University, higher level apprenticeships and employment.

- Each subject will have specific entry requirements relating to performance at GCSE. Although previous knowledge and experience can help not all subjects require you to have studied the subject before at GCSE level.
- Sixth Forms will usually have their open evenings in the first term with places being offered on a provisional basis until GCSE results are released. Open evenings are an excellent opportunity to see what courses are on offer and speak with teachers about your suitability within those subjects.
- Nether Stowe Sixth Form; there are a number of benefits of staying at Nether Stowe Sixth Form. The Sixth Form here is small and very much a close knit community. Teachers know the students very well and the small class sizes allows for tailored, personalised support. There is a dedicated Sixth Form team designed to support you and meet your needs emotionally, socially and academically and there are a number of opportunities to develop a wider variety of skills and experiences through our enrichment programme. Ultimately, you know us and we know you and how to get the best out of you in this next stage of your education.

College

- Local colleges; Stafford or South Staffordshire College; with Tamworth, Lichfield, Rodbaston and Cannock campuses. Each of these colleges will offer a range of subjects but often they will specialise in certain areas. For example, Rodbaston and agriculture.
- Colleges offer a range of both A' Level and vocational course options such as BTECs and CNATs.
- Vocational courses often focus on developing and applying skills directly relevant to employment. Unlike A' Level there are generally less exams with BTEC (qualifications are unit based with internal and external assessments) but a focus on project management and modular through-course assessment.
- You can choose to complete a number of different BTEC qualifications at college or focus on one subject that is the equivalent to 3 A Levels.
BTEC Extended Certificate (1 A' level equivalent)
BTEC Diploma (2 A' level equivalent)
BTEC Extended Diploma (3 A' level equivalent)
- Most courses will last two years in length. Students attending college are required to work independently and only attend for taught sessions, this is usually approximately 3 days

per week. Students are not required to wear uniform and are given a lot of freedom. If you need to retake GCSE maths and/or English or tutors have worries initially about your potential attainment a college may place you on a single year course that can be extended to a 2 Yr programme or a level 2 programme.

- All colleges offer open days throughout the year where you are able to visit and talk to teachers. Applications will be made online and colleges will then invite you for an interview to discuss your application.

Apprenticeships

- During an apprenticeship, you're employed to complete a real job whilst studying for a formal qualification. This usually comprises of 4 days at work to 1 day of studying or training at a college or training centre. By the end of your apprenticeship, you'll hopefully have gained the skills and knowledge needed to either succeed in your chosen career or progress onto the next apprenticeship level.
- You will be paid as you complete your apprenticeship and gives you an opportunity to earn as you Learn: Ages 16-18 you will be paid no less than a minimum of £3.90 p.h. Earnings can be higher per hour - subject to the work sector you wish to enter. Apprenticeships are good to give you real experience of a work place and the skills needed within them however, you need to be prepared you will be expected to act and behave in the same manner as full time employees and be ready for the expectations this will bring.
- Apprenticeships can again be offered at either level 2 or level 3 subject to your experience and current level of qualifications. Examples of apprenticeships include; car mechanics, administrative assistant, hairstylist.
- Some colleges will offer apprenticeship courses but generally apprenticeships are down to you to find. There are a number of websites that can give guidance on apprenticeships including; www.apprenticeships.gov.uk and www.amazingapprenticeships.com/about-ask/

Further support and guidance

- All students in year 11 receive an interview with an independent careers' advisor – ours is currently Mike Gilbert from Entrust who will support students in making career decisions and will give up to relevant guidance.
- During this we will be sending out an electronic survey for students to complete in order to best start supporting our year 10 students in planning their career pathway for post-16.
- Below is a list of contact for students to start using to research potential pathways for after year 11.



Skills & Employability Service

Useful **Tools**, **Contacts** and **Options Information: Careers Planning Towards Your Employment, Education and Training**

'National Careers Service' Job Profiles: Use the following link to access **job profiles**. Use these profiles to explore your career ideas. Weigh up both a great day and a bad day in the job. What motivates you or puts you off a job role? <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobfamily/Pages/default.aspx>

Target Careers: Excellent review of many job sectors with tools and in-depth supporting data at <https://targetcareers.co.uk/career-sectors>

'KUDOS' Careers Tool: If you have been introduced to this in a school or college, complete your personal profile on the KUDOS site and access a host of valuable occupational information. <http://www.cascaid.co.uk/kadol/KudosStandardLogin.do>

'All About Careers' Profiles and Job Sectors: A useful social careers site highlighting job profiles, updates on job sectors, career matching tool and featured employer links at www.allaboutcareers.com

Fast Tomato* is a powerful Morrisby tool to build a personal profile and gain careers roles and wider information. This is accessible if your school or college are licensed via www.fastomato.com

U Explore Start package: This offers the START profile for free and will help you develop a view of your skills interests and ideas via <http://www.startprofile.com/Login.aspx>

Prospects Job Profile: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-sector>

My Job Search Career Guides: <https://myjobsearch.com/careers/>

Careers Wales Job Roles: www.careerswales.com/en/tools-and-resources/job-information/job-families/

Career Pilot options, sectors and job roles www.careerpilot.org.uk/

Icould Career Films and Ideas: www.icould.com & **Career Box Careers Films:** www.careersbox.co.uk offer video-based occupational and progression information

Useful regional College, 6th Form and Academy websites:

- www.bmetc.ac.uk – Sutton Campus (Birmingham Met College)
- www.bsdc.ac.uk – Burton & South Derbyshire College
- www.nwhc.ac.uk – North Warks College
- www.staffordcoll.ac.uk – Stafford College
- www.southstuffs.ac.uk – Lichfield, Tamworth, Cannock & Rodbaston
- www.walsallcollege.ac.uk – Walsall College
- www.brooksbyMelton.ac.uk – BrooksbyMelton BMC College (Leicestershire)
- www.stephensoncoll.ac.uk – Stephenson College
- www.stokecoll.ac.uk – Stoke College
- <http://nchsr.ac.uk/> - National College for High Speed Rail (Birmingham)
- www.ucb.ac.uk – University College Birmingham
- www.boa-academy.com – BO Academy Birmingham
- www.lfata.org.uk – Landau Forte Academy 6th Form Centre (Tamworth)
- www.polesworthschool.com – Polesworth School 6th Form (Warks)
- www.academyofmusic.ac.uk – Academy of Music Birmingham
- www.bvgs.co.uk – Bishop Vesey 6th Form (Sutton Coldfield)

- www.netherstowe.staffs.sch.uk - Netherstowe School 6th Form (Lichfield)
- www.friaryschool.com – Friary School 6th Form (Lichfield)
- www.keslichfield.org.uk – King Edward VI School 6th Form (Lichfield)
- www.eda.staffs.sch.uk – Erasmus Darwin Academy Chasetown Burntwood
- www.cttc.staffs.sch.uk – Chase Terrace Technical College Burntwood

Apprenticeships & Traineeships:

- National Apprenticeships website at www.apprenticeships.org.uk
- Check out www.findapprenticeships.co.uk also www.careermap.co.uk for location from home
- Staffordshire County Council-led site (Youth Box): www.staffordshireapprentices.org.uk
- Entrust Apprenticeships: <http://entrust.education/Page/800>
- The Apprenticeships Guide <http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/apprenticeship-providers-west-midlands.html>
- Useful Higher and Degree Apprenticeship search tool for over 1000 companies: <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/apprenticeships-223/filter/subcats/higher-apprenticeship-228>
- Companies supporting Degree Apprenticeships are included in this Govt Flagship link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-rolls-out-flagship-degree-apprenticeships>
- Sector-led outline of what a degree apprentice will undertake and criteria for entry: <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/getting-started/apprenticeships-uk/degree-apprenticeships>
- Options for university graduates to enter apprenticeships at L7 see <https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/blog/go-beyond-a-degree-with-a-level-7-apprenticeship-3362>