

## **Next steps**

Leaving school after Year 11 or 13 can be very daunting and confusing.

Don't worry if you don't know what to do, there are lots of options out there. Also, don't feel like once you have made one decision it can't be changed. People start and change courses all the time. There are many options and you will find something that is right for you.

Here are some of the routes you can take from school:

### **University**

University is a common choice for those leaving Sixth Form and many students do choose this path. University gives you the opportunity to gain invaluable skills and a qualification. You can study a degree course that can help you follow your chosen career. Don't feel that you need to go away to another city to study. Staying at home to study is always an option as well.

### **Apprenticeships**

By doing an Apprenticeship you can earn a salary and gain a qualification at the same time. Each apprenticeship trains you for a specific job. They allow you to be in a real job but also study for a qualification one day a week in a college. The advantage of an apprenticeship is that you will be gaining work experience and training at the same time as earning a wage.

### **Get a job**

Heading straight into employment is always an option. This has the advantage that you will be earning straight away. You will also be gaining experience and knowledge that can enhance your CV. A lot of employers provide training on the job which means you can successfully strengthen your competencies and career progression while working at the same time.

### **Gap Year**

Having a gap year is great for you to take some time out, travel and think about your options. You can spend time working on your CV, boosting your career options and gaining more experience. It's not just one long holiday, it is a time where you can experience new things, discover new cultures and skills. Some gap year ideas are -

<https://www.campamerica.co.uk/>

<https://www.englishfirst.com/index.html>

<https://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/>