



Preparing for Post-16 Education: A Guide for Parents

Key Staff

The Ramsey Academy



- Helen Price: Assistant Headteacher: Careers Lead
- Alex Neville: Careers Adviser for Directions



Careers Journey so far

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- Trip to Essex University
- Trip to Colchester Institute Apprenticeship Fair
- Trip to Braintree Sixth Form
- Work Experience
- Upcoming: Wednesday 23rd September Careers Fair



- Talk regularly about future plans
- Encourage children to explore different pathways: websites
- Encourage good attendance; employers and post-16 providers value reliability
- Develop employability skills at home e.g. volunteering, clubs
- Read weekly updates in communication to parents

The Ramsey Academy Newsletter

The Ramsey Academy



alex2536 + 1 • 1h

Ramsey Careers Newsletter

Open days, jobs, apprenticeships, virtual work experience and much more!

College and Open Events

Thomas Gainsborough Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 12th November 1630-1900



We look forward to welcoming you to Thomas Gainsborough School Sixth Form open evening where you will meet the new Head Mrs Arrow, senior leadership team, subject teachers, careers team and current students to understand what makes our further education offer unique.

Sigma Sixth Open Evening

Thurs 8th October



Career Events and Competitions

National Cyber Force – Student & Parent Virtual Insight Evening

Tuesday 20 October | 4:30pm–6:30pm



National Cyber Force

Parents/guardians welcome

An exciting opportunity for students to discover careers within the National Cyber Force and learn more about the work they do to help protect the UK. Students will explore careers across **cyber security, technology, engineering, languages, project management, information management and analysis**, as well as learning more about the recruitment and vetting process. Parents and guardians are also welcome to join the session.

A&O Shearman law – Building Your Foundations:

Apprenticeships and Jobs

High Fliers Graduate Market report 26



highfliers.co.uk

Publication – The Graduate Market Report – High Fliers

Army apprenticeships



Job role: Infantry Foot Guards
Apprenticeship: Level 2 HM Forces Servicemember (Protective Services)
Locations: National
Salary: Over £27,282 a year
Closing date: Ongoing recruitment
[Apply here](#)

Health and Social Care apprenticeship

Work Experience and Courses

Allied Healthcare Virtual Work Experience Sunday 4th October, from 8:30am – 5pm



alliedhealthmentor.org

Home - Allied Healthcare Mentor

Our next Allied Healthcare Virtual Work Experience Programme takes place on Sunday 4th October, from 8:30am – 5pm, and we would be very grateful if you could share this opportunity with your students.

Register here:
<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/product/live-virtual-work-experience-programme/>

We strongly encourage students in Years 10 – 13 who are considering healthcare to get involved now.

One of the biggest advantages

Information for Parents

Do you know about the new Post 16 qualifications starting in Sept 2027 called V-Levels?



WHAT ARE V LEVELS?

New post-16 vocational qualifications

What are V Levels

What are V-Levels and when are they being launched?



NEW V LEVELS AND POST-16 QUALIFICATIONS EXPLAINED

educationhub.blog.gov.uk

New V levels and post-16 qualifications explained

The Ultimate Parents' Guide to Life After School

Careers indepth

Army Newsletter



PDF EVENTS FREE RESOURCES

British Army July Newsletter

New Autumn Term Planner

Our brand-new Autumn Term Planner, created in partnership with Amazing Apprenticeships, is packed with ready-to-use careers content, awareness days, classroom activities and events. It's designed to save you time while helping you deliver engaging careers education throughout the term.

Upcoming Virtual Events

We're also excited to share several free virtual events taking place over the coming months, including:

- [British Army Insight: Parent Voices](#)
- [Breaking Down the Army Assessment](#)
- [Virtual Arms & Services](#)

SEND options

TCHC Independent Training Provider



issuu.com

Ipswich Prospectus 24/25

I would like to introduce TCHC Ipswich GAPS C which offers study pro designed for young pe 16-18 and 16-24 who h EHCP (Education, Heal Care Plan). At TCHC Ipswich GAP we provide support for who are transitioning fi mainstream education. is ideal for students se

Achieving Excellence Together

Unifrog

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Raising of the School Leaving Age

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FE College
BTEC Diplomas
Entry Level and Levels 1,2 &
3
T-Levels
Level 3

V levels (2027)
Early years,
IT,Accounting

Sixth Form
A Levels or BTEC
Level 3

Apprenticeships
Work Based Learning
Levels 2, 3 & 4+

Other Training
Providers
Traineeships
Entry & Level 1

Doing nothing is not an option!!



What Are A Levels?

- Level 3 qualifications typically studied over **two years** after Year 11.
- Students usually choose **3 subjects** (sometimes 4).
- Assessed mainly through examinations, although some subjects include coursework.
- Highly valued by universities, employers and apprenticeship providers.

Who Are A Levels Suitable For?

Students who:

- Enjoy academic study.
- Prefer subject-based learning and examinations.
- Are considering university in the future.
- Have strong GCSE results in their chosen subjects.



What Are BTECs?

- Level 3 vocational qualifications studied after Year 11. Levels 1 and 2 depending on GCSEs.
- Focus on developing practical skills and industry knowledge.
- Available in a wide range of subjects such as Business, Health & Social Care, Sport, Engineering, ICT and Creative Media.
- Assessed through a combination of coursework, projects, practical work and some exams.

Who Are BTECs Suitable For?

Students who:

- Prefer practical and applied learning.
- Enjoy completing coursework and projects.
- Want to develop career-specific skills.
- May be considering university, employment or apprenticeships.



What Are T Levels?

- Level 3 qualifications studied after Year 11, equivalent to **3 A Levels**.
- Designed in partnership with employers to prepare students for skilled careers.
- Combine classroom learning with practical, industry-focused education.
- Include a substantial **industry placement** of at least 45 days with an employer.

Who Are T Levels Suitable For?

Students who:

- Have a clear interest in a particular career area.
- Enjoy applying knowledge to real-life situations.
- Want a mix of academic study and practical learning.
- Are considering skilled employment, higher apprenticeships or university.

Apprenticeships

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What Is an Apprenticeship?

- A paid job that combines working with training and study.
- Apprentices earn a salary while developing skills and gaining qualifications.
- Available at different levels, from Intermediate (Level 2) through to Degree Apprenticeships (Levels 6 and 7).
- Offered across a wide range of sectors, including engineering, construction, healthcare, business, digital, finance and education.

Who Are Apprenticeships Suitable For?

Students who:

- Want to earn while they learn.
- Enjoy practical, hands-on learning.
- Are ready to enter the workplace.
- Have a clear interest in a particular career area.



- Introduced from September 2027

What are V Levels?

- **First teaching begins in September 2027.** [V Levels are intended to be a **vocational alternative to A Levels**, combining practical, work-related learning with flexibility
- They will be **equivalent in size to one A Level** and can be studied alongside A Levels

- Unlike T Levels, they **do not require a substantial industry placement.** [
- Initial subject areas include **Education, Accounting and Finance, and Digital Systems and Data.**

EMERGING OPTION

What's the Difference?

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T-Levels

2 years
Maths and English
9-4
Work placement
Unpaid

A-Levels

Normally 3 subjects
2 years
Academic
High Entry
Exams

BTECs

Normally 1 course
L3 Equivalent to 3 A-Levels
Coursework/some exams
Vocational
Levels 1,2,3
1-3 years
College and some 6th Forms

Apprenticeships Work Based Learning

Levels 2, 3 & 4+
Need grade 4 in GCSE
English & Maths
Paid!

Where do Students Apply?

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Colchester Sixth Form College	Colchester Institute (Colchester and Braintree Campuses)	Stansted College	Hedingham Sixth Form
Colchester Royal Grammar School	Colchester High School for Girls	Ormiston Sudbury Academy	Apprenticeships
Braintree Sixth Form (Notley High School)	Writtle Agricultural College	Chelmsford College	Other e.g. London Fashion College

Deadlines

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- ❖ Sixth Form and College Deadlines – Christmas '26 or January 2027
- ❖ Colchester Royal Grammar – 1st December
- ❖ Apprenticeships- **no deadline**. You can apply to college & apprenticeships at the same time!
- ❖ IMPORTANT - **Min 2 applications** including backup!
Apply with **NON-SCHOOL email account**
- ❖ Open events – attend them!

Open Events

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Provider	2026 Open Event
Colchester Sixth Form College	21 & 22 October 2026 , 6:15pm to 9:00pm. No booking required. [
Colchester Institute	17 October 2026 (10am-1pm), 20 October 2026 (5pm-8pm), 12 November 2026 (5pm-8pm).
Colchester Institute (Braintree Campus)	19 October 2026 (5pm-7pm), 14 November 2026 (10am-12pm)
Hedingham	School open evening: 1 October 2026 . The Sixth Form application information is available, but a separate 2026 Sixth Form Open Evening date has not yet been clearly published.
Colchester Royal Grammar	20 October 2026 , 6:30pm-9:00pm.
Colchester County High School	21 October 2026 , 6:00pm-8:30pm. No booking required

Directions/Alex Neville

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To help support your children with..

- Career ideas
- Sixth Form courses
- College courses
- Apprenticeships
- Work experience
- Back-up Plans!



Helen Price, Careers Lead

The Ramsey Academy



Please see me at the end with any queries