

OPTIONS AFTER YEAR 11 – Reading Girls School

What are your main options? You could ...

Sixth Form

Sixth forms typically offer a range of A-Levels and Level 3 qualifications known as BTEC Diplomas – The entry requirements vary but typically you will need a minimum of grade 4 or 5 in 5 GCSE subjects. You may also have specific entrance requirements for each subject. Some popular sixth forms are: Highdown, Blessed Hugh, Bulmershe, Maiden Erlegh, Little Heath, Denefield, Kendrick (grammar) and Reading Boys (grammar). To find details of local sixth forms go to the following website at: <http://www.gov.uk/school-performance-tables>.

Course information can be found on the school websites, normally under the sixth form heading:

- Typically the deadline for most sixth form applications is early in the Spring Term.
- Speak to your teachers, Head of Year or Careers Adviser about which subjects and qualifications will suit you.
- Do you want to go to university? Consider what you might want to study and what subjects will help you get there. Go to www.ucas.com for a database of all UK degree courses and their entry requirements. In addition, to see the 5 most popular 'A' Level subjects for each individual degree course go to: <https://www.whatuni.com/> Another popular website is www.sacu-student.com. You will need to register first. It includes a tool to match 'A' levels to potential degree courses.
- Consider whether you are likely to get the grades for sixth form and whether you need a back-up plan (i.e. college course). You can apply for both college and sixth form if you are unsure on your destination, although you will only enrol for one of these options next Autumn.

Go to College (or another specialist training provider)

Colleges offer a wide range of mostly practical subjects. Qualifications are mostly known as BTEC Diplomas, which can lead to university or employment. Learning is typically 'hands on'.

Typical entry requirements for Levels of study (they can vary):

Level 3 – 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above including English and Maths (a Level 3 Extended Diploma is the equivalent of 3 'A' Levels). This includes T Levels, which are equivalent to 3 'A' levels. For a T Level you spend one day a week in the work place, the rest of the time you are in college.

Level 2 – 4 GCSEs at grade 3 including English and Maths

Level 1 – 4 GCSEs below grade 3 including English and Maths

Possible career routes could include Health and Social Care, Construction, Sport, Hair and Beauty, Media, Public Services, Motor Vehicle Repair and much more.

Reading College Tel: 0800 612 6008 <https://reading.activatelearning.ac.uk>

Open Days: typically, one in each of the autumn, spring and summer terms

Other popular local colleges include Henley, Bracknell, Newbury, Berkshire College of Agriculture (BCA), Basingstoke College of Technology (BCOT) and Farnborough College.

Start an Apprenticeship

If you like the idea of getting qualified whilst earning a wage in your chosen profession, an apprenticeship may be for you. You obtain an accredited qualification recognised within that industry.

If you do find work of more than 20 hours, it needs to include official training.

To find local apprenticeship vacancies you could ...

- Register on the National Apprenticeship Service website at <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>
- Visit Amazing apprenticeships, an excellent resource for anything about apprenticeships: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

To find out your rights when looking for an apprenticeship visit: <https://www.unionlearn.org.uk/apprentices-rights-work> (includes an interactive guide)

Find out more

Try some of the following websites for additional careers information, advice and guidance.

The school website: <https://www.readinggirlsschool.co.uk/page/?title=Post%2D16+Pathways&pid=295>

Contains information and advice, including a video, to help you make the next steps after GCSEs.

The Adviza Portal: <https://www.adviza.org.uk/careers-guidance-for-you>. To access the careers database with information on over 1400 careers go to eCLIPS. Password is: CGFY923. There is also a section specifically for students in Years 10 and 11. It can be found here: <https://www.adviza.org.uk/years-ten-and-eleven>

Future Goals: <https://www.futuregoals.co.uk/buzz-quiz/> Try the simple but fun Buzz test. Also, explore all post 16 and Post 18 options.

Prospects: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/> comprehensive careers information about graduate jobs, including what you can do with your chosen degree

Morrisby Profile: <https://www.morrisby.com/morrisby-profile> British Psychological Society (BPS) approved psychometric test designed to reveals your abilities, personality and interests. It uses the information to match you to careers and qualifications that may suit you. Ask your Careers Adviser for more details.

16 Personalities: Want to know what makes you tick as a person. Try: <https://www.16personalities.com/>