

Guide to Your Options after Mounts Bay Academy

Here is a summary of your choices after Year 11 2026:

1. Further Education College, School 6th Form, Independent Schools
2. Apprenticeship or Employment with Training
3. Army, RAF, Navy - Apprenticeships / Army College (with parental consent if U18)
4. Voluntary Work with Training

Tips to help you decide:

Consider what your talents are, what you enjoy and what you will be good at.

You may have a career in mind? Check out the qualifications needed for this career.

Explore your career ideas on: <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk>
or <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

Consider how you learn best? If you enjoy an exam based style of learning such as A levels or if you would be suited to a mainly coursework based course such as BTEC Extended Diploma or a practical or creative skills based course learning something new.

Young people are required to stay in education or training until they are 18 but can consider a work-based option so long as there is some form of education or training linked to them.

Speak with your Careers Adviser Mrs Masters based in Compass. Your parents can attend with you at a convenient time to suit you if you prefer. Email: lmasters@mountsbay.org to request an appointment or drop into Compass Monday - Friday 8.30 am- 5pm.

Speak with your Tutor or Subject Teachers to explore subject pathways.

Reading college prospectuses or looking at course information on college websites.
Attending College Open Events when they become available.



Apprenticeships advice- www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship or <https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk>

Check out University entry requirements on UCAS www.ucas.com to check you have the right subjects

Russell Group: www.informedchoices.ac.uk - useful website to explore degree options.

Log into your Unifrog account and research your career choice

College Open Events 2025 - 2026 for All Students & Parents & Carers

Penwith College <https://www.truro-penwith.ac.uk>

Tuesday 23rd September 2025 Post 16 Options Evening 5-8pm
Saturday 11 October 2025 Open Day 10am-1pm
Tuesday 20 January 2026 Open Evening 5pm-8pm
Saturday 7 March 2026 Open Day 10am-1pm
Tuesday 5 May 2026. Open Evening 5pm-8pm

Truro College <https://www.truro-penwith.ac.uk>

Saturday 8th November 2025 Open Day 10am - 3pm
Tuesday 13th January 2026 Open Evening 5pm – 8 pm
Monday 19th January 2026 IB Information Evening 7pm
Saturday 28th February 2026 Open Day 10am – 1pm
Tuesday 28th April 2026 Open Evening 5-8pm

Cornwall College Camborne Open / Taster Events

Tuesday 4th November 2025 5pm -7 pm
Thursday 12th February 2026 5pm -7pm
Saturday 9th May 2026 10am – 12pm

Book your place here: <https://cornwall.ac.uk/events/open-event-at-cornwall-college-camborne/>

Duchy College Rosewarne (Nr Camborne) Open Events

Saturday 4th October 2025 10am – 12pm Open Event
Saturday 17th January 2026 10am – 12pm Open Event
Saturday 25th April 2026 10am – 12pm Open Event
Tuesday 28th October 2025 10am – 2pm Taster Day
Tuesday 17th February 2026 10am – 2pm Taster Day
Tuesday 26th May 2026 10am – 2pm Taster Day

Book your place here: <https://duchy.ac.uk/events/open-event-at-duchy-college/rosewarne>

Falmouth Marine School Open/Taster Events

Sat 18th October 2025 10am – 12pm
Sat 31st January 2026 10am – 12pm
Tuesday 19th May 2026 5pm – 7pm

Book your place here: <https://falmouthmarineschool.ac.uk/events/>

Cornwall School of Maths & Science (CSMS) Open Evening Thur 20th November 2026 **Camborne Sixth Form Open Evening Thursday 6th November 2025**

OUT OF COUNTY SCHOOLS OR COLLEGES – some examples include:

Exeter Maths School, Gordonstoun, Hartpury, Purcell Music School, Harrogate Army College.
Specialist Dance and Drama Schools for 16+: <https://www.gov.uk/dance-drama-awards>

YOU CAN APPLY TO ANY COLLEGE IN THE UK -

College Applications are completed in school in Jan 2025 in Tutor Time for local FE colleges. This is an online application. College Applications are usually live from October if students want to apply earlier but we advise plenty of time to research choices, attend open days and make the right choice. January they will also have mock results from November to support applications.

If applying for an independent school you will need to apply direct to the institution usually in the Autumn term. You may be eligible for a full or partial scholarship / bursary to help with funding costs



Qualifications you can consider After Year 11

A Levels – 2 year course (Level 3) – you choose 3 subjects (Academic)

Entry Requirements – Grade 6 in the 3 subjects you want to take at A Level and minimum 5 GCSE's at 5 and above to include English and Maths. You usually select 3 subjects.

Assessment is mainly by exams at the end of two years study. Suits students that enjoy exams and academic style of learning. Requires independent study so choose subjects that you are motivated to study outside of the classroom.. More competitive colleges will be looking for GCSE grades 7+.

T Levels – 2 year course (Level 3) – you choose 1 subject as a full time options (Vocational)

Entry requirements – 4 GCSE's grade 4 and above to include English and Maths and Science.

T Levels are two-year, technical programmes designed with employers, to give young people the skills that industries need. One T Level programme is the equivalent to 3 A levels. Taught full time in college and include an industry work placement for a minimum of 45 days. Will involve 80% at college and 20% in the workplace. Also welcomed by universities.

BTEC Extended Diploma - Level 3 qual – 2 year course – you choose 1 subject (Vocational)

Entry requirements – 4 GCSE's at grade 4 and above to include 4 in English or Maths

Equivalent to 3 full A Levels in value and full time course on its own. Assessment is combination of coursework, external written assessments, some exams and evaluation of practical skills. Students gain opportunity to gain employment skills as industry led. Progression can lead onto university (95% universities accept including Russell Group universities) or employment.

BTEC Extended Certificate Level 3 – 2 year course (Vocational)– can be combined with 2 A Levels

Equivalent to 1 A Level so needs to be combined with a range of other subjects. No exams, coursework based. Could be combined with other A Levels, or other vocational courses. Allows a more flexible, work based style of learning. After 1 year you complete Certificate course, after 2 years the Diploma course.

(IB) International Baccalaureate – 2 year course (Level 3) – you choose 6 subjects (Academic)

Entry requirements – 5 GCSE's grade 6 and above. Choice of 6 subjects. This qualification is suitable for students who are performing well in all their GCSE's. Maths, English, Science and MFL are mandatory along with 2 other subjects of your choice which could include Arts / Drama or another of the academics. Great opportunity for academic development. Keeps a wide range of options open, broadens your horizons. YP has to enjoy and be motivated to study.

Skills Based course / Progression Diploma—Level 1 or Level 2 - – 1 x subject is Full Time option

Entry requirements – grade 2-3 at GCSE for L2 or grade 1-2 for Level 1. Practical style of learning.

Learning new occupational skills in preparation for employment or introduction to vocational sector courses. Progression to next level Vocational course, employment or an apprenticeship.

Foundation Studies (Entry Level to Level 1) - A range of multi options vocational diploma courses from Entry Level to Level 1 available at all FE colleges. No entry qualifications required. All coursework based and can lead to further progression onto Vocational Diploma courses.

All Students will have to re-take their GCSE English and Maths at school or college if they do not achieve a grade 4 in their final GCSE exams.



Qualification Options for 2026

Levels	Academic Options (similar to GCSE's, exam based)	Vocational Options (more coursework based)	Apprenticeships
4-6	University Degree – Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Education, Foundation Degree		Degree Level Apprenticeship, L4-6 Diploma
After College you may choose to progress to degree level options above with a Level 3 qualification			
FURTHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATION OPTIONS (UP TO LEVEL 3) – Available after Year 11			
Level	Academic Courses	Vocational Courses	Apprenticeships
3	A Levels (3 subjects over 2 years) International Baccalaureate (6 subjects)	T Levels (= 3 xA Levels) Or BTEC Extended Diploma (=3 Ax Levels) or Subsidiary Diploma (equal to 1 A Level)	Level 3 Apprenticeship Diploma
	You will need to achieve GCSE's at grade 6 in the subjects you want to take to progress onto AL or IB	Entry requirements GCSE's 4 and above to include English and Maths	Most apprenticeships require GCSE's grades 4 and above
2	GCSE Grades 4-9	Level 2 Progression Diploma	GCSE Grades 4-9 Level 2 Diploma
If your GCSE grades are mainly 3's that will enable progression onto the Level 2 qualifications above.			
1	GCSE Grades 3-2	Level 1 Diploma	Level 1 Diploma
If your GCSE grades are 1-2 that will enable progression onto a Level 1 Diploma above			

There are qualifications for every level of achievement, learning is a journey that is different for every person.