

DID YOU KNOW 2025 - To be played as visitors enter

# POST – 16 Information Session

## Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025

### AMBITION

I stretch and challenge myself. I aspire to achieve my goals and my dreams.



### RESPONSIBILITY

I take ownership of my choices.  
I am trustworthy and dependable.



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**You have brains in  
your head.  
You have feet in  
your shoes.  
You can steer yourself  
any direction  
you choose.  
You're on your own.  
And you know what  
you know.  
And YOU are the one  
who'll decide where  
to go.**

**-Dr. Seuss**

# POST – 16 Information Session

26  
school weeks until  
May 2026

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# Options...Post-16

6<sup>th</sup> FORM

COLLEGE

A-levels

FOUNDATION  
COURSES

T-LEVELS

APPRENTICESHIP

## RESPONSIBILITY

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# GLOUCESTERSHIRE LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

Gloucestershire  
CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS &  
ENTERPRISE  
COMPANY

**JUL 2025**

Top ten occupations	Job postings	% of all jobs posted
Sales Related Occupations n.e.c	558	3.7%
Care Workers and Home Carers	488	3.2%
Cleaners and Domestic	439	2.9%
Kitchen and Catering Assistants	288	1.9%
Chefs	266	1.8%
Teaching Assistants	255	1.7%
Plant and Machine Operatives n.e.c	247	1.6%
Programmers and Software Development Professionals	237	1.6%
Managers and Directors in Retail and Wholesale	225	1.5%
Chartered and Certified Accountants	215	1.4%

Job postings:

**15,164** ↑ 202

Claimant Count (unemployed):

**10,653** ↑ 265  
2.7% of population aged 16-64

## Gloucestershire's Economic Strategy

An new economic strategy is being prepared for the county.

Key topics and priorities which feature in the new strategy will include:

- Zero carbon - the move towards a net carbon zero economy is one of the main principles of the economic strategy
- Inclusive growth - to ensure every resident and business has equal access to opportunities
- Skills and employment - drawing on the existing work of the county council, the district councils and Gfirst LEP to reduce skills gaps in the workforce

Other key areas include supporting sustainable growth, ensuring businesses have the support they need, securing inward investment and improving access and availability to digital technology.

The transition to the green economy is an urgent priority for Gloucestershire and the aim is to meet the 2045 net zero emissions target while promoting economic growth.

## Top hiring companies in Gloucestershire:

- 1.NHS
- 2.Gloucestershire County Council
- 3.Marshall Motor Group
- 4.Perham Education Partnership
- 5.Barchester
- 6.Tesco
- 7.University of Gloucestershire
- 8.GE Aerospace
- 9.Bupa
- 10.Safran

Vacancies by broad occupation	Job Postings
Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	1,123
Professional Occupations	3,571
Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	2,051
Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	1,082
Skilled Trades Occupations	1,241
Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations	1,264
Sales and Customer Service Occupations	1,335
Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	1,167
Elementary Occupations (eg. agricultural, construction, process plant occupations, goods storage, administration, personal services, cleaning, security, and sales occupations.)	1,805



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careersh@gloucestershire.gov.uk

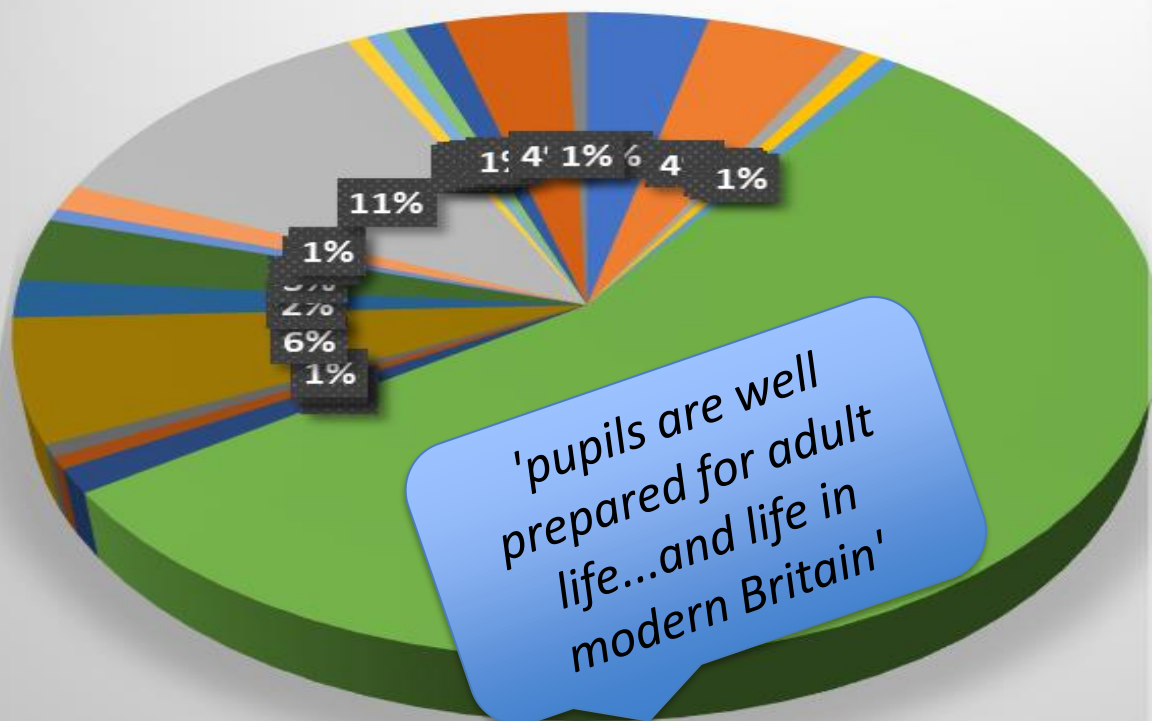


www.skillsportalgloucs.com/career-coach

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# Destinations: our students go far and wide...!

Total



- Apprenticeship
- Balcarras Sixth Form
- Brush Make up
- Bury College Manchester
- Cheltenham Town FC
- Cirencester Sixth Form College
- Commonweal Sixth Form
- Denmark Road School Sixth Form
- Drama School
- Farmors Sixth Form
- Gloucestershire College
- Hartpury College
- Malmesbury Sixth Form
- Marling Sixth Form
- New College Swindon
- Pate's Grammar School Sixth Form
- Preston College, Lancashire
- Rendcomb College
- SGS Filton
- SGS Stroud
- Sparsholt



# Clarification, English/Maths

For A-levels/equivalents, there will be an insistence on Grade 4+ in both English Language and Maths.

Where a student has not achieved these grades, most providers, including those offering apprenticeships will insist on re-takes or alternative

This is regarded as part of 'future-proofing' for further progression.



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# Health warning!!



- Competition for places alongside pressure on being able to accommodate for increased numbers, including those needing to complete re-sits.
- College offers: keep evidence of offer in case entry requirements are subsequently changed based on student numbers
- Inconsistencies when grades not met
- What we have learnt this year....

# What am I buying into?



Did your GCSE  
choices meet  
your  
expectations?



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# Did I get what I expected?

## Upon reflection did you do enough research?



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# What should I have done?

- Looked at reviews.
- Made a check sheet with questions you felt were important.
- Asked people who have taken this subject.
- Quality of subject. (Check last years subject specific exam results)
- Are you excited about this subject and the topic you will study or could you be wasting your time?

**• Does the subject fit your criteria?**



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# Should I only listen to others?



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# Entry requirements?

- College and 6<sup>th</sup> Form entry requirements vary it is important to check these.
- It is not only important to check what are the general entry requirements but also the subject specific requirements.
- Don't lack ambition or under-sell yourself but do be realistic!



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## **AMBITION**

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# Level by Level

Level 3 - Advanced  
A levels, diplomas, T-levels,  
advanced apprenticeships

Level 3 involves obtaining detailed knowledge and skills in a subject; appropriate for people wishing to progress to Higher Education, or working independently.

Level 2 - Intermediate  
GCSEs grades 4-9  
Diplomas, intermediate  
apprenticeships

Level 2 involves building knowledge & skills in relation to an area of work or a subject area. It is appropriate as a starting point for many job roles

Level 1 – Foundation  
GCSEs, grades 1-3.  
Certificates, Diplomas

Level 1 is about activities that mostly relate to everyday situations and may be linked to fundamental job competence.



# A-levels: a level 3 qualification.

Assessed mainly by, traditional exams at end of two years.

## Why study A-levels?

- Allows students to keep their options open or to specialise.
- There is a huge choice of subjects.
- Recognised by Universities and employers.

**Grades A\* to E represent a pass at A-level**

# T-levels: Level 3

- Two-year course
- Minimum of 310 hours of work experience.
- Equivalent to three A Levels
- Created alongside employers
- Include an extended industry placement
- Attract UCAS points
- Support progression into a skilled occupation; higher or degree level apprenticeships; higher level technical study, including university

**Assessed through written examinations, projects, work experience, assessments.**



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# Other Level 3 qualifications

## Diplomas, BTECs

### Why study these?

- Mostly coursework
- Equivalent to 1, 2 or 3 A levels.
- Work experience
- At some colleges can be mixed with A-levels.
- Career related and more practical courses.
- Look at how you get the best grades. Are you better at coursework than exams?



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# Level 2 qualifications

Level 2 qualifications have different ways of being assessed. GCSEs are mainly exams at the end of one year.

Diplomas and Certificates are assessment, coursework and possibly an exam.

## Why study level 2?

- Allows students to keep their options open or to specialise.
- There are a choice of subjects.
- Recognised by employers.
- Progression route on to level 3
- Have to get a Grade 4 at English or Maths



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# Level 1 qualifications

Level 1 qualifications have different ways of being assessed. Diplomas and Certificates are assessment, coursework and possibly an exam.

## Why study level 1

- Allows students to keep their options open or to specialise.
- There are a choice of subjects.
- Progression route on to level 2
- Working towards a GCSE Grade 4 at English or Maths **OR** on a Functional Skills course in these subjects



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# Apprenticeships

- There are hundreds of different jobs that can be done as an apprenticeship.
- Some can be started as soon as you leave school.
- Some can be started as soon as you have completed your A levels.
- When you have completed your apprenticeship not only will you have the qualification you will have work experience.
- Some companies do apprenticeships all the way through to degree level.

Remember you get **paid** for learning during an apprenticeship.



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# How does an Apprenticeship work?

- You will work and possibly attend college.
- Some employers will send you one day a week to college and you will work four days a week
- Some employers will send you to college for two whole weeks and then you will work eight whole weeks.
- Some employers will train you whilst you work and give you time during the working day to do your coursework.
- Your employer decides the best way for you to learn.
- If you do a Higher Apprenticeship you might not even go to work for the first year, you might just go to college!



# 4 Steps to a decision



Step 4 – Decide and have a back up plan

Step 3- Investigate your Post-16 options

Step 2- Qualification levels – what is your starting point

Step 1 – Careers Research

# And finally...

## Results Day, the reality and ...what is next?!

20th August,  
8am



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August 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

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# Before – and on – 20th August 2026

- BEFORE...this date, if you are invited to book an enrolment meeting, do so – immediately! Get in early in their schedules!
- You need to see your results asap – if you can't collect them in person, don't wait for the post. Make sure you have arranged for them to be emailed (student's personal email address!)
- 8am - 9.30am – collect results
- Upload your results to your chosen post-16 provider OR take them in person for your enrolment meeting



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# Back Up Plans/Lessons to Learn...

- Some good results. This person gave up in Textiles. This resulted in not enough points to go to any of his three chosen sixth forms.

	Exam Result	Most Likely Final Outcome	Aspirational Target
Art & Design - Textiles	1	2/3	4
BTEC Sport	M2	M	M
English Language	6	6	6
English Literature	7	5/6	6
History	6	4/5	6
Mathematics	5	6	7
Science - Biology	6	6	7
Science - Chemistry	6	6	6
Science - Physics	5	6	6

# Back Up Plans/Lessons to Learn...

- This person focused on the Maths, English and Science as that was the entry requirements for her course. However she only got four grade 4s and she needed five.

	Exam Result	Most Likely Final Outcome	Aspirational Target
Art	3	4/5	5
Art & Design - Textiles	2	3/4	5
English Language	4	4/5	5
English Literature	2	4/5	5
History	2	3/4	4
Mathematics	4	4/5	5
Nutrition	3	5	5
Science - Combined	44	44/55	55

# Back Up Plans/Lessons to Learn...

- This person had to admit to her parent on results day that she had done no revision and thought she would just get the required grades.

	Exam Result	Most Likely Final Outcome	Aspirational Target
BTEC Sport	M2	P2/M	M
English Language	4	5	5
English Literature	3	4/5	5
Geography	3	4	5
Mathematics	3	4/5	5
Nutrition	3	4/5	6
Science - Combined	44	44/55	54
Spanish	2	3/4	4

# Back Up Plans/Lessons to Learn...

- This person was quite lazy in KS4. He then worked really hard leading up to the exams and exceeded his targets. Unfortunately he still couldn't do his chosen A Levels as he only got a 5 in GCSE maths and this stopped him taking Science at A Level

	Exam Result	Most Likely Final Outcome	Aspirational Target
BTEC Sport	Pass	Pass	Merit
Combined Science	77	55	66
English Language	6	5	6
English Literature	6	5	6
Food Preparation and Nutrition	5	3	4
Geography	7	4	6
History	7	3	4
Maths	5	6	6





# What is success?

## Success is...

- getting the best grades **possible for you**.
- being happy with your chosen pathway.
- knowing you couldn't have done any more.
- believing in yourself and your decisions.

# Mr Morland is 16...

WHAT DO YOU WANT?



WHICH?



Which  
door  
should I  
open?



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# My Checklist...

- Subject
- Interesting?
- How much writing?
- Is it creative?
- Do I do presentations or public speaking?
- How much time is spent on the practical?
- Class size and set up
- Are there High Achievers/UCAS Application support sessions?
- Progression route for past student
- Free time, what can I do, where can I spend it?
- During Study time where can I study? Am I made to study?
- How does the site make me feel?
- Will they help you find a job/apprenticeship when you leave?
- How do I feel overall
- What were the results in that subject last year?

# Year 12

## What to expect.



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# A competitive market

Right now

- 8.2 billion people on Earth
- 5.4 billion adults
- 3.1 billion people who want to work
- 90% of these people want to work full-time

2.7 billion full-time formal jobs are wanted

With only 1.2 billion full-time jobs available

That's a shortfall of 1.5 billion jobs

**So, for every UK worker, there are 50 people on the planet who would like their job...**

# What we need **you** to do:

- Go to open evenings/events - explore, research
- Talk
- Listen
- Keep positive yet practical
- Routine – and balance
- Save the date
  - MOCK INTERVIEW DAY - Friday 20th March
  - RESULTS DAY - Thursday 20th August, 8am (and a full petrol tank!)



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# The lessons learned from previous Year 11 cohorts

All tests and assessments feed into your experience of next summer.

Think always of your **trajectory** towards next summer

Have a **destination** and an **aim** in mind (and a back-up plan)

Make sure that these the destination and back up plan have both been **fully researched**

Think of how you will be remembered – how can we give you the best chance of that job in a reference?



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# Mrs Hicks is 16...

WHAT DO  
YOU WANT?

WHICH?



Which  
door  
should I  
open?

