

Focus on the Future!

Part 8:

Year 10 Guide to Post 16 options.

Spotlight on.....



Here you can find out about one of your many options when you leave school-
Sports Academies.

If you really want to play football, golf, basketball or rugby to a good level and combine it alongside A level or BTEC study, then you might want to consider a sports academy course.

This doesn't necessarily mean that you want to be a professional in this sport. It means that you can study for your usual post 16 qualifications but have scheduled time every day to train in your sport.

You will also play competitively against other similar level academies.



Here are some examples of local academy courses. You may apply to any of your that you know of linked to your own specialist sport:

- **Stanway Rovers Football Academy, Colchester**

<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/stanwayroversfootballclub2/news/stanway-rovers-football-college-set-to-rise-2513810.html> - This is new for 2020.

- **Sigma Sixth Sports Academy – Football, Golf, Rugby or Basketball** New for 2020 – The Northern Gateway The newly built sports facilities on A120 (near to Colchester United Weston Homes stadium). Lead by the Sigma Academy trust – linked with local university and college providers. Look to the end of the prospectus under ‘Sports Academy’ – see link:

<https://www.sigmatrust.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/College-Prospectus-Philip-Morant.pdf>

<https://www.northerngatewaycolchester.co.uk/sport/> - look here at the planned sports facilities!

- Coastal Golf Academy

<https://www.coastalgolfacademy.co.uk/junior-golf-lessons/sigma-sixth-golf-academy/>

- **Thurstable sixth form football Academy, Tiptree**

<http://www.thurstable.essex.sch.uk/Advanced-Sport-programmes> - This is linked with Colchester United football club

Qualifications on offer

- Most of these courses offer you the option to study BTEC courses in sport alongside your training. Some of these academies also offer the option to study a range of A levels alongside your training.
- You will study and focus solely on one subject if you chose the BTEC and three subjects if you choose A levels.
- You have access to coaching and sports facilities of a high standard.



Entry Requirements



The entry requirements can vary depending on what sport you choose and where you go at. As a typical guide, most of the academies prefer students to start at level 3 which means you need to have at least 5 GCSEs grades 9-4 including English and Maths

You also need to show a certain level of skill in your chosen sport. This is normally assessed through a trial.

What could you do after this?

You will leave this college with real skills you can use in the work place. If you study at an academy, you could progress into employment, a university course, a gap year or a higher or degree level apprenticeship course. You do not necessarily need to enter the sports profession. You may still enter a different industry.

You CAN go to university following one of these courses as long as you have achieved level 3!

How to Apply

1. Be aware of the application deadline, these will be different for all academies. You also need to be aware of any dates that sports trials are taking place and book yourself a space on the trial. I advise students to apply before Christmas to be well within the deadline.
2. You then normally have an opportunity to go and look around on an open evening event.
4. You can then **apply** using the website or an application form. This is very simple and takes a few minutes.
5. You will attend an interview and hopefully be offered a place as long as you go on to achieve the GCSE grades needed.

You are not committing yourself by applying or by attending an interview!

You might change your mind about which course you end up studying and can tell the colleges of any changes you want to make as early as possible. You may end up going to a different college, but you must apply to give yourself these choices!

How to find out more

<https://www.ucas.com/further-education/post-16-qualifications/qualifications-you-can-take/btec-diplomas>

<https://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/school-leaver-options/college-courses/what-is-a-btec#!like-what-you-are-reading>

Quick Round Up:

- A good choice if you want to focus on one area of study (for BTEC).
- A good choice if you want to continue with your sport to a higher level and receive daily training and competitive competition.
- A good choice if you like practical forms of study.
- A good choice if you learn through 'doing' something

I hope you have found this helpful. Please email me if you have any questions.

I am available on a Wednesday. leaves@ramseyacademy.com

