

Focus on the Future!

Part Two:

Year 10 Guide to Post 16 options.

Spotlight on.....



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

What is it like?



- You can study a wide range of courses including media and visual effects, computer studies, beauty therapy, motor vehicle maintenance, public services, sport, art, drama, hospitality and events, health and social care and so on!!!
- This college has 23 sites, Colchester and Braintree - select the right one when you apply
- You will study and focus solely on **one** subject
- You have access to a range of extra activities including sports and work experience
- It is one of the largest colleges in the county
- Most courses are BTECs and are offered at all levels, starting at entry level through to level 3 (equivalent to A levels). They also have a university site and offer degree level qualifications.
- Industry standard facilities including a STEM site at Braintree, highly rated restaurant, beauty and hair salon and fully working motor vehicle workshop for students to gain real hands-on experience

Qualifications on offer

BTEC, NVQ, Apprenticeships

The majority of courses are BTEC although depending on which subject you choose, you could be following an NVQ or cache diploma. They all have different names.

Your course will be about learning real skills you would need for a particular industry. For example, if you pick the chefs course, you will learn **how** to be a professional chef in the fully working kitchen and restaurant on site. If you pick business, you will learn **how** to market research, **how** to set up a small business and so on.

You are assessed through course work projects and also observations of your practical work. There are still some formal assessments.

GEM courses:

If you have GCSE grades 9-4 you will build 'Great English and Maths' (GEM) around your main course of study, enhancing your existing skills. If you haven't yet achieved GCSE grade 4 in English and/or maths, you'll attend timetabled English and / or maths class and work towards resitting your GCSE exams.



Apprenticeships:

For some courses, let's say hairdressing you could potentially study at college and use the salon they have there to get experience. Or you could train via an apprenticeship in a real life hair salon. There are lots of factors to consider before you decide if an apprenticeship is right for you. We will cover this in more detail soon.

Colchester Institute is a provider of apprenticeship training. When you apply, you can tick a box to say that you are interested in the apprenticeship option. You will then be put forward for **both** the normal college course **and** the apprenticeship route. You then have time to try and secure yourself an employer. If you cannot find a suitable employer for your apprenticeship you will continue with the application to the normal college based course.

This is not the only way to seek an apprenticeship and there are many different providers of apprenticeships. I will send out more information on apprenticeships soon.

Entry Requirements



The entry requirements can vary depending on what course and what level you start at. As a typical guide, if you start at:

- level 1 you need to have at least 3 GCSEs grades 9-1 including English language
- level 2 you need to have at least 4 GCSEs grades 9-3 including English and Maths
- level 3 you need to have at least 5 GCSEs grades 9-4 including English and Maths

What could you do after this?



These types of qualifications are especially good to prepare you for the working world.

You will leave this college with real skills you can use in the work place. If you study at Colchester Institute, you could progress into employment, a university course, a gap year or a higher or degree level apprenticeship course.

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. You must normally apply before 31st January to be guaranteed a place. I advise students to apply before Christmas to be well within the deadline.
2. You can then **apply** on the college website. This is very simple and takes a few minutes.
 1. First select the course you wish to apply for using the course finder button
 2. Once you are on the page of your chosen course and you are certain that you would like to apply for this course, click the 'Apply Online' button for the site that you would like to study.
 3. You will be taken to the online application login page and you will need to set up an account. Click 'create an account' to begin the application process.

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 college 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

- A great place to start looking into this more is the college website:

<https://www.colchester.ac.uk/>

- For more information on BTEC try these:

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

<https://www.allaboutschooleavers.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.
- A good choice if you already know the industry you want to work in.
- A good choice if you like practical forms of study.
- A good choice if you learn through 'doing' something
- A good choice if you want to study at a large college.
- A good choice if you want additional courses, work experience and opportunities alongside your study.
- A good choice for students of ALL abilities.

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

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

