



post16
CAREERS WEEK 2024

20 COLLEGE 25 & SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

CHOOSING WHAT & WHERE TO STUDY AFTER GCSES

stockport-jobsmatch.co.uk



STOCKPORT
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ambitious Stockport,
creating opportunities
for everyone



BEFORE YOU GET STARTED...

Welcome to our interactive Post-16 Prospectus 2024/25 designed to help students, teachers, parents and carers understand the qualification and training pathways available after finishing secondary school.

From explaining the difference between A-Levels and T-Levels to learning what you can study where, you'll find all the information on courses, college and training providers all in one place.

It's a completely digitally enabled document, making it easier to get informed about your next steps from anywhere. Whenever you see the icon below, simply click to find out more information.

LEARN MORE



EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS FOR **POST-16 STUDY**

CONTENTS

5

Post-16 Careers Week

Free support, activities, resources and events for 2023/24 academic year

7

Legal Requirements

Minimum requirements for education and training until you turn 18

8

Making Decisions

How and when to start making decisions about what comes after GCSEs

9

Changes to GCSEs

Changes to the grading system from A*-C to 9-1

10

Qualifications Explained

Qualifications available at Levels 1 to 4+

11

Qualification Levels

Understand different Levels and what they equate to



TOP TIP...



Click on any of the page numbers to jump to the relevant section.

When you're done simply click on the home icon to return to the contents page.

12

Further Education

All the options for academic or vocational study at 16+

13

A-Levels

Everything you need to know about studying A-Levels

14

T-Levels

Complete overview of choosing T-Levels at college

15

Vocational Qualifications

From BTECs to NVQs

17

Other Qualifications

What other training pathways are available at 16+

19

Apprenticeships

Levels and courses to study an apprenticeship at 16+

22

SEND & EHCP Options

Additional support services you can access.

23

Higher Education

Options available at 18+ from Uni to Degree Apprenticeships

25

UCAS Tariff Points

What you'll need to achieve to head off to University

26

Employment, Volunteering & Work Experience



A-Z COLLEGES & SIXTH FORMS

View the full Directory of local colleges, sixth forms & training providers

LEARN MORE



YOUR POST-16 CAREERS WEEK

From creating a school leaver CV to practice college application forms, budget templates to sixth form comparison tools, our Post-16 Careers Week resources offer everything you need to start conversations and spark ideas.

Whether you're looking to research a particular study pathway, sixth form college, apprenticeship or want to access worksheets and career planners, visit our Schools and Colleges Hub on stockport-jobsmatch.co.uk to get started.

You'll find videos, career guides, downloads and more - ideal for a quick read/watch on the journey home or to prompt conversations with parents and carers.

LEARN MORE



[Return to Home Page](#)



FREE ONLINE EVENTS

What's next after GCSEs? Choosing to study A-Levels at college or sixth form

Tuesday 15th October 7.00-8.00pm

Hear from local sixth forms and colleges about applications, entry requirements and preparing to study A-Levels.

[BOOK NOW >>](#)

What's next after GCSEs? Choosing to study T-Levels, BTECs & Apprenticeships

Wednesday 16th October 7.00-8.00pm

Put your questions to our expert panel of colleges, employers & training providers to learn more about vocational study.

[BOOK NOW >>](#)

What's next at 18+? University, HR College & Degree Apprenticeships

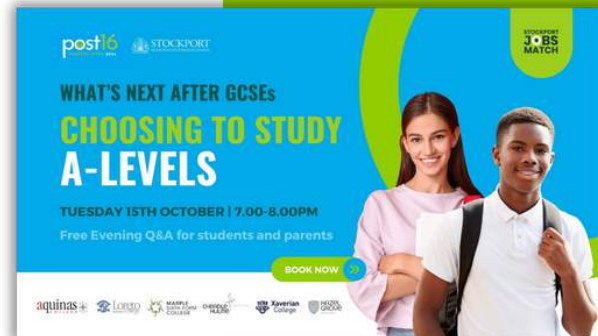
Thursday 17th October 7.00-8.00pm

Find out about HE study options from university to degree apprenticeships, employment support and free training courses for adults in Stockport.

[BOOK NOW >>](#)



[Return to Home Page](#)



LEGAL REQUIREMENTS UNTIL YOU TURN 18

Since a change in law in 2013, young people are now required to stay in some form of education or training until their 18th birthday.

This change was made to give you more opportunities to gain the qualifications you need to succeed in the future.

It also allows you to develop your knowledge and practical skills, so you have a wide range of experience to offer to different employers.

This digital guide has been created to give you an introduction to the various choices available to you for education and training after turning 16 so you can feel informed about what comes next.



OPTION #1

Full-time Education

- Sixth Form School / College
- Further Education College
- Independent Education Provider

OPTION #2

Work-Based Learning

- Apprenticeship
- Vocational Study
- Supported Internship
- Traineeship

OPTION #3

Part-time Education or Study

- If you are:
- Employed / Self-Employed
 - Volunteering (at least 20 hrs per week)



MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS

From Year 9 onwards, you should be having regular reviews around preparing for adulthood. Make the most of the help on offer in these careers lessons, ask questions, and look at all the options available.



It's also a good idea to talk about your future choices with your family and friends, subject teachers, and careers advisors. Here's some of the things to consider:

- ✔ Think about how you like to learn and what support you've needed to learn most effectively at school
- ✔ Explore a range of career paths – if you see one that interests you, make a note of it and research the courses or qualifications it requires
- ✔ If you are considering a career that will require you to go to University, do some research into the courses and their entry requirements
- ✔ Think about your talents, interests, and the things you enjoy doing
- ✔ If you think an apprenticeship or vocational study path might suit you better, explore the differences between these and find out what options are available
- ✔ Visit open days at colleges, sixth forms and training providers and research their courses, facilities, extra-curricular activities and support services



[Return to Home Page](#)





CHANGES TO GCSEs

GCSE grading has changed. Instead of being graded A* to G, they are graded 9 to 1.

Grade 4 is recognised as a 'standard pass', which means that this is the minimum level that you need to achieve in English and Maths, otherwise you may need to continue studying these subjects as part of your 16+ education. Achievement of a Grade 5 or above is recognised as a 'strong pass', although some subjects may require a grade 6 or above, in order for you to study them post-16.

Old	New
A*	9
A	8
	7
B	6
C	5
	4
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	
U	U

WHAT'S CHANGED?

-  The updated qualifications feature some new topics and more demanding content.
-  In the past, GCSEs were divided into modules and students were assessed by module. Now, the focus has changed to final exams covering the whole two-year syllabus, rather than smaller assessments throughout this period.
-  Exams are the main method of assessment and there is far less coursework, except where skills need to be tested in other ways, such as drama.
-  On the whole, higher- and foundation-tier papers have disappeared, with the exception of Maths, sciences and modern foreign languages.



QUALIFICATIONS EXPLAINED

FROM LEVEL 1 TO 7



ENTRY LEVEL

Entry Level Qualifications are available at three sub-levels: Entry-Level 1, 2 and 3. Entry Level 3 is the most difficult. There are no entry requirements; Entry Level qualifications are open to anyone interested in gaining a recognised qualification. You can progress from one Entry Level to the next. When you reach Entry Level 3, the qualifications are designed to help you move onto further Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications.

LEVEL 1

Level 1 Qualifications provide basic knowledge and skills. They will give you access to the next level qualification.

LEVEL 2

Level 2 Qualifications demonstrate good knowledge and understanding of a subject. Gaining a Level 2 qualification will mean that you are suitable for many job roles. To study for a Level 2 qualification, you would normally need GCSEs grades D-G/3-1, or a Level 1 qualification in a similar subject (i.e. Functional Skills).

LEVEL 3

Level 3 Qualifications give you the ability to gain or apply a range of knowledge, skills and understanding at a detailed level. They are appropriate if you plan to progress onto higher education. To study for a Level 3 qualification, you would normally need GCSEs grades A*-C/9-4, or a Level 2 qualification in a similar subject.

LEVEL 4+

Qualifications at Level 4 and above demonstrate specialist, high level knowledge in an area of work or study. Completing a Level 4 qualification would allow you to progress onto Higher Level qualifications, such as Level 5 (Foundation Degree), Level 6 (Bachelor's Degree), Level 7 (Master's Degree) and Level 8 (Doctoral Degree).



COMPARING QUALIFICATION LEVELS



FURTHER EDUCATION

Further Education (FE) refers to education after secondary school that is not part of higher education. Usually this is undertaken between the ages of 16 and 19. You could choose to study in a School Sixth Form, a Sixth Form College or a Further Education College.



Academic qualifications tend to be subject-based and are taught in a classroom setting at college or sixth form, usually with an exam at the end.

Vocational qualifications are career- or skills-based and take a more practical, hands-on approach. They can be taught in a classroom, on-the-job or a mixture of both and involve a combination of exams, coursework and practical assessments.

There is no right or wrong choice. There is only what's right for you and how you prefer to learn. Some subjects overlap and you can choose to study the academic or vocational course. Remember there are lots of ways to study a subject you love!



STUDYING A-LEVELS

A-Levels (Advanced Level) are subject-based qualifications that are studied over two years. They allow you to study the GCSE subjects you are interested in to a high level, or choose new ones.

Over the two years, you will develop your knowledge and learn transferable skills. Assessments typically take place at the end of year two. Unlike reformed GCSEs (using the 9-1 grading scale), A-Levels are still graded A*-E.

When choosing an A-Level subject, you may want to consider taking a facilitating subject as they help you keep your options open when choosing a degree or further study options.

Facilitating subjects are the subjects most commonly required or preferred by universities or to get on to a range of degree courses.

The Russell Group, which represents 24 leading UK universities, defines facilitating subjects as:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- English Literature
- Maths
- Further Maths
- History
- Geography
- Modern Languages
- Classical Languages



LEARN MORE



[Return to Home Page](#)

STUDYING T-LEVELS

T-Levels (Technical Levels) are Level 3 qualifications for post-16 students who have an idea about the occupation they wish to pursue.

They are vocational and will equip you with the specialist knowledge you need for a specific recognised occupation, such as engineering, construction, computing / digital skills, healthcare, education, or accounting/finance. They are a two-year course and one T-Level is equivalent to three A-Levels. You spend 80% of your time in a classroom and 20% on an industrial placement lasting at least 315 hours (approx. 45 days).

T-Level qualifications prepare you for a specific technical occupation. These qualifications have been developed alongside employers to make sure that what you learn meets the needs of industry and prepares you for work. Because of this they have been recognised by employers as excellent preparation for specific job roles.



**CHOOSE FROM
20+ T-LEVELS**

- Agriculture
- Animal Care
- Business Admin
- Catering
- Construction & Surveying
- Creative & Design
- Digital
- Education & Early Years
- Engineering & Manufacturing
- Health & Science
- Legal & Accounting
- Sales, Marketing and Procurement

LEARN MORE



[Return to Home Page](#)



VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

FROM BTECS TO NVQS

LEARN MORE



Vocational Qualifications are practical, work based courses designed to help you acquire the skills and knowledge needed to do a particular job, progress in the workplace or continue education.

Unlike more academic courses, like A-Levels or T-Levels, they combine a mix of theory and practical learning, and you'll probably do some work experience too. There's a huge range of courses that you can choose from, with qualifications ranging from entry level to advanced. The length of the course depends on what level you study at. Examples of vocational subjects include Accounting, Animal care, Beauty Therapy, Engineering, Food Technology, Health and Social Care, IT, Logistics, Media and Communications, and Retail.

Level 1 Vocational Courses

Level 1 courses give you a good grounding in the skills, knowledge and experiences in areas including Public Services, Health & Social Care, Hair and Beauty, or Construction Trades. They are a good starting point if you want to progress to a Level 2 course or an Apprenticeship. Some providers offer Level 1 courses in Employability Skills to help you prepare for the world of work.



[Return to Home Page](#)

Level 2 Vocational Courses

Vocational Courses are also offered at Level 2 in a variety of areas e.g. Art & Design, Creative Media, Health & Social Care, Business and IT. They will provide you with knowledge and understanding of that particular vocational area.



Level 3 Vocational Courses

Applied General Qualifications are Level 3 qualifications for post-16 students wishing to undertake a broad study of a specific vocational area. They are ideal if you want to continue your education through learning applied to a job area or industry sector e.g. Arts, Crafts, Media and Publishing, Business or IT/Technology.

The most common Applied General Qualifications studied at Level 3 are BTECs and NVQs, although these can be studied at Levels 1 (equivalent to GCSE) to 8 (equivalent to post-graduate degree).



BTECs

Vocational Courses are also offered at Level 2 in a variety of areas e.g. Art & Design, Creative Media, Health & Social Care, Business and IT. They will provide you with knowledge and understanding of that particular vocational area.

NVQs

National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) are a great choice for those who want to combine working and learning. They are based on national occupational standards for each career sector (that is, lists of skills and knowledge that employers say you need to work in a particular sector).



ALTERNATIVE STUDY

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

Whilst (or instead of) studying A-Levels, T-Levels or Vocational Qualifications, you can also opt for other qualifications that you can study at college, sixth form or alongside other qualifications with an independent training provider.



GCSEs

GCSEs are highly valued by schools, colleges and employers. You may have the opportunity to re-sit GCSE Maths and English if you did not achieve the grades you needed or were hoping for. Other GCSEs may be available to develop your understanding of a certain subject.

Entry Levels

There are over 100 Entry Level certificates to choose from including traditional subjects such as English, Maths and Science. Entry Level qualifications are made up of a number of separately assessed units. Assessments can be a combination of exams, assignments and tasks which can be written, oral, or practical.



Technical Baccalaureate

Introduced in 2014, the TechBac are practical, vocational, courses run by the City and Guilds aimed at 16-19-year-olds wanting technical qualifications and what are known as soft skills. TechBac students are recognised by employers as being work ready making them eminently employable and likely to be snapped up and working as soon as they finish their course. Not only do they show you have technical qualifications, but they provide evidence of soft skills.

TechBac courses are measured in hours. Level 2 TechBacs can cover 360 hours of learning, while an Advanced Technical Extended Diploma will take 1080 hours.



GREATER MANCHESTER BACCALAUREATE (MBACC)

LEARN MORE



The Greater Manchester Baccalaureate, (the MBacc), is set to transform technical education in our city-region, growing the economy and helping all our young people fulfil their potential. Co-designed by education and business leaders, the MBacc will open up a clear pathway from school to high-quality jobs in our growing economy.



[Return to Home Page](#)

STUDYING AN APPRENTICESHIP

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study. There are 1,500+ different job roles available, such as Business, Construction, Media and Engineering.

Apprentices are employed for a minimum of 30 hours per week and earn a real wage whilst studying towards a nationally recognised qualification. If you have an EHCP (Education Health Care Plan), you can retain it and have it reviewed while undertaking an Apprenticeship.

Training is delivered by a college, training provider or University; this may be at the employer's workplace, at the college/training centre, or delivered as e-learning.

To achieve an Apprenticeship, you will need to work towards a Standard or Framework and you will be assessed on these throughout your Apprenticeship. You will spend at least 20% of your time studying for your qualification, and your employer will give you time for study.

If you do not have GCSE English and Maths (grade A*-C/9-4), you will be required to



LEARN MORE



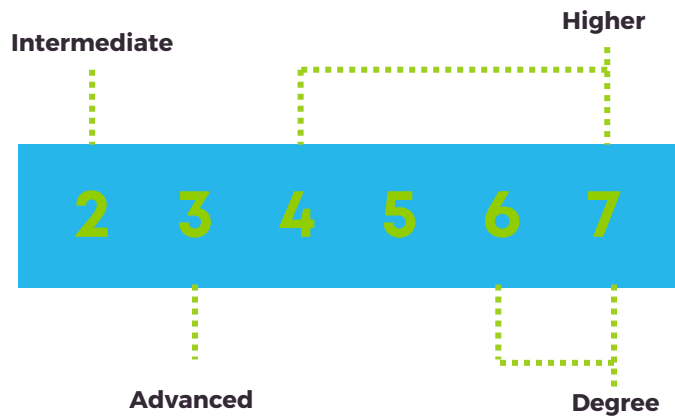
[Return to Home Page](#)

complete functional skills English and Maths as part of your Apprenticeship (unless you have an exemption). Depending on the type of Apprenticeship, you may also be required to complete Functional Skills ICT.

Apprenticeships last a minimum of 12 months, but can take several years to complete depending on the course, the level and your working hours.

APPRENTICESHIP LEVELS

It's important to read the entry requirements before you apply for an Apprenticeship. If you have the qualifications and experience for the Apprenticeship level you want, then you can apply straight away.



However, if you have no previous qualifications or experience in the sector that you would like to get an Apprenticeship in, it may be necessary to start at an Intermediate Level and learn the basics before you can complete Higher Levels.

APPLYING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP

Similar to a real job, you will need to submit an application and attend an interview to gain an Apprenticeship. Apprenticeship opportunities are advertised on:



www.apprenticeships.gov.uk



www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk



[Return to Home Page](#)

You will find useful advice and information on the **Greater Manchester Apprenticeship and Careers** website:



gmacs.co.uk

You can also speak to an Advisor at the **National Careers Service** to explore your options for apprenticeships and other study paths by calling:



[0800 100 900](tel:0800100900)

HIGHER & DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

Higher & Degree Apprenticeships are a real alternative to traditional University study.

You can gain your qualification, learn professional skills, progress your career and earn a wage. Higher Apprenticeships are available at Levels 4-7. Levels 4 and 5 are equivalent to a Higher Education Certificate / Diploma or a foundation degree. Degree Apprenticeships are a type of Higher Apprenticeship at Levels 6 or 7 and you can achieve a full bachelor's and master's degrees respectively.

Over 40 different subjects are currently covered, representing hundreds of job roles - for example, accounting, business and administration, construction management and level services.

[LEARN MORE](#)



[Return to Home Page](#)



DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

For a Degree Apprenticeship, training and assessments are carried out by a Higher Education Institution (HEI). This may involve you attending a University for part of your Apprenticeship.

Degree Apprenticeships combine both higher and vocational education and fully test both the wider occupational competence and academic learning.

You can apply for Higher Apprenticeship vacancies using the government's online apprenticeship service. You can also apply for Degree Apprenticeships via HEIs and UCAS website.

SEND PROVISION

16 to 18 year olds with an Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan will receive an Annual Review in Year 10 to help you start thinking about your next steps. In Year 11, your school will arrange for you to speak to a careers advisor, explore your options and apply for education or training.



At 16, you can choose to stay in full-time education (at a mainstream or special sixth form or college) or combine volunteering, work and study. In addition to the academic (like A-Levels or T-Levels) or vocational qualifications (like BTECs or Apprenticeships), you could also choose a Supported Internship.

SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS

Supported Internships are structured study programmes for learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, run by colleges or providers in partnership with local employers. They normally last for a year and include an unpaid work placement for at least six months, plus Maths and English support if required.



www.sensupportstockport.co.uk

LOCAL OFFER

The Local Offer website provides information about local services and opportunities for young people in Stockport with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families. It includes information about education, training, health and social care options.

[DOWNLOAD SEND BOOKLET](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)



[Return to Home Page](#)

HIGHER EDUCATION



Higher Education (HE) is the continuation of study post-18. UK HE offers a diverse range of courses and qualifications that are recognised and respected by employers and academics worldwide.

HE applications tend to be very competitive, and providers may ask for at least Grade 5 at GCSE, with work experience often an advantage to you.

HNC & HND

Higher National Certificates (HNC) and Higher National Diplomas (HND) are work-related, higher education qualifications; they are Level 4 and Level 5 qualifications respectively.

Both qualifications focus on 'learning by doing' and give you skills that you can use in a particular job. They are provided by further and higher education colleges. HNCs take one year to complete full-time, whilst HNDs take two years to complete full-time. Alternatively, they can both be taken part-time.



Foundation Degree

A Foundation Degree focuses on a particular job or profession and is a combined academic and vocational qualification, equivalent to two-thirds of a Bachelor's Degree. They usually take two years full-time to complete, or longer for part-time students.

Bachelor's Degree

A Bachelor's Degree is the most common and widely available type of undergraduate qualification, with thousands of courses available. Typically, it takes three to four years of full-time study to complete a Bachelor's Degree, although certain courses run for much longer. The two most common Bachelor's Degrees are Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BSc).

PGCert PGDip

Postgraduate Certificates (PGCert) and Diplomas (PGDip) are taught postgraduate courses at Level 7. They are the same level of study as a Masters; however they are shorter duration and not worth as many credits.

Master's Degree

A Master's Degree is the most commonly taken postgraduate qualification and they can be either taught or research-based. Full-time Master's Degrees usually involve one or two years of study, while part-time programmes can last up to four years. The two most common Master's Degrees are Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Science (MSc).

Doctorate Degree

A Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) is the highest level of Degree that a student can achieve. PhD students are required to independently conduct original and significant research in a specific field or subject, before producing a publication. Full-time PhDs typically last three to four years, although they can be studied part-time.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT
YOUR CHOICES AT 18+?**

LEARN MORE



[Return to Home Page](#)

UNDERSTANDING UCAS POINTS

If the career you're interested in requires a degree-level qualification, you may choose to attend University or whilst completing a Degree or Higher Apprenticeship.

At 16, it may therefore be necessary to consider what entry requirements could be required to study a particular course or at a specific University so you know what subjects or qualifications to choose next and what grades you'll need to achieve.



UCAS Tariff points translate your qualifications and grades into a numerical value. Many qualifications (but not all) have a UCAS Tariff value, which will vary depending on the qualification level and the grade you achieve. This numerical value is used by University and HE Providers to assess whether you meet their entry requirements for a particular course.

Some Universities, Colleges and Conservatoires refer to UCAS Tariff points in their course entry requirements, but this doesn't mean they won't consider qualifications that don't appear on the Tariff - so make sure you check the course entry requirements carefully!



[Return to Home Page](#)

LEARN MORE



WORK EXPERIENCE

Work experience is essential for getting a job. Whether it's a short or long work placement, paid or voluntary, experience gained in the workplace is always viewed favourably by employers.

It can also boost your confidence, help you to feel work-ready, as well as assist you in building up contacts and references for future job applications. It could be the thing that helps you decide what you would like to do for work.



FINDING A WORK PLACEMENT

There are lots of ways you can access a work placement, and it's a good idea to start off by making a list of careers and jobs that you are most interested in pursuing in the future so you have an understanding of where would be best to look. If you already know what you're interested in doing, check whether any courses or qualifications require you to have workplace experience to further bolster your knowledge. Once you have this information, you can start your search.

If you need support, you can reach out to an advice service and they can give you information on local employers to approach, or may know of specific work placements available to you. Stockport has several organisations and schemes that can help you with this – please see the useful contacts page for details.

If you are happy to look independently, you can search for local companies that match your criteria and then begin reaching out. You could start by calling or emailing the manager or HR





department. It's a good idea to have a covering letter prepared which tells them a little about yourself, explains what type of placement you're looking for and why. Try and include some specific information about why you would like to gain your experience at their company, and talk about what you can bring them as a member of the team.

[LEARN MORE](#)



EMPLOYMENT & VOLUNTEERING

With the implementation of the Raising the Participation Age (RPA), you can still be employed, self-employed or a volunteer, as long as:

- You are working or volunteering for at least 20 hours a week
- You undertake at least 280 hours of accredited education/training a year

PART-TIME JOBS WHILST STUDYING

As long as it doesn't take up too much time or interfere with your studies, finding a part-time job at 16 is a great way to earn money and gain skills and experience for your CV. If you have definite career plans, you may be able to find part-time work that is directly relevant. Otherwise, you can gain a variety of 'employability' skills through any part-time job. Common choices for students include working in retail, hospitality, catering, administration or leisure. You can use the websites below to search for vacancies in and around Stockport.



[employgm.org](https://www.employgm.org)



www.gov.uk/find-a-job



[Return to Home Page](#)



USEFUL CONTACTS

& SUPPORT SERVICES



GMACS

The Greater Manchester Apprenticeship & Careers Service, or GMACS, is here to help you plan your future. It's packed with advice, tips and information and designed to help you find everything you need to make choices about your next steps and career.



@YourGMACS



gmacs.co.uk



gmacsenquiries@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk



ECAS

The Education and Careers Advice Service (ECAS) support all young people in Stockport mainstream schools and Pupil Referral Units in year 11 with special educational needs and disabilities, Children Looked After and those at risk of not progressing into education, employment and training (NEET).



0161 474 2300



educationandcareers@stockport.gov.uk



[Return to Home Page](#)



Stockport Volunteer Hub

Stockport Volunteer Hub works with voluntary and community organisations in Stockport to offer a platform of diverse volunteering opportunities; that enable individuals to discover their passions, explore their potential, and develop valuable skills. Search live volunteering opportunities available now.



<https://www.stockportvolunteerhub.org.uk/>

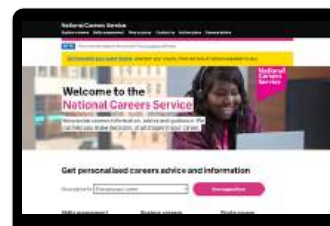


Xello

You can use Xello to research your career and education options and build your own career profile. It's available for free to every state high school and college in Greater Manchester, so you'll need to get access through your college. Once you've got access, you can use it to explore your career options and think about what you'd like to do.



<https://gmacs.login.xello.co.uk/>



National Careers Service

National Careers Service offers free impartial and independent tailored careers advice and guidance to anyone over the age of 13 and living in England to enable them to make informed decisions by exploring suitable options for learning, training and work at all stages of career.



@CareersNWest



0800 100 900



nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us



[Return to Home Page](#)



Our Pass



Our Pass is a membership scheme for young people who live in Greater Manchester, and supports both school leavers and care leavers. For a one-off £10 fee, members can travel on most local buses, any day of the week, for free. No hassle, no fuss, no tickets: just a card that will get you where you want to go.



@OurPassGM



<https://ourpass.co.uk/>



Speakers for Schools

Speakers for Schools brings together eminent figures of today, from FTSE 100s and arts leaders to CEOs and tenured professors, creating a network of 1000s of school talks and esteemed work experience placements – all for free. Create your free Experience account with Speakers for Schools; an award winning national charity.



@speakers4schools



speakersforschools.org



info@speakersforschools.org



PACT Stockport

PACTS is Stockport's official local parent carer forum run by parents for parents, carers, grandparents, and family members who have a child / young person between the ages of 0 & 25 years with special educational needs & disabilities including any additional need.



@PACTSTOCKPORT



pactstockport.co.uk



info@pactstockport.co.uk



[Return to Home Page](#)



Build a Business

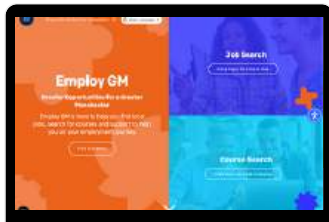
Build a Business supports individuals aged 18+ who are thinking of starting their own business. From Artisan Baker to Zumba Instructor, we can help you with whatever the type of business you're focusing on. We offer one-to-one support, events and training from Stockport Central Library.



@bipcgm



<https://buildabusinessgm.org/>



Employ GM

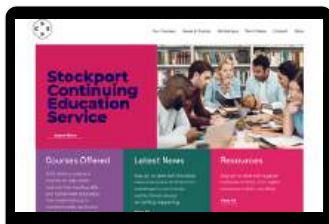
Employ GM is here to help you find local jobs, search for courses and support to help you on your employment journey. Discover how we can help you find work or learn new skills, as well as accessing careers advice and learning about local support services available to support your next steps.



@EmployGM



<https://employgm.org/>



Stockport Continuing Education Service

At Stockport Continuing Education Service, we believe that education is a lifelong journey, and it's never too late to start. Our mission is: to support and develop learning communities in order to promote economic well-being and social inclusion. We offer a range of fully-funded courses for individuals aged 19+, including functional skills.



0161 474 5801



stockport-ed.com



adminsolc@stockport.gov.uk



[Return to Home Page](#)



CHOOSE WHAT & WHERE TO STUDY

Explore what each of the local FE providers has to offer, find out about courses, facilities, open days and more.

[COURSES](#) >>

[SIXTH FORMS](#) >>

[COLLEGES](#) >>

[TRAINING PROVIDERS](#) >>



[Return to Home Page](#)

	Aquinas Sixth Form	Cheadle Hulme Sixth Form	Loreto Sixth Form College	Marple Sixth Form College	Xaverian College
Agriculture, Environmental & Animal Care					
Business and Administration	✓		✓	✓	✓
Care Services				✓	
Catering & Hospitality					
Construction & the Built Environment					
Creative & Design	✓			✓	✓
Digital					✓
Education & Childcare		✓			✓
Engineering & Manufacturing					
Hair & Beauty					
Health & Science	✓		✓	✓	✓
Legal, Finance & Accounting	✓				✓
Leisure, Sports & Tourism			✓	✓	✓
Protective Services	✓			✓	
Sales, Marketing & Procurement	✓				
Transport & Logistics					



	Reaseheath College	Stockport College	The Cheadle College	Manchester College
Agriculture, Environmental & Animal Care	✓			✓
Business and Administration	✓	✓	✓	✓
Care Services			✓	
Catering & Hospitality		✓		✓
Construction & the Built Environment	✓	✓		✓
Creative & Design		✓	✓	✓
Digital		✓	✓	✓
Education & Childcare		✓	✓	✓
Engineering & Manufacturing	✓	✓		✓
Hair & Beauty		✓		✓
Health & Science		✓	✓	✓
Legal, Finance & Accounting		✓	✓	
Leisure, Sports & Tourism	✓	✓	✓	
Protective Services	✓		✓	
Sales, Marketing & Procurement		✓		
Transport & Logistics		✓		



Courses Matrix

Training Providers

	Catch 22	Damar Training	Street League	The Growth Company	The Prince's Trust
Agriculture, Environmental & Animal Care					✓
Business and Administration		✓		✓	✓
Care Services				✓	✓
Catering & Hospitality			✓		✓
Construction & the Built Environment			✓	✓	✓
Creative & Design	✓			✓	✓
Digital	✓			✓	✓
Education & Childcare			✓	✓	✓
Engineering & Manufacturing				✓	✓
Hair & Beauty			✓	✓	✓
Health & Science				✓	✓
Legal, Finance & Accounting		✓		✓	✓
Leisure, Sports & Tourism		✓	✓	✓	✓
Protective Services					
Sales, Marketing & Procurement	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Transport & Logistics				✓	✓



SIXTH FORMS

STUDYING AT SIXTH FORM

Sixth Forms and Sixth Form Colleges are slightly different due to the courses on offer and the learning environment.

A Sixth Form is usually attached to a secondary school and may be where you spent your secondary school years - meaning you'll likely already know your teachers and surroundings. They tend to be more formal places, offering A-Levels and BTEC Qualifications and, in some cases, International Baccalaureates.

Sixth Form Colleges are very similar to School Sixth Forms. They offer A-Levels and BTECs, as well as access courses, diplomas and more. The environment at a Sixth Form College is generally more adult as there are no students below the age of 16. Students are expected to take more responsibility for themselves and their learning, and they function a little more like a university setting.



VIEW



CHEADLE
HULME
SIXTH FORM

VIEW



HAZEL
GROVE
SIXTH FORM

VIEW



VIEW



MARPLE
SIXTH FORM
COLLEGE

VIEW



Xaverian
College

VIEW



[Return to Home Page](#)

AQUINAS SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Aquinas College is a Catholic sixth form college providing for over 2000 students over the age of sixteen. We were established in 1980, the college is owned by the Diocese of Shrewsbury and funded by the Learning and Skills Council.



aquinas.ac.uk



0161 483 3237



enquiries@aquinas.ac.uk



Nangreave Rd, Heaviley, SK2 6TH



@AquinasUK



Saturday 21st September
Sunday 19th October



aquinas
COLLEGE

The college's philosophy is based on the values contained in the Gospel, specifically those of freedom, justice and love. We welcome all young adults who wish to share in the Christian environment which we aim to foster. This environment is characterised by the individual care, guidance and support of each student as well as by the highest standards of academic work. The college aims to help each student grow towards fully mature adulthood by providing experiences which help in the search for truth, in making informed decisions, in accepting responsibility for one's actions and in co-operating with others. We strive to achieve this in an atmosphere that is adult, friendly and wholly supportive.

PROSPECTUS



[Return to Home Page](#)

CHEADLE HULME SIXTH FORM

Welcome to the Cheadle Hulme Sixth Form. We hope that the information we provide helps you to understand our high expectations and something about sixth form life.

Should you choose to join us then we look forward to working with you to make sure that your time in the Sixth Form is successful, rewarding and enjoyable.



 chhs.org.uk/sixth-form

 0161 485 7201 ext. 7255

 sixthform@chhs.org.uk

 Woods Lane, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 7JY

 @CHHSsixthform

 Thursday 31st October

Academic Aspiration is one of the four Cornerstones of success and is a key element in your making the most of your time in the Sixth Form, achieving the best A Level results you can and progressing into higher education or the career of your choice. We expect you to demonstrate Academic Aspiration in your attitude to your lessons and independent studies and in turn will make sure that you receive all of the help and support that you need through the Life After Laurus programme.

You will learn in a welcoming and professional environment, in a newly built and dedicated Sixth Form Centre with full classroom, laboratory, Refectory, Auditorium and Independent Study facilities. We expect you to work hard and share our vision, so that you may open the door to the future of your choice, regardless of background or circumstance.

PROSPECTUS



[Return to Home Page](#)

HAZEL GROVE SIXTH FORM

Welcome to Hazel Grove Sixth Form. We hope this information helps you to understand both our high expectations and commitment to ensuring that you achieve the best results possible in order to fulfil your ambitions.

Academic Aspiration is one of our four Cornerstones and is a key element in you making the most of your time in the Sixth Form: achieving the best A Level results you can and progressing into higher education or the career of your choice. We expect you to demonstrate Academic Aspiration in your attitude to your lessons and independent studies and we, in turn, will make sure that you receive all of the help and support that you need.



**HAZEL
GROVE**
SIXTH FORM

This may come in the form of your Personal Tutor or your dedicated Pastoral Head of Year; both are here to guide and support you in your journey. You will learn in a welcoming and professional environment, in a newly developed and dedicated Sixth Form Centre.

We expect you to work hard and share our vision, so that you may open the door to the future of your choice, regardless of your background or circumstance. We offer a wide range of A Level academic qualifications, alongside an array of Electives and enrichment opportunities. We offer specific support for career paths such as medicine, dentistry and veterinary sciences as well as dedicated provision for those wishing to apply for the most competitive courses at both Oxford and Cambridge.

Our Post-18 support, known as our Life After Laurus Programme is unparalleled and involves guiding your journey through UCAS, bringing you into contact with some of the most prestigious universities via our in-house links and having access to additionality such as voice coaching to prepare for interviews both at Universities and as part of Degree Apprenticeship applications. Our holistic provision allows us to afford our students a bespoke curriculum that meets their current and future needs and aspirations.

 hazelgrovehigh.co.uk/sixth-form/

 0161 549 7700

 sixthform@hazelgrovehigh.co.uk

 Jacksons Lane, Hazel Grove, SK7 5JX

 @HGHSixthForm

 Wednesday 6th November

 [Return to Home Page](#)

LORETO SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Loreto College is committed to enabling you to develop academically, spiritually and personally in your education after high school.



loreto.ac.uk



0161 226 5156



office@loreto.ac.uk



Chichester Road South, M15 5PB



[@loretocollege](https://twitter.com/loretocollege)



Saturday 5th October
Sunday 13th October



Loreto
sixth form college

At Loreto, we are committed to enabling you to develop academically, spiritually and personally during your time with us and to get you ready for your next stage of your life whether it is university, apprenticeship, or employment. We have an excellent team of staff who are experts in sixth form education and will support and challenge you to achieve your very best and prepare you for the future.

Choosing your college is a big decision; our website and prospectus aims to guide you through the options so that in the important transition to foundation, intermediate or advanced level study you find the right college and course for you. We encourage you to take time to explore the range of options available. Be curious, research and ask questions. Visit our website where you will find more information about the superb facilities and campus and your subject areas of interest. We look forward to meeting you and to enabling you to get a sense of the values which underpin our ethos: Excellence, Freedom, Joy, Sincerity, Truth, Justice and Internationality.

VIRTUAL TOUR >>



[Return to Home Page](#)

MARPLE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Whatever your future career aspiration, we've got the education and skills to get you there.

We're here to unlock your potential as you make those all-important next steps towards your successful future. We offer a wide range of A Levels, as well as Vocational and T Level qualifications. No matter what your ambition or passion, Marple Sixth Form College is the place to be!

 marple.tscg.ac.uk

 0161 484 6600

 enquiries@tscg.ac.uk

 Buxton Lane, Marple, SK6 7QY

 @MarpleSFC

 Saturday 12th October

VIRTUAL TOUR 

 [Return to Home Page](#)



Marple Sixth Form College is a small and friendly campus. We have a strong track record in unlocking the potential that exists in all our students to help create better futures. We are here to help you develop the skills, attitudes and behaviours needed to thrive in your career and personal life.

Alongside education and skills, we know that college life is about more than just studying. It's about the opportunities that exist beyond the classroom, helping you to be the best version of you. We offer a whole host of extra-curricular activities, from student societies, volunteering, engagement in climate change and sustainability to student democracy, sports and active leisure. These groups, activities and opportunities enrich our students' lives, giving you new and valuable skills and friendships to go with your qualification.

Part of the Trafford and Stockport College Group

XAVERIAN SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

Xaverian College is an outstanding catholic Sixth Form College offering exciting opportunities to over 3000 students.

Students aged 16-19 join us from over 120 different schools in Greater Manchester to study a range of A Level and BTEC subjects. 97% of our students progress onto university, a Higher or Degree Apprenticeship or employment.

 xaverian.ac.uk

 0161 224 1781

 admissions@xaverian.ac.uk

 Lower Park Road, Manchester,
M14 5RB

 @xaveriansfc

 Saturday 5th October and Sunday
13th October 10.30am-2pm

PROSPECTUS



[Return to Home Page](#)



**Xaverian
College**

The College is committed to providing students with the skills, experience and qualifications that will prepare them for their future career or higher-level study at university, encouraging them to become confident individuals who will make valuable contributions to businesses and the local economy.

The College has an enviable track record of success, and this is reflected in the results achieved by the 'Class of 2024'. The majority of students are now preparing for their next steps, having secured their first-choice destinations, including some of the UK's most sought-after university places as well as a number of competitive Higher and Degree Apprenticeships.

A Level students achieved a pass rate of 98%, with 18 subjects achieving 100% pass rate, and a quarter of all subjects being graded at A* or A.

Those studying Applied subjects also had much to celebrate, with a 100% pass rate and over 70% achieving high grades of DDM or above.

COLLEGES

STUDYING AT COLLEGE

Studying at college offers a different learning environment to secondary school and sixth forms.

Whilst you can still choose to study A-Levels at college, they also offer a wide range of courses, including vocational qualifications, and at different levels. You will likely have a more flexible timetable, depending on your course and, unlike school or some sixth forms, you can wear your own clothes.

As colleges are also open to the community, you will be studying alongside students who are your age, all the way up to much older adults. Tutors and teaching staff are different too, with some academic tutors only in college for part of their time, and you may have a 'personal tutor' too who can help you adapt to college life.

**PURE
COLLEGE**
The key to a fulfilled life

VIEW



STOCKPORT
COLLEGE

VIEW



THE
CHEADLE
COLLEGE

VIEW



The
Manchester
College
be amazing

VIEW



Reaseheath
College



VIEW



[Return to Home Page](#)

PURE COLLEGE

Pure College is a specialist employability college for young people with an EHCP. Students will be exposed to enriching experiences, opportunities to engage in social networks, build resilience and confidence and develop an executive skill set that will support them to sustain and thrive in a variety of environments such as; academic, social, voluntary and employment.

PROSPECTUS



**PURE
COLLEGE**
The key to a fulfilled life


The Ambition for Life Pathway is the first step on the journey into Employment; providing the foundations of knowledge and skills that will enable our students to actively engage in the world around them and provide an introduction to the world of work.

The Ambition for Work Pathway is the next step on the journey to employment and is similar to a pre-internship. Employability opportunities are central to our curriculum delivery, and students will be studying a range of employability focused units. The skills and knowledge developed in the classroom will support work placements and visits from industry experts will provide students with real insight into the world of work. Students may then progress onto our supported internship, hosted by SMBC. This is a work-based study programme for students who will be classed as a full-time student, however approximately 70% of students time will be on a work placement. Students are supported by an experienced Job Coach who will provide coaching and guidance throughout the placement.

 pureinnovations.co.uk/pure-college

 0161 804 4414

 enquiriespurecollege@pureinnovations.co.uk

 1B The Mailbox, 1 Exchange Street,
Stockport, SK3 0GA

 10th October 2024
27th February 2025



[Return to Home Page](#)

STOCKPORT COLLEGE

No matter what your ambition or passion, Stockport College is here to unlock your potential as you make those all-important next steps towards your successful future .

Specialising in vocational courses, Stockport College is the perfect choice if you prefer practical courses which provide you with real-world experience and skills. Studying at our new £25m campus will give you the knowledge and confidence to enter employment or go to university after you leave college.

 stockport.tscg.ac.uk

 0161 296 5000

 enquiries@tscg.ac.uk

 Wellington Road South, SK1 3UQ

 @stock_college

 Saturday 12th October

PROSPECTUS



[Return to Home Page](#)



**STOCKPORT
COLLEGE**

Stockport College is known for its teaching expertise and our town centre campus offers the latest in cutting-edge facilities and pioneering learning environments. Industry standard facilities in Construction, Digital, Engineering, Hair & Beauty, Motor Vehicle and Science. Our brilliant Arts Factory is the perfect place for you if you're looking to pursue Art, Design, Graphics, Photography and Digital Media.

With a dedicated University Centre on campus, you can make the most of our industry partnerships, links and expertise in fields like construction, engineering, creative and digital, health care and education. You may even choose to progress onto a higher level course with us, studying degree level programmes locally and affordably.

Part of Trafford and Stockport College Group

THE CHEADLE COLLEGE

The Cheadle College is a thriving student community and dedicated centre for A Levels, Vocational and T Levels.

Situated in the heart of the community, the Cheadle College boasts green spaces and state of the art facilities. Our new £27million new build due end of 2025 is set to take student support and education to a whole new level with modern and innovative facilities.



 theadle.tscg.ac.uk

 0161 486 4600

 enquiries@tscg.ac.uk

 Cheadle Road, Cheadle Hulme,
SK8 5HA

 @theadlecollege

 Saturday 12th October

This purpose-built facility will provide innovative and inspiring learning spaces for students across A Levels, Sport, Health, Early Years, and Horticulture. There will also be new spacious facilities to include a modern learning resource centre and dedicated social spaces. There will specialist spaces dedicated to T Levels in high demand sectors like Health, Care, and Education, complete with a clinical ward and a virtual nursery.

We have excellent results in both A Level and vocational courses making The Cheadle College a great option, whatever you are hoping to study.

Part of Trafford and Stockport College Group

PROSPECTUS



[Return to Home Page](#)

THE MANCHESTER COLLEGE

At The Manchester College, it doesn't matter if you're just about to take your GCSEs, or if you've been working for a number of years and are ready for a change in your career - we have an incredible number of courses for you to choose from.

 www.tmc.ac.uk

 0333 3222 444

 enquires@tmc.ac.uk

 Campuses in Central, South, North & East Manchester

 [@themccollege](https://twitter.com/themccollege)

 Tuesday 8th October



Each one is designed to help you develop new skills, enhance existing abilities, and reach the career you've always wanted. Whether you want to learn more about culinary techniques or electrical circuits, increase your knowledge of politics or hospitality, study in a classroom or get hands-on experience, we'll help you find the right path for your goals.

From those just starting their careers, to those ready to try something new, the types of courses available depend on your current age and position. If you're leaving school after your GCSEs, we've got a number of options for 16-19 year olds. If you are over 19 and returning to studying, take a look at our adult learning opportunities. And if you're looking for higher education options, browse through our university and degree level courses.

BOOK OPEN EVENT



[Return to Home Page](#)

REASEHEATH COLLEGE

We hope that this information will outline the fantastic opportunities available to you to study at Reaseheath College and University Centre Reaseheath.

Few other colleges offer such a diverse range of courses, a beautiful setting and such caring, supportive and dedicated staff who are all working to help you achieve your full potential. We are excited to provide a high-quality education in a safe environment on our beautiful campus.

 reaseheath.ac.uk

 01270 613 242

 enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk

 Reaseheath, Nantwich, CW5 6DF

 @Reaseheath

 Saturday 28th September
Saturday 19th October

VIEW COURSES



[Return to Home Page](#)



Reaseheath
College 

Our great industry links, state-of-the-art equipment, expert teaching staff and the overall unique experience we offer at Reaseheath will be a large part of your learning, to ensure that our industry focused, career ready courses lead to positive outcomes.

Reaseheath is one of the UK's leading land based colleges and University Centres situated on the outskirts of Nantwich, Cheshire. We offer apprenticeships and vocational courses from entry through to degree level in a wide range of subjects such as Agriculture, Countryside, Agricultural Engineering, Motor Vehicle, Construction, Floristry, Entry and Foundation, Animal Management, Equine, Food and Bakery, Public Services and Sport (including Adventure Sports).

We have made getting to Reaseheath easier by providing subsidised transport on our dedicated high-quality coaches. We also have on-site accommodation for over 600 students.

TRAINING PROVIDERS

STUDYING WITH A TRAINING PROVIDER

Choosing to study with a training provider, instead of opting for college or sixth form, may offer you a more flexible way to continue with your further education.

You'll be able to choose from professional or vocational courses from Level 1 upwards, including study programmes, traineeships, apprenticeships, access courses and functional skills.

Like college, most training providers will also deliver courses to adults too, and you may have the option to study in-person at a local training centre, online, in your workplace or a combination of these. You'll have a personal tutor on hand to help, as well as having the opportunity to study independently and as part of a group.



VIEW >>



VIEW >>



VIEW >>



VIEW >>



VIEW >>

CATCH 22 - TIKTOK ACADEMY

For over 200 years, Catch22 has designed and delivered services that build resilience and aspiration in people and communities.

The TikTok Creativity Programme is a virtual, part-time programme funded by TikTok that aims to help 16-24 year-olds find a role within the creativity sector.

 catch-22.org.uk

 07899 665 510

 meghan.dyer@catch-22.org.uk

 @Catch22

 TikTok

CREATIVE
ACADEMY

 catch
22

catch
22

Over the first 4 weeks you will join us three times a week via Teams to learn about portfolios, social media, analytics, canva, industry entry points and many more. You will also get the chance to collaborate and network with other young creatives to work on a client brief giving you recent work experience.

The support doesn't end after the sessions, you will be able to work one to one with your Career Coach to help with confidence, Interview techniques, Job applications and take advantage of all the amazing jobs, apprenticeships and work experience opportunities that your coach can help you source.

Once you land that dream Creative role, we are able to offer you up to 6 months in work support! Starting a new role can be scary and that is why your coach can be there to support your career growth, give you industry insights and advice.



[Return to Home Page](#)

DAMAR TRAINING

Damar is a specialist provider of apprenticeship training, supporting individuals and organisations to achieve their potential since 1980. We focus on business and professional services apprenticeships in areas such as management, law, accountancy, data protection, administration, travel and customer service.

 damartraining.com

 0161 480 8171

 info@damartraining.com

 @DamarTraining

 @DamarTraining



DAMAR
TRAINING

Damar apprenticeships are available at different levels, from entry level right through to senior technical, professional and management positions. Some of our advanced and higher-level apprenticeships are recognised by professional bodies such as the Association of Accounting Technicians and the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

An apprenticeship will develop your confidence and competence. It shows that you have achieved a nationally recognised standard for your area of work. It also shows your employer that you are committed to your job and that you want to develop your skills.

Over the years, Damar has worked with thousands of people, helping them to get jobs with good employers, improve their skills, and achieve nationally recognised qualifications. If you are looking to develop your career, achieve a qualification and earn a salary at the same time, an apprenticeship with Damar may be right for you.



[Return to Home Page](#)

THE GROWTH COMPANY

The Growth Company Education & Skills is one of the largest providers of work-based learning for young people and adults.



 [gceducationandskills.ac.uk](https://www.gceducationandskills.ac.uk)

 0161 233 2656

 recruitment@gceducationandskills.ac.uk

 Locations across Greater Manchester

 @GC_EduSkills

 View Open Events Dates

The Growth Company has been a leading provider of high-quality training and education for over 35 years.

We specialise in pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships across a wide range of industries.

Our comprehensive training programmes blend practical skills with theoretical knowledge, helping individuals launch new careers or advance in their current roles.

[LEARN MORE](#)



[Return to Home Page](#)



THE PRINCE'S TRUST

Want to work out what you're passionate about and gain confidence to start your career? On our courses, you'll get support from mentors, make new friends, meet potential employers and achieve things you never thought possible.

 www.princes-trust.org.uk

 0800 842 842

 GreaterManchesterOutreach@princes-trust.org.uk

 The Prince's Trust, M4 6JG

 @PrincesTrustEng



Prince's Trust

Our courses help those aged 16-30 to develop essential life skills, get ready for work and access job opportunities. Since The Trust was founded in 1976 we have helped more than a million young people across the UK, and three in four of those we supported over the last five years have moved into work, education or training.

If you think we can help you take your next step, have a look at all the free courses that we offer around the country. There's a range of support available from industry placements to valuable interview practice; our pre-employment programmes cater for young people, no matter what stage they are at. They allow young people to get essential skills in a range of industries including automotive, digital, retail, music, technology, health and social care, and hospitality.

OUR COURSES



[Return to Home Page](#)


STREET LEAGUE

Street League uses sport and fitness to tackle youth unemployment. We help unemployed 16-30 year olds find work, training, apprenticeships, education and traineeships.

 streetleague.co.uk

 07794007635

 info@streetleague.co.uk

 Wythenshawe, Fallowfield & Cheetham Hill

 @SL_Manchester



Not only will you build your confidence and develop skills for the world of work - you'll also get fit, make friends and have fun.

You'll also gain valuable qualifications and we can help you get work experience with one of our employer partners. It's about your goals - we work with you to find the right opportunity for you.

If you're wanting to get fit and take part in free sport sessions get in touch about our Street Sports sessions. You can join in football, dance, fitness, running and many more fun activities! It could be the start of your journey to finding a job.

PROGRAMMES 

