



## Offering support

The best way to help with your child's decision making process is to take an active interest in the school/college options process and be a good listener! Look out for emails, social media posts or website information on options evenings, course information, decision deadlines and possible interview dates. However, if you wish to develop your knowledge further into possible qualifications, educational pathways, careers, etc there is information and some suggested websites below:



### Post 14 QUALIFICATIONS

**GCSE** stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. Following National Curriculum guidelines they are taught to students aged 14 - 16 in years 10 & 11 (sometimes yr 9). Maths, English & Science are compulsory. Includes exams, the results of which have a significant bearing on future pathways. Can also study **Btecs** post 14.

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-14>

[Btec Information](#)



### Post 16 QUALIFICATIONS

**A' Levels** (usually 3 or 4), [UCAS Information about A levels](#)

**T Levels** (new technical course equivalent to 3 A' Levels) [Gov.uk info on T Levels](#)

[UoC blog: An introduction to T levels](#)

**Vocational qualifications** e.g Btecs. Taught to students aged 16 -18 in either school or college. Students must stay in compulsory education or training until aged 18.





### CAREERS

Having an idea of a career can help make decision making a little easier because it can determine which subjects your child takes or which pathway they follow. But, if they don't have a career in mind (and not many students know at the age of 14), it is useful to talk to your child about their skills, qualities & interests and see what careers match them.

Try [UCAS Career ideas after GCSE](#) to find out about careers that may match their personality.

Other good careers websites include:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/2>

<https://careerpilot.org.uk/>



### UNIVERSITY

If you would like to chat to any of our Higher Education Advisers at the University of Chester about how option choices can affect degree course choice in the future, please log onto our Unibuddy platform where one of our team will be able to answer any questions you may have.

<https://www1.chester.ac.uk/outreach/ask-outreach>

