

Next steps: school and college leavers



Just left school or college and wondering what your next steps could be?

The good news is that there are loads of different opportunities in York to help you learn, grow and earn.

Take a look at some of the options below. For more information, talk to your school or college.

Applied General & Tech Qualifications Level 3 **(including BTECS and other Diplomas)**

This is a great option if you want to gain qualifications through practical learning. You'll get transferable knowledge and skills that will give you access to a range of higher education courses, paid work or an apprenticeship.

Tech-level qualifications are ideal if you want to go into a technical occupation, such as becoming an electrician. They equip you with specialist knowledge and skills, helping you into paid work, an apprenticeship, or onto a higher education course. For more information about what's available locally, visit the Askham Bryan College and York College websites.

AS and A Levels Level 3

These qualifications are one of the main routes into higher education, but are also useful if you want to go straight into a job. There are over 80 different AS and A Levels on offer locally. Check out local sixth forms or York College websites for more information.

T Levels Level 3

These qualifications are equal to three A Levels. They provide a mixture of classroom learning and an industry placement of at least 45 days as a route into work, further study or a higher apprenticeship. T Level courses are available locally at York College and Archbishop Holgate's School in construction, digital, education and childcare, engineering and manufacturing, health and management and administration.

Apprenticeships Level 2-7

This is a great way to learn while you earn. Apprenticeships provide a paid job with training, working alongside experienced staff and gaining job-specific skills. You usually start on Level 2 or 3 (equivalent to GCSE or A Level) and could progress up to Level 6 or 7 (bachelor's or master's degree level). You'll complete an online portfolio, formal assessments, qualifications and examinations or projects. You'll benefit from off-the-job training to improve your skills and knowledge to help you perform better in your role. Apprenticeships often lead to progression in employment or to university.

Traineeships Level 1

A 'pre-apprenticeship programme', lasting between six weeks and one year of work experience, English, maths and employability skills. It is aimed at young people who have not achieved English and maths GCSE passes and who, with additional short term development and support, could move into an apprenticeship or another type of vocational course.

Higher Education (HE) Level 4-7

You can progress to HE with a range of qualifications, including A Levels, BTECs, diplomas and apprenticeships. York has two universities and two FE/HE colleges which offer a wide range of HE courses, both academic and work-based, including degree-level apprenticeships and foundation degrees.

Foundation Learning Entry Level – Level 1

If you've left Year 11 but aren't quite ready to progress to a vocational course or apprenticeship, then Foundation Learning could be for you. It's an individual programme, so you can focus on your own needs, such as personal and social skills, confidence building or literacy and numeracy.

More information

Apprenticeships

Information on apprenticeships and what opportunities are available locally:

york.gov.uk/yorkapprenticeships

or email york.apprenticeships@york.gov.uk

Facebook: [yorkapprenticeships](https://www.facebook.com/yorkapprenticeships)

Traineeships

For the latest information on traineeships visit:

gov.uk/find-traineeship

T-Levels

Information for students and employers on the T-Level programme: tlevels.gov.uk

Volunteering

National Citizen Service: wearencs.com

Phone: **0800 197 8010**

Search for volunteering locally, nationally and internationally: do-it.org.uk

information for 14–25s: vinspired.com

Higher Education

Information on courses, tuition, institutions, applications and deadlines: ucas.com

Student finance, including a calculator to provide an estimate of support you could receive:

gov.uk/student-finance

Official website to help compare information on universities: officeforstudents.org.uk

Information and advice on universities; including GCSE and A Level choices: theuniguide.co.uk

Careers

Careers information and advice:

nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk

Phone: **0800 100 900**

Up to date labour market information and career support on apprenticeships, courses and graduate programmes: careormap.co.uk

A national careers website for students aged 11-19, as well as teachers, careers advisors, parents and other influencers: successatschool.org

Extra support

Family Information Service

Provides information and support.

Contact **01904 555400**, email fis@york.gov.uk

or visit yor-ok.org.uk

Accelerate (Aspire-igen)

A programme for people aged 15-25 who are not in education, employment or training, or for care leavers up to age 21 and people with special educational needs or disability, still at school, it is age 19+.

A support worker will help you with:

- learning to gain an accredited qualification
- work experience and employability skills
- information, advice and guidance and progression planning
- key worker intensive support throughout

For more info go to: theopportunitycentre.com or email:

katie.rowland@theopportunitycentre.com

or call: **01904 656655**

Accelerate is funded by European Social Fund and Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

Specialist Learning and Employment Advisers

Provide information and support to young people with an EHCP or who is care experienced.

Contact your school or college for more information.