



## GCSE Exam Results Day Help Booklet

GCSE Results Day, it's finally here, the day you've been waiting for all summer (and lockdown)! Regardless of how well you think you may or may not have done, it can be worrying finding out what your results are, after all they are the result of many years of education and will certainly shape your immediate next steps. It's important therefore you are prepared for the day and we hope this guide will help you.

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*PLEASE READ ALL SECTIONS BELOW EVEN IF YOU FEEL THEY DO NOT APPLY*

*Hopefully your hard work has paid off and you have achieved the results you needed to be able to start the next steps you have planned.*

*If this is the case, congratulations, confirm your place and now you can relax and celebrate! However, it's not the end of the world if your grades aren't what you hoped for or expected - take time to consider your options, rushing in to a decision is not a good idea.*

*You may also have some queries, if this is the case keep on reading.*

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## English and Maths

It is now expected that you should gain at least a grade 4 or 5 in English and Maths no matter what your future plans are. Sixth forms and colleges will ask for these as a basic requirement to continue your studies and down the line, universities will also take them into account when considering applications and making offers. Employers (including for apprenticeships, part-time work or future full time jobs) may also ask for these grades. If you did not achieve a pass at grade 4 or above, you will be required to re-take the examination again in November (the following summer for all other subjects). Some providers will allow you to continue re-taking until you achieve grade 4 (up until 19 years of age) or on looking at your current qualifications, may offer the opportunity for alternative study options, such as gaining a functional skills qualification in these subjects.

## Subjects you wish to Study

You need to ensure that you have met any grade requirements (these are generally outlined in the prospectus or communicated to you when you apply to ensure you can study these at the next higher level). If you did, then fantastic you can be confident you will be able to enrol and start the course. If you missed the entry criteria to get into our sixth form, another sixth form or college, speak to the provider as soon as possible to see if they will still accept you or if they are able to offer an alternative similar course, for example a different starting level or an alternative but similar subject. You will not be the only person who hasn't met the grade requirements and they will be used to talking to students about it, so don't be shy. Alternatively, if your first choice is unable to accept you onto their programme of study, your back-up plan should be in place (e.g. an alternative provider or lower entry level e.g. level 2 rather than level 3 so you can ease your way in and then work your way up to the higher level). Contact this provider to discuss what you need to do next or if you have not already done so, how to make an application (see below 'changing school or college' below).

## Studying at QEGS Sixth Form

If you plan to continue into Sixth Form at QEGS and you meet the entry criteria please confirm your place using the destination survey you have been sent with this booklet. If however you have not met the entry criteria for the Sixth Form as a whole or the grade criteria for a specific subject you are likely to need to have a conversation with a member of the Sixth Form team. They will be available via the school phone number or if you need to come into school, they



will be located in the hall. If you did better than expected in a particular subject, or you have been rethinking your goals and ambitions, again speak to the Sixth Form team to see if changing subjects is still possible (provided you meet the entry requirements, there are spaces available and there are no conflicts with timetabling this shouldn't be too much of a problem). If you did not achieve at least a 4 in English and Maths you will need to sign up to re-sit classes to ensure you meet this important benchmark. If you choose to come into school there may be a queue as limited numbers will be allowed into the hall and all conversations will be had at a two metre distance.

## Changing School or College

If your original college or sixth form won't accept you on to the course(s) you applied to and they don't offer any similar courses you're interested in or you did not put a back-up plan into place, you can still look around at other nearby institutions. These might have lower entry requirements or a wider range of courses to consider. Applications can be made online or via a paper application form direct to the institution. You will usually be invited to an interview (this could be virtual) which you will need to attend before an offer is made. If you wish to visit the college (essential if you have never visited before), you can sign up for an open day or a campus tour (again this may be virtual). Make sure you do not rush your decision and you take your time to fully research before committing. You will also need to spend some time considering your strengths and key skills, why you are suitable for the course and highlight any good results you received. Being able to demonstrate enthusiasm and commitment will be key to the application process. Think of the process as a mini-interview. Lynne Addison and Mrs Bains will be available on the day to help you work through any questions you may have. They will also be available remotely to offer assistance. Please contact [bains@qegs.email](mailto:bains@qegs.email) if you feel you need an appointment following results day to talk through your options.

## Local College Providers

Buxton and Leek College – You can call on 0800 074 0099, email at [enquiries@blc.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@blc.ac.uk) or use the live chat facility on the main home page.

Derby College: Call 0800 028 0289. Enrolment days start from 29th August 2020.

## Apprenticeships

If you already have an offer of an apprenticeship or employment with training, it is recommended that once you have received your results, that you confirm this place. This is especially crucial if your apprenticeship offer was dependent on achieving particular grades. Whether you achieved the required grades or not, it is good practice to keep your potential employer fully informed. If you have decided that an apprenticeship is now an option you wish to seriously consider and therefore start to make an application(s), there are a number of websites you can use to find out more information and current vacancies (see below). Some local opportunities are also posted on our website in the careers section. It is important that you remember that competition for apprenticeship places can be high and you will need to make a strong application referring to your strengths and skills that match the essential and desirable criteria of the job role and that your GCSE/BTEC grades meet the company's entry criteria. You will also need to update your CV and covering letter and prepare for an interview if you are successful in the first part of the selection process. Remember that an apprenticeship is very much based on a job role; therefore ensure that you apply for vacancies in areas that you genuinely would like to work and you are prepared to show enthusiasm and commitment. Also check out the academic provider as this is where you will undertake the study programme associated with the apprenticeship. Please refer to the Apprenticeship Guide at the end of this section for further information regarding levels etc.



[www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>



## What can I do if my results are not as expected?

Staff will be available on the day to discuss your results, and what you might do next. When you have collected your results simply ask any member of staff and they will direct you to a suitable person.

## Checklist

This year you will be discovering your results at home via the Go4Schools app. If you need to come into school to receive support please bring the following items:

- A pen and paper. You might need to take some notes.
- Sixth Form, college or apprenticeship paperwork including any conditions of offers.
- Your phone.

## After Getting Your Results

Relax, it's all over! Take some time to celebrate your successes. It has been a difficult and a stressful time and you should be proud that you got through it and of your achievements. You need to now start thinking about and preparing for what is to come in the next few weeks; this could involve an appointment with providers, interviews or preparing to enrol and start your new course(s). Life after GCSEs will continue and with lots of exciting new possibilities and goals ahead.

**We wish you the best of luck!!**



# A guide to apprenticeships

## What's an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a genuine job and under all circumstances an apprentice will be employed from day one. Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study.

An apprentice will:

- work alongside experienced staff
- gain job-specific skills
- earn a wage and get holiday pay
- be given time for study related to their role (the equivalent of one day a week)

## What levels are there?

All apprenticeships include elements of on the job and off the job training, leading to industry recognised standards or qualifications. Some apprenticeships also require an assessment at the end of the programme to assess the apprentice's ability and competence in their job role.

Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grade A*– C or 9 – 4
Advanced	3	2 A level passes/Level 3 Diploma/ International Baccalaureate
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

## What can they earn?

The national minimum wage (NMW) for apprentices is £3.90 per hour from April 2019. The apprentice NMW applies to apprentices aged under 19 or aged 19 or over and in the first year of their apprenticeship.

Apprentices aged 25 and over, and not in the first year of their apprenticeship, will be entitled to the National Minimum Wage.

Year	25 and over	21 to 24	18 to 20	Under 18
April 2019	£8.21	£7.70	£6.15	£4.34

This is the legal minimum pay per hour, most receive more. The Apprenticeship Pay Survey 2016 estimated the average gross hourly pay received by apprentices in Great Britain was £6.70 an hour for level 2 and 3 apprentices which is equivalent to nearly £14,000 per year. More details on salaries and entry criteria in specific apprenticeship occupations can be found on [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK) and search 'apprenticeships'

## Why apply?

- Earn a real wage;
- Be trained in the skills employers want;
- Set yourself up for the future – apprentices enjoy marked salary increases when they complete their training, and those completing a higher apprenticeship could see increased earnings of an estimated £150,000 over their lifetime.\*

## Entry requirements

Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age of 16, living in England and have no upper age limit. The National Apprenticeship Service is committed to ensuring that high quality apprenticeships are a prestigious option, accessible to all people from all backgrounds. All vacancies on [Find an apprenticeship](#) will clearly state what the entry requirements are for the job role being advertised. There will be different entry requirements depending on the industry, job role and apprenticeship level.

Recent changes to the minimum English and maths requirements now mean that people with a learning difficulty or disability can now access a level 2 intermediate apprenticeship as long as they can achieve an entry level 3 qualification during their apprenticeship.

A Disability Confident Employer will generally offer an interview to any applicant that declares they have a disability and meets the minimum criteria as defined by the employer. For more details, search Disability Confident on [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK).