

2017

Help 4 teens

**PLANNING  
YOUR  
FUTURE**

**Choices at 13+ & 16+**

A guide for young people, parents & carers



Welcome to the 'Planning Your Future' guide for young people in County Durham. This guide has been developed as a practical resource to support young people and their parents/carers in making decisions about learning opportunities at key transition points.



In recent times there have been a number of significant changes in education, employment and training, these include:

- New learning provision available from Year 9 including: Studio Schools and University Technical Colleges
- Changes to the structure and assessment of GCSEs, AS and A levels, vocational qualifications and Apprenticeships
- The requirement to for young people to participate in learning until they are 18
- Students who do not gain a GCSE grade C in Mathematics and English during compulsory education are required to continue to study these subjects until achieved
- All of these changes impact on young people making decisions about their future.

Good Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) is crucial to supporting young people to make informed choices, plan their future and navigate their life journey. It is not just about jobs or next step, but equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and experience to enable them to make decisions about their future and develop the resilience to cope with change.

I hope that you will find this guide a useful tool to support you in your own planning.

**Caroline O'Neill**

*Head of Education*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline O'Neill". The script is cursive and fluid.

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## Introduction

**This 'Planning Your Future Guide' is for students in mainstream education and will provide you with brief information on the qualifications & learning routes available for young people at two key transition points:**

**Choices at 13+:** this section provides the contact details and profile information on all mainstream schools in County Durham.

**Choices at 16+:** this section has information on sixth forms, colleges and work based learning in Durham and surrounding local authorities based on travel to learn areas.

If you attend a special school you may find the information useful but an adviser from the Local Authority will support you to look at your options.

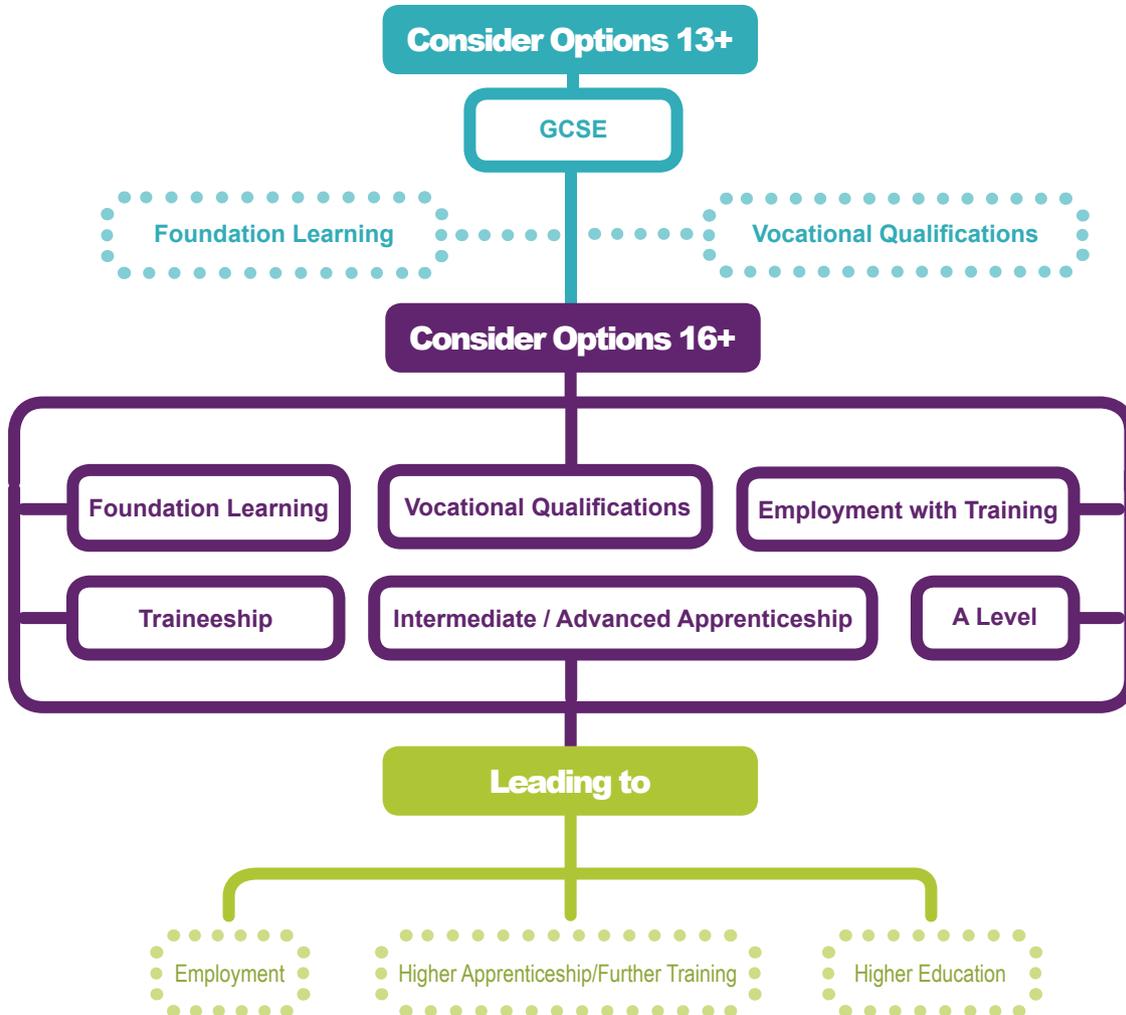
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*More detailed information for each institution is available on their page on:*

[www.help4teens.co.uk](http://www.help4teens.co.uk)

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# Key Decision Points



# Qualifications and Levels

Qualifications are arranged into levels from entry to Level 8; some qualification may be available in different sizes at a single level based on the hours of study. Choices in school and at 16 are at entry to level 3.

These levels are explained in this diagram:

## Level 3

These qualifications cover the ability to gain and apply a range of knowledge, skills and understanding. Learning at Level 3 involves obtaining detailed knowledge and skills, for those wishing to go to university, work independently, or in some areas of work supervise and train others.

Example Qualifications:

- A level
- Advanced Apprenticeship NVQ3
- BTEC Level 3

## Level 1

These qualifications cover basic knowledge and skills and the ability to apply learning with guidance or supervision. Level 1 is learning related to everyday situations and may be linked to job competence.

Example Qualifications:

- GCSEs at 1-4 (D-G) grade
- NVQ1
- BTEC Introductory

## Level 2

These qualifications cover the ability to gain a good knowledge and understanding of a subject, area of work or study. Level 2 involves learning to perform varied tasks with some guidance or supervision and is appropriate for many job roles.

Example Qualifications:

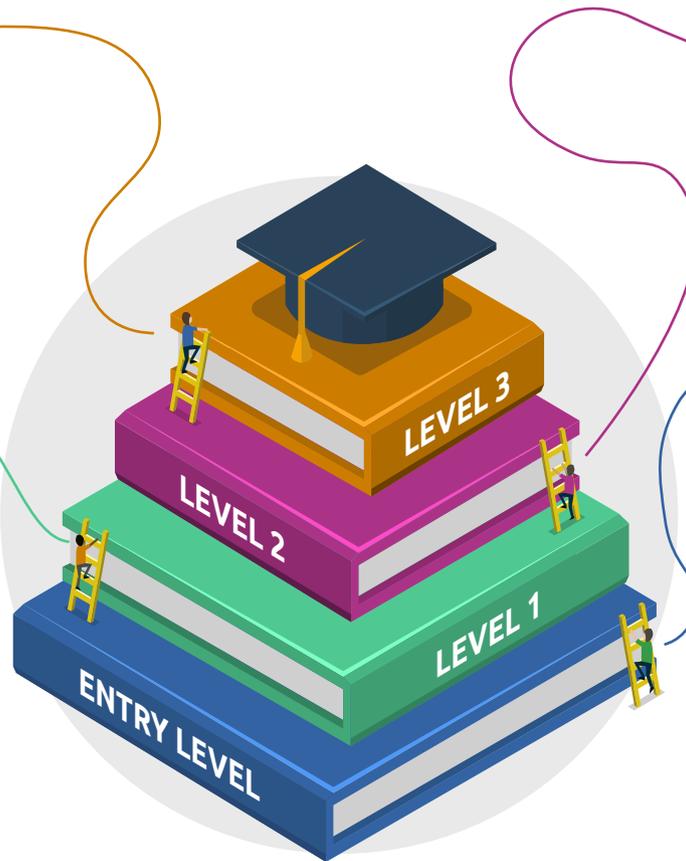
- GCSEs at 5-9 (A\*-C)
- Intermediate Apprenticeship
- NVQ 2
- BTEC Level 2

## Entry Level

These qualifications cover basic knowledge and skills with the ability to apply learning in everyday situations under direct guidance or supervision.

Example Qualifications:

- Entry Level Award
- Entry Level Certificate
- Entry Level Diploma



# The Importance of Good Careers Guidance



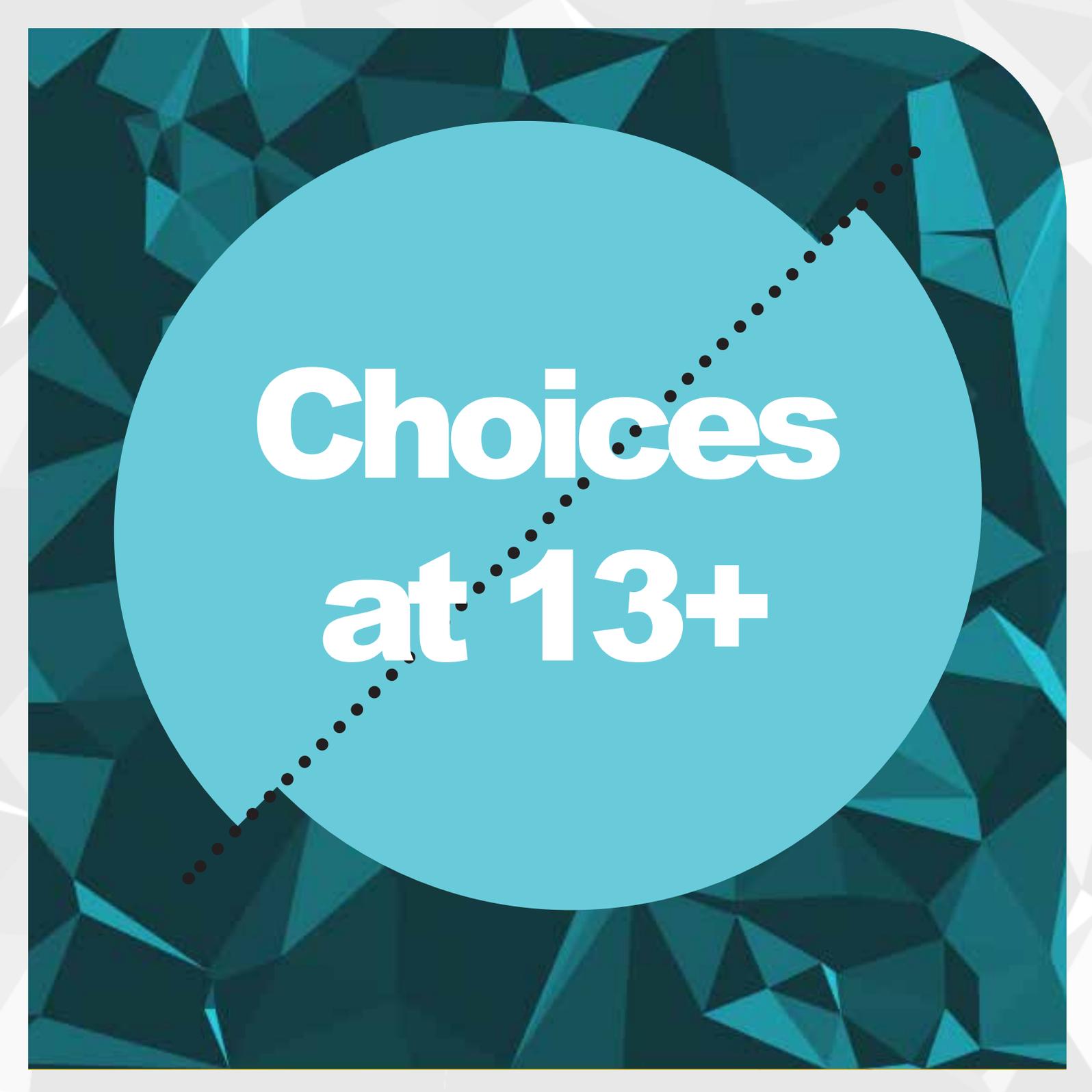
Young People really need to think carefully about your choice of subjects at 13+ and 16+. Choosing what to study and where to go are big decisions. You might need to **do some research** and get some careers advice to help you ensure that you know the full range of choices available and think about why they might suit you.

**Your school is responsible for Careers Guidance,** Although schools do not have to provide careers lessons, most do as this is the best way to give you the knowledge that you will need, to search for subjects, courses and training, to make applications and prepare for interviews. Your school should give you the opportunity to find out about local colleges, sixth forms, apprenticeships and meet with employers who can inspire you to explore your careers further. You may also have the opportunity to undertake work experience or visit universities.

Your school should provide access for you to Careers Guidance provided by a person or organisation outside the school. If you have a one to one careers interview, it should be with someone who is qualified to Level 6 in Advice and Guidance. Interviews in year 8 or 9 might focus on choosing subject options or your GCSE learning pathway; interviews in year 10 or 11 might be to start planning for after you leave school. Where you might want to talk about the subject you would like to study, different careers or work types that might interest you or the qualifications you might need for a particular career. You might also see an advisor from the Local Authority if you have additional needs or no clear plans. If you complete your compulsory education and do not have a place in education, employment or training you might see an adviser to help you look for work or learning opportunities.

**Your parents or carers are likely to have a big impact on your choices as they may have ideas that you want to explore further. It will be useful for you if they:**

- have a good understanding of the options available e.g. apprenticeships, college courses, etc. and where they can lead.
- have time to discuss and listen carefully to your ideas and support your choice.
- are open to new ideas and possibilities, there are different choices now to when they were at school.
- are able to attend parents evenings, open days and careers events.

The background is a dark teal color with a complex, low-poly geometric pattern of various shades of blue and green. In the center, there is a large, light blue circle. A dotted line of small black dots starts from the bottom left and curves upwards towards the top right, passing through the text. The text is white and bold.

# Choices at 13+

# What can you study?

GCSEs are the main qualification studied in school years 10 and 11; in 2015 the way they are taught and assessed changed from modular to whole course teaching with limited coursework and more final exams in all subjects. A detailed explanation of the changes is on [www.help4teens.co.uk](http://www.help4teens.co.uk)

There are some GCSE subjects that you **must** study and you can also choose from a number of optional subjects including vocational qualifications.

## You must study:

- English - Literature and Language or a single English GCSE
- Maths
- Science - Core, Double or Triple

Your school may also have other subjects that all students are expected to study, check this with your teacher or head of year.

The **optional subject** choices available will depend on your school but you should be able to choose one course from each of these four broad areas:

- Arts
- Design and Technology
- Humanities
- Modern Foreign Languages

Vocational qualifications (e.g. BTEC or OCR Cambridge Nationals) are courses where students develop knowledge and understanding that they can apply to work situations in subjects such as Health and Social Care or Information Technology. They are assessed on practical tasks mainly by coursework.

Your school may suggest subjects that would suit your interests and ability; choosing a good mix will keep your options open for courses, jobs and careers when you leave school.

# Changes to GCSEs

Since 2015, there have been some major changes both the assessment and content to GCSEs.

The main changes are:

- Exams have more extended essay-style exam questions and fewer short answer questions
- Re-sits of maths and English will only be available in November
- A new grade system to replace the A\*-G grades. This will use 9-1 with grade 9 being slightly higher than the current A\* and 1 being equivalent to a G. The current grade C will be mapped against a new grade 4
- A change to teaching structure from modular blocks to each subject being taught as a 2 year linear course with final exams taken only at year 11



## Changes that were introduced for September 2015 in English Language, English Literature and Maths:

- English Language now requires better reading skills and good written English.
- English Literature stretches students and encourages them to read, write and think critically. The exam assesses students on whole texts and on shorter unseen texts.
- Mathematics provides greater coverage of subjects such as ratio, proportion and rates of change. All students need to master the basics, and will be more challenging for those aiming to achieve top grades.

The new format of other subject started being taught in 2016 too, they are: art and design, biology, chemistry, citizenship studies, computer science, dance, double science, drama, food preparation and nutrition, music, physical education, physics and religious studies.

The new format of all remaining GCSE subjects will start being taught in 2017, they are: ancient history, astronomy, business, classical civilisation, design and technology, economics, electronics, engineering, film studies, geology, media, studies, psychology, sociology and statistics.

## Changes introduced in September 2016

- Geography concentrates on the UK. It requires students to use maths and statistics in their work and conduct at least 2 pieces of fieldwork
- History concentrates on British History. It requires students to study more historical periods such as medieval, early modern and modern
- Modern Foreign Languages are more rigorous and will have most exam questions written in the language being assessed.
- Science will include more mathematics related to science. There is more new content, including the human genome, life cycle analysis and space physic.

## Information



In this section you can find information for the 13+ Options at Schools in County Durham.

*Paragraphs starting with an asterix "\*" is material sourced from sixth forms website.*

### Icons Key

-  Location of School
-  Leader of Establishment
-  Website Address
-  Phone Number
-  Email Address

## Academy at Shotton Hall

The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee is a mixed comprehensive school for 11-16 year olds. In our most recent Ofsted inspection we were judged to be 'Outstanding' - the highest accolade a school can achieve and in 2016 we had the best GCSE results in County Durham.

Our 1250 students come to learn each day in a fantastic new school with state-of-the-art facilities. The Academy is a fun and inspirational space with brightly coloured, modern classrooms, which provide a stimulating and lively setting for learning. Our ICT facilities include an Apple Mac media suite, interactive whiteboards, iPads, 3D TVs and the 'Frog' virtual learning environment. We also boast a well stocked library, specialist equipment in science and technology, professional level dance and drama studios and a fully fitted theatre, worthy of our fantastic performing arts productions.

-  Passfield Way, Peterlee, SR81AU
-  Lesley Powell, Headteacher
-  [Shottonhallschool.co.uk](http://Shottonhallschool.co.uk)
-  0191 518 0222
-  [Enquiries@shottonhallacademy.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@shottonhallacademy.co.uk)

## Apollo Studio Academy

Apollo Studio Academy is a new school, which opened in September 2014 in Peterlee. It is sponsored by The Academy at Shotton Hall and East Durham College and caters for up to 300 students aged between 14 and 19.

Apollo offers a completely different educational path to conventional secondary schools and sixth forms by blending academic qualifications and the world of work into one unique and outstanding learning experience. You can join Apollo in **Year 10** and as a student here, not only will you achieve national qualifications such as GCSEs and BTECs, you'll also gain a wealth of workplace knowledge and skills that will set you apart and give you a real head start in life.

Another big difference with Apollo is that students in Year 10 and 11 also undertake substantial employer placements with opportunities for paid work.

-  Willerby Grove, Peterlee, SR8 2RN
-  Sally Hudson, Principal
-  [Apollostudioacademy.co.uk](http://Apollostudioacademy.co.uk)
-  0191 518 5595
-  [Enquiry@apollostudioacademy.co.uk](mailto:Enquiry@apollostudioacademy.co.uk)

## Belmont Community School

Central to our well established tradition of high achievement is our relentless commitment to the best possible academic standards, firm discipline and high quality pastoral care. We have the very highest aspirations for our students and staff.

Our students have a strong history of success in those academically rigorous, traditional subjects most valued by our parents and universities.

We believe firmly in politeness, responsibility, respect, courtesy and good manners and show our strong care by having the very highest expectations of students in everything they do. This, combined with our continued commitment to the performing arts, sport, and a wealth of extra-curricular experiences, ensures that all our students are fully supported and challenged to achieve their unique potential.

-  Belmont, Durham, DH1 2QP
-  Mr P Marsden, Headteacher
-  [Belmontschool.org.uk](http://Belmontschool.org.uk)
-  0191 386 5715
-  [School@belmontschool.org.uk](mailto:School@belmontschool.org.uk)

## Bishop Barrington School

Bishop Barrington is not just a good school, it's a great school. Our young people leave Bishop Barrington as successful, confident, responsible young adults and we are very proud of them.

When parents send their children to Bishop Barrington, we are very mindful of the trust that they are placing in us. It is absolutely true that a student's time at secondary school is important and very precious. Families who send their children to Bishop Barrington can be assured that we take our responsibility very seriously. We mean it when we say that pupils will make progress from day one and that we will support, encourage and guide them throughout their learning journey.

Our view that Bishop Barrington is an excellent school is also endorsed by visiting LA inspectors who describe us as a true learning community.

-  Woodhouse Ln, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6LA
-  Mrs Gent, Headteacher
-  [Bishopbarrington.net](http://Bishopbarrington.net)
-  01388 603 307
-  [Bishopbarrington@durhamlearning.net](mailto:Bishopbarrington@durhamlearning.net)

## Consett Academy

\*We believe that your child is entitled to the very best in education and here, at Consett Academy, we offer just that. We offer an exciting and inspirational environment for young people to learn and succeed in.

We believe in hard work and in encouraging achievement of all kinds. Our approach is founded on a special partnership between young people, our Academy and your child. Education is most successful when parents are closely involved in their child's development. We will therefore work closely with you to ensure your child achieves the very best.

We know that with good teaching, a well-disciplined environment and a structured system of guidance and support, all students will be inspired and grow into confident, capable young people, well prepared for adult life.

-  Ashdale Rd, Consett, DH8 6LZ
-  Mr K Reynolds, Principal
-  [Consett-academy.org.uk](http://Consett-academy.org.uk)
-  01207 507 001
-  [Enquiries@consettacademy.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@consettacademy.org.uk)

## Dene Community School

\*Dene Community School has an open door policy that encourages visitors to experience the day to day atmosphere and climate of the school, the school is based on a mutual respect between students, staff and families.

The school offers a vast array of experiences and enrichments. We believe that a school should prepare every child for the challenges and opportunities of adult and working life.

The success of a school is dependent on the Partnerships it creates and the work ethic of the staff and the motivation they instil in the students. Staff for their incredible commitment to the children entrusted to us and the links that they have b created to ensure every child has the qualifications, skills and resilience to succeed in adult life.

-  Manor Way, Peterlee SR8 5RL
-  Mr K Simpson, Headteacher
-  [Dene.durham.sch.uk](http://Dene.durham.sch.uk)
-  0191 554 6000
-  [Enquiries@dene.durham.sch.uk](mailto:Enquiries@dene.durham.sch.uk)

## Durham Federation

(Durham Community Business College  
& Fyndoune School)

At The Durham Federation we strive for excellence in everything we do. Our vision is that our students are confident, ambitious and respectful. The Durham Federation is a hard federation between Fyndoune Community College and Durham Community Business College. An unfaltering focus on high quality teaching and learning and personalised support is at the centre of all of our work.

Our students are inspired to be confident in their abilities and talents, and are supported in developing them. Our broad and balanced curriculum allows students to be able to nurture these talents further and our vast opportunities for learning outside of the classroom enable students to develop further.

-  Ushaw Moor (DCBC) & Sacriston (Fyndoune)
-  Mrs A Jobling, Headteacher
-  [durhamfederation.co.uk](http://durhamfederation.co.uk)
-  0191 371 0277
-  [Fyndoune@durhamlearning.net](mailto:Fyndoune@durhamlearning.net)

## Durham Johnston Comprehensive

Durham Johnston offers an outstanding education to its students. Our focus is academic excellence and our staff work to ensure that all of our students have the best education that we can possibly provide. We want our students to enjoy and value learning for itself, not just as a means to an end.

We expect Johnstonians to have the highest standards of behaviour and we aim for our school to be a just and happy community so that our students understand how each person may be of service to society. Adults and young people alike share an ethic of hard work and public service. This leads to an ethos where pupils are calm and hard-working. Staff seek to support our youngsters in any way we can. We are a happy, and high achieving community. We want Johnstonians to take their place among the best.

-  Crossgate Moor, Durham, DH1 4SU
-  Dr Michael Wardle, Headteacher
-  [Durhamjohnston.org.uk](http://Durhamjohnston.org.uk)
-  0191 384 3887
-  [School@durhamjohnston.org.uk](mailto:School@durhamjohnston.org.uk)

## Easington Academy

\*At Easington Academy we have high expectations of our students and staff. We believe students have the right to expect a first class education, delivered by teachers who are committed to making learning challenging and rewarding.

Ours is a caring community, one based on mutual respect, a school where students feel safe and supported throughout their time with us. The emphasis on good behaviour means that lessons are taught in an ordered and encouraging learning environment. Students are treated as individuals and we recognise and celebrate their different abilities.

When our students leave us, we want them to have enjoyed their five years at Easington Academy. This means leaving with the best possible results and taking with them a store of happy memories.

-  Stockton Rd, Easington, SR8 3AY
-  Miss T. Spoons, Headteacher
-  [Easingtoncsc.durham.sch.uk](http://Easingtoncsc.durham.sch.uk)
-  0191 527 0757
-  [Easington@durhamlearning.net](mailto:Easington@durhamlearning.net)

## Ferryhill Business & Enterprise College

Ferryhill Business Enterprise College (FBEC), is a state school for boys and girls aged from 11 to 16.

The school's academic profile is very strong being ranked in the top 7% of schools nationwide. The college has held specialist status for Business and Enterprise since 2003 and holds multiple awards such as the Investors in People, HealthySchools, the International Schools Award and the Inspiring IAG award.

At FBEC there is a strong emphasis on the development of the whole child with outstanding pastoral support and excellent vocational opportunities. FBEC places great importance on the achievement and success of all students. Alongside academic achievement there are vast opportunities to develop personal and social skills.

-  Merrington Rd, Ferryhill, DL17 8RW
-  Mr Kevin Brennan, Headteacher
-  [Fbec.co.uk](http://Fbec.co.uk)
-  01740 651 554
-  [Kbr@fbec.uk](mailto:Kbr@fbec.uk)

## Framwellgate School Durham

Framwellgate School Durham is a place where education is viewed as a lifetime pursuit and skills for learning are seen as vital tools to shape young people's futures. The experience of learning here is designed to inspire students to explore their talents and provide them with intellectual challenges and the support they need to meet them.

At Framwellgate School Durham we aim for excellence. We have a track record of uniquely student-centred provision, high quality pastoral care and a strong community ethos. We believe we achieve results through a balance of traditional academic rigour and pragmatic innovation.

There is an exceptional range of opportunities available for students beyond the classroom ensuring that the school meets its responsibility to foster reflective, responsible and proactive citizens of the future.

-  Newton Dr, Durham, DH1 5BQ
-  Alisdair Nicholas, Headteacher
-  [Fram.durham.sch.uk](http://Fram.durham.sch.uk)
-  0191 386 6628
-  [Enquiries@fram.durham.sch.uk](mailto:Enquiries@fram.durham.sch.uk)

## Greenfield Community College

At Greenfield we are committed to raising aspirations and transforming lives in our community. The school serves the two towns of Newton Aycliffe and Sildon and is committed to being an active part of both communities.

Greenfield is a popular Specialist Arts & Science School. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage 3 and 4 and are committed to enabling our students to choose a learning programme which best suits their needs. We strive to provide a caring and supportive learning environment for all students, whilst working in partnership.

Greenfield values all students and provide a wide curriculum equipped to meet the needs of all children. We offer some exceptional opportunities for students to grow and develop through our extensive extra-curricular opportunities.

-  Greenfield Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7LF
-  Mr D. Priestley, Headteacher
-  [Greenfieldschool.net](http://Greenfieldschool.net)
-  01325 300 378
-  [Contact@greenfieldschool.net](mailto:Contact@greenfieldschool.net)

## King James 1st Academy

King James is an 11-18 school with over 730 students on roll. Situated in the market town of Bishop Auckland, our state-of-the-art facilities mean that students travel from all over the Wear Valley to attend.

Our pastoral care is exceptional and we pride ourselves on knowing our students as individuals and ensuring that they benefit from a positive academic and social experience within the Academy.

The ethos of 'Learning to Inspire' means that lessons are fun and creative, and enable students to make significant progress throughout their time at King James. A comprehensive range of options are available for students in Key Stage 4 and 5, meaning that there is something available for everyone.

-  S Church Rd, Bishop Auckland, DL14 7JZ
-  Mr Nick Grieveson
-  [Kingjames1academy.com](http://Kingjames1academy.com)
-  01388 603 388
-  [Kingjames@durhamlearning.net](mailto:Kingjames@durhamlearning.net)

## North Durham Academy

North Durham Academy was opened in 2011, and in 2013 we moved to a fantastic new £30 million campus with state-of-the-art facilities. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum in an environment fit for learners in the 21st century.

We are based in the town of Stanley, and welcome students from the local area and beyond due to the excellent transport links which are located nearby.

We currently have over 1150 students. Every student follows a personalised curriculum pathway which ensures that our young people are able to achieve qualifications which will allow them to achieve their future aspirations and progress onto sixth form and beyond. We allow students to take a range of GCSE, BTEC and specialist vocational courses and have developed an enviable record for students progressing to positive destinations when they leave Year 11.

-  High Strt, Stanley, DH9 0TW
-  Mr David Thornton, Principal
-  [NorthDurhamAcademy.co.uk](http://NorthDurhamAcademy.co.uk)
-  01207 292 180
-  [Info@ndacademy.co.uk](mailto:Info@ndacademy.co.uk)

## Park View School

We are a forward thinking and happy school where children of all abilities, aptitudes and social backgrounds achieve. This has given us a reputation for excellence within the locality of which we are exceptionally proud.

We have been at the heart of Chester-le-Street since 1911. We passionately believe that all young people can achieve if challenged to do so, that each has in them special qualities, which it is the duty of true educators to develop. It is this moral imperative which drives us, providing an unflinching focus upon the improvement necessary for us to realise our ambitions.

-  Church Chare, Chester le Street, DH3 3QA
-  Mr Iain Veitch
-  [Parkviewonline.org.uk](http://Parkviewonline.org.uk)
-  0191 388 2248
-  [Success@parkviewlearning.net](mailto:Success@parkviewlearning.net)

## Parkside Academy

We believe that we are an inclusive school where pupils of all abilities make excellent progress. Parkside Academy is currently rated as Outstanding by Ofsted and we are currently in the top 5% of schools nationally for adding value to pupils from when they enter the school in Year 7 to when they leave in Year 11.

Our curriculum is broad and well balanced and goes far beyond lessons in the classroom with a wide range of after school activities taking place most afternoons. Our expert and experienced staff equip pupils with the skills and knowledge required for success.

-  Hall Lane, Crook, DL15 0QF
-  Mrs L.A. Davies, Headteacher
-  [Parksideacademy.org.uk](http://Parksideacademy.org.uk)
-  01388 746 396
-  [Admin@parkside.org.uk](mailto:Admin@parkside.org.uk)

## Seaham High School

\*Formley Seaham School of Technology

Seaham High School moved into a brand new multi million pound building in September 2016, close to the site of the old school in the heart of Seaham. The school has a capacity of 1200 students. It has a wide range of updated educational and sports facilities. Including a dance studio and fitness suite to disabled access throughout. Seaham High School provides something for the whole community.

We believe that the core purpose of our school is to engage the minds of all learners in order to broaden their future by providing the opportunity to maximise life chances. We offer everything needed to succeed, a curriculum that responds to the needs of each and every individual. Learning experiences that are diverse, flexible, rich, experiential and active. Dynamic personalised teaching and learning, high standards, high expectations and great challenges.

-  Burnhall Dr, Seaham SR7 0EN
-  Mr Dave Shield, Headteacher
-  [Seahamhighschool.com](http://Seahamhighschool.com)
-  0191 516 1600
-  [S4019.admin@durhamlearning.net](mailto:S4019.admin@durhamlearning.net)

## Sedgefield Community College

Our vision for Sedgefield, summarised in the acronym; ACHIEVE@Sedgefield, is a vision that we believe has led us to become the outstanding school that we are. What though does it mean for a school to be outstanding? Academic success is, of course, an important element and excellent learning and teaching ensures that our students achieve this.

The fact that Sedgefield, has for some time, been one of the consistently highest performing schools in the North is testimony to the success of our students in this regard. However, an outstanding school is about so much more than results alone. We are outstanding due to the quality of the experience and opportunities that we provide for our students each and every day.

-  Hawthorn Rd, Sedgefield, TS21 3DD
-  Mr D Davies, Headteacher
-  [Sedgefieldcommunitycollege.co.uk](http://Sedgefieldcommunitycollege.co.uk)
-  01740 625 300
-  [School@sedgefield.cc](mailto:School@sedgefield.cc)

## St Bedes Catholic Comprehensive School (Peterlee)

At St Bede's, we strive for excellence and aim to help all of our students achieve their full potential. The school is a happy, vibrant community where students work hard in their academic studies and are Involved In a wide range of sporting, creative, practical and social activities.

At the heart of St Bede's, and underpinning everything that we do, is its mission to witness to Christ and to celebrate each individuals relationship with Christ and with one another in the light of Gospel values.

Our dedicated and well trained staff, give students the individual attention necessary to encourage them to achieve in all areas of their lives. The high standards of teaching, the hard work of the students and active encouragement by parents, have all contributed to the school's success.

-  Westway, Peterlee, SR8 1DE
-  Mr Brendan Tapping, Executive Head
-  [St-bedes.durham.sch.uk](http://St-bedes.durham.sch.uk)
-  0191 587 6220
-  [Enquiries@st-bedes.durham.sch.uk](mailto:Enquiries@st-bedes.durham.sch.uk)

## St Bedes Catholic School & Sixth Form College (Lanchester)

St Bede's is a Catholic school located in Lanchester in North West Durham. The catchment area is wide and draws pupils from towns including Stanley and Consett and the surrounding villages. There are approximately 1,500 students on roll across the school and Sixth Form. All students follow a curriculum which includes a strong academic core supported by a range of optional academic and vocational courses.

The care and support of students is central to the Catholic ethos of St. Bede's. Students form positive relationships with their subject teachers and Form Tutors who, wherever possible, remains with them as they progress through the school. The staff work tirelessly to ensure the needs of all students are understood and met; the pastoral support and guidance the students receive at St. Bede's is outstanding.

-  Consett Road, Lanchester, DH7 0RD
-  Mr Harrison, Headteacher
-  [Stbedes.durham.sch.uk](http://Stbedes.durham.sch.uk)
-  01207 520 424
-  [Stbedes@stbedes.durham.sch.uk](mailto:Stbedes@stbedes.durham.sch.uk)

## St John's School & Sixth Form College

St John's is an outstanding learning community guided by Gospel values. We are proud to offer a wide variety of academic and vocational courses, expertly taught by a dedicated team of staff whose enthusiasm, impressive expertise and strong passion for learning ensure that students fulfil their potential. We encourage each individual "to become the best person they can be through a range of spiritual opportunities, academic enrichment and outstanding extra-curricular activities."

The desire to support every individual on their own journey in faith and life places our pastoral and spiritual care at the heart of everything that we do. By embracing diversity and enabling all young people to develop their skills and celebrate their talents, we create a caring and supportive community that is attentive to the needs of all.

-  Woodhouse Ln, Bishop Auckland DL14 6JT
-  Lisa Byron, Headteacher
-  [Stjohnsrc.org.uk](http://Stjohnsrc.org.uk)
-  01388 603 246
-  [Staff@stjohnsrc.org.uk](mailto:Staff@stjohnsrc.org.uk)

## St Leonard's Catholic School

St Leonard's is an 11 - 18 comprehensive school of approximately 1,400 pupils including a Sixth Form of 250+ pupils. As a Catholic school, our Christian principles underpin all that we do.

The school is conveniently situated in Durham City, close to the train and bus stations. Pupils come here from throughout the county, achieving great success at GCSE, A level and in vocational courses. At Key Stage 4 Pupils are currently following one of two pathways, both of which may include the English Baccalaureate subjects.

Pupils here benefit from high expectations and individual support. We have a thriving school community, constantly seeking ways to improve. Strong links with parishes, the diocese, primary and secondary schools, and the Local Authority all contribute to our success in helping each child to develop in Christ's image.

-  North End, Durham, DH1 4NG
-  Mr Simon Campbell, Headteacher
-  [St-leonards.durham.sch.uk](http://St-leonards.durham.sch.uk)
-  0191 384 8575
-  [Admin@st-leonards.durham.sch.uk](mailto:Admin@st-leonards.durham.sch.uk)

## Staindrop School

\*At Staindrop School an Academy we cater for all children between the ages of 11 and 16 and have approximately 600 pupils on roll. Set on the western edge of the historic village of Staindrop and overlooking rolling fields and farms, Staindrop School is without doubt one of the most attractively situated schools in the region.

At Staindrop School we place great importance on academic excellence, continually monitoring our teaching methods and the progress of individual pupils.

We converted to academy status in 2011 following full consultation with Governors, parents and staff. The general day-to day life of the school has remained largely unaffected by this conversion. As ever, the Staindrop motto remains "Maximising success in a strong community". We recently receive the news that we have been placed 100th out of 3017 schools nationally. Based on the progress achieved by Year 11 leavers in Summer 2013.

-  Cleatlam Lane, Darlington, DL2 3JU
-  Mr Andrew Flint, Headteacher
-  [Staindropschool.com](http://Staindropschool.com)
-  01833 660 285
-  [Staindrop@durhamlearning.net](mailto:Staindrop@durhamlearning.net)

## Tanfield School Specialist College

\*Tanfield School is committed to the academic and personal development of all our students regardless of ability. We have a shared belief that the potential of our young people is virtually without limit and that it is our mission as a school to create opportunities and experiences that enable young people to achieve that potential.

Our mission is to provide a twenty-first century education founded on the fundamentals of literacy and numeracy but one in which science and information technology are integral components.

Science and Engineering are our specialism they reflect our determination to tailor our educational provision to local, national and indeed international vocational opportunities as well as to the rapidly changing Higher Education sector as it adapts to new technologies.

-  Tanfield Lea Rd, Stanley, DH9 8AY
-  Mr G Lloyd, Headteacher
-  [Tanfieldschool.co.uk](http://Tanfieldschool.co.uk)
-  01207 232 881
-  [Enquiries@tansfieldschool.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@tansfieldschool.co.uk)

## Teesdale School & Sixth Form

Teesdale School is a unique and vibrant community where all young people are supported and nurtured to be healthy, happy, safe and successful.

Teesdale Sixth Form provision is designed to be the perfect bridge between study and higher education, specialist training or work. Our wide range of both academic and vocational courses, complemented by the internship programme for competitive sectors allows each student to be offered a personalized experience.

The consistently high standard of teaching means that lessons are always engaging and challenging, whether students are discussing nineteenth century literature, exploring the Doppler effect in Physics, or evaluating Charles I's responsibility for the English Civil War. The dedicated Sixth Form Centre has recreational and study areas designed by students themselves to make maximum use of their time outside taught lessons.

-  Prospect Pl, Barnard Castle, DL12 8HH
-  Mrs Margaret Robson, Head
-  [Teesdaleschool.com](http://Teesdaleschool.com)
-  01833 638 166
-  [Office@teesdaleschool.com](mailto:Office@teesdaleschool.com)

## The Hermitage Academy

The Hermitage is an exciting and successful 11-19 Academy serving the local community. In 2007 the school changed status to become a Trust School in which the Governing Body became the employers. The School was invited in 2010 to convert to Academy Status in its first round of 'Outstanding' school conversions. The school officially converted to an Academy in 2011.

Becoming an academy has brought about significant opportunities for our school. We developed our curriculum in a way that reflects our school's aspirations, our strengths and the needs of young people as they move into adult citizenship in the 21st century. As an Outstanding School we are given greater freedom and trust. The flexibility and additional resourcing that goes with this are key motivating factors in our ambitions to further improve student performance.

-  Waldrige Lane, Chester le Street, DH2 3AD
-  Miss F Smith, Principal
-  [Thehermitageacademy.net](http://Thehermitageacademy.net)
-  0191 388 7161
-  [Learning@thehermitageacademy.net](mailto:Learning@thehermitageacademy.net)

## UTC South Durham

Opening September 2016!

School is about to get seriously hands on. UTC South Durham is a School and Sixth Form which specialises in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths).

Set up by the University of Sunderland, Hitachi and Gestamp Tallent, we open on the Aycliffe Business Park in September 2016.

Our focus is on preparing our students for outstanding careers. Academic and technical qualifications are brought to life through visits, placements and projects with a wide range of companies. Apply now on our website to join Year 10 in September.

-  Aycliffe Business Park, DL5 6AP
-  Tom Dower
-  [Uticsouthdurham.org](http://Uticsouthdurham.org)
-  0191 515 3185
-  [Office@utcsouthdurham.org](mailto:Office@utcsouthdurham.org)

## Wellfield Community School

Wellfield is an 11-16 Comprehensive School welcoming everyone from our local community no matter what their background or ability. We believe in success for all and want our pupils to be confident individuals while they are at Wellfield.

Wellfield started as an amalgamation in 1980 of three schools, Wellfield Grammar School (previously AJ Dawson), Wingate Secondary Modern School and Wheatley Hill Secondary Modern School. Then Yohden Hall School closed in the 1980's and pupils and staff from this school also joined Wellfield.

Since 2012, Wellfield has been transformed into a school that the local community can be proud of. We believe that excellent education is about having high standards in all areas. In Wellfield our teaching is at least good or outstanding and we provide extensive support to all pupils so that they can achieve their full potential.

-  North Road East, Wingate TS28 5AX
-  L. Rodham MA, Headteacher
-  [Wellfieldschool.net](http://Wellfieldschool.net)
-  01429 838 783
-  [Contacts@wellfieldschool.net](mailto:Contacts@wellfieldschool.net)

## Whitworth Park School & Sixth Form

Whitworth Park is a Trust school, run by the Spennymoor Learning Community Trust. It is located on a large, modern site at the north end of the town; a partial new-build and extensive refurbishment mean that Whitworth Park can offer a superb learning environment with state-of-the-art ICT facilities. The school has a roll approximately 1,000 students and a growing sixth form.

Whitworth Park has an open, inclusive ethos; the leadership team seek to form effective links with all community stakeholders in order to ensure excellence for everyone. At KS4, there are three learning pathways, designed to ensure that students of all abilities make the most of their skills and talents.

-  Whitworth Lane, Spennymoor, DL16 7LN
-  Headteacher Mr P Gillis
-  [Whitworthpark.org.uk](http://Whitworthpark.org.uk)
-  01388 824 800
-  [Office@whitworthpark.org.uk](mailto:Office@whitworthpark.org.uk)

## Wolsingham School

Pursuit of academic excellence is at the heart of Wolsingham School. We are ambitious and aspirational. We strive for the highest achievement for every individual student within our caring, inclusive community. Our students are hard-working, ambitious and have a passion for lifelong learning.

Our curriculum is broad and well-balanced and goes far beyond lessons in the classroom. We urge our students to be engaged, inspired and curious about the world around them. Our experienced and highly committed staff equip students with the skills and mindset which lead to success.

Learning at Wolsingham is an exciting experience with an emphasis on participation and enjoyment at every opportunity. Lessons are varied and well planned to meet the needs of individuals.

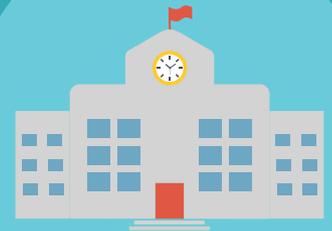
-  Leazes Lane, Wolsingham, DL13 3DN
-  Mr Elliott, Headteacher
-  [WolsinghamSchool.net](http://WolsinghamSchool.net)
-  01388 527 302
-  [Info@wolsinghamSchool.net](mailto:Info@wolsinghamSchool.net)

## Woodham Academy

\*At Woodham Academy we commit to high-quality teaching. All of our teachers are well-qualified subject specialists who seek to inspire students to strive for academic excellence. Building on our Technology College heritage, we continue to invest in the latest digital media. Homework is often set through our Virtual Learning Environment which allows all of our 750 students to study anytime, anywhere. The students in Key Stage 3 are split into 3 differentiated learning pathways.

Woodham Academy is also the home of Woodham Sports Academy which offers high-quality coaching to students in a range of sports including football, girls' football, dance, cricket, swimming and handball. The Sports Academy works in partnership with The Tony Blair Sports Foundation to develop sports leadership and coaching skills.

-  Washington Cres, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 4AX
-  Mrs Christine Forsyth, Headteacher
-  [Woodham.org.uk](http://Woodham.org.uk)
-  01325 300 328
-  [Info@woodham.org.uk](mailto:Info@woodham.org.uk)



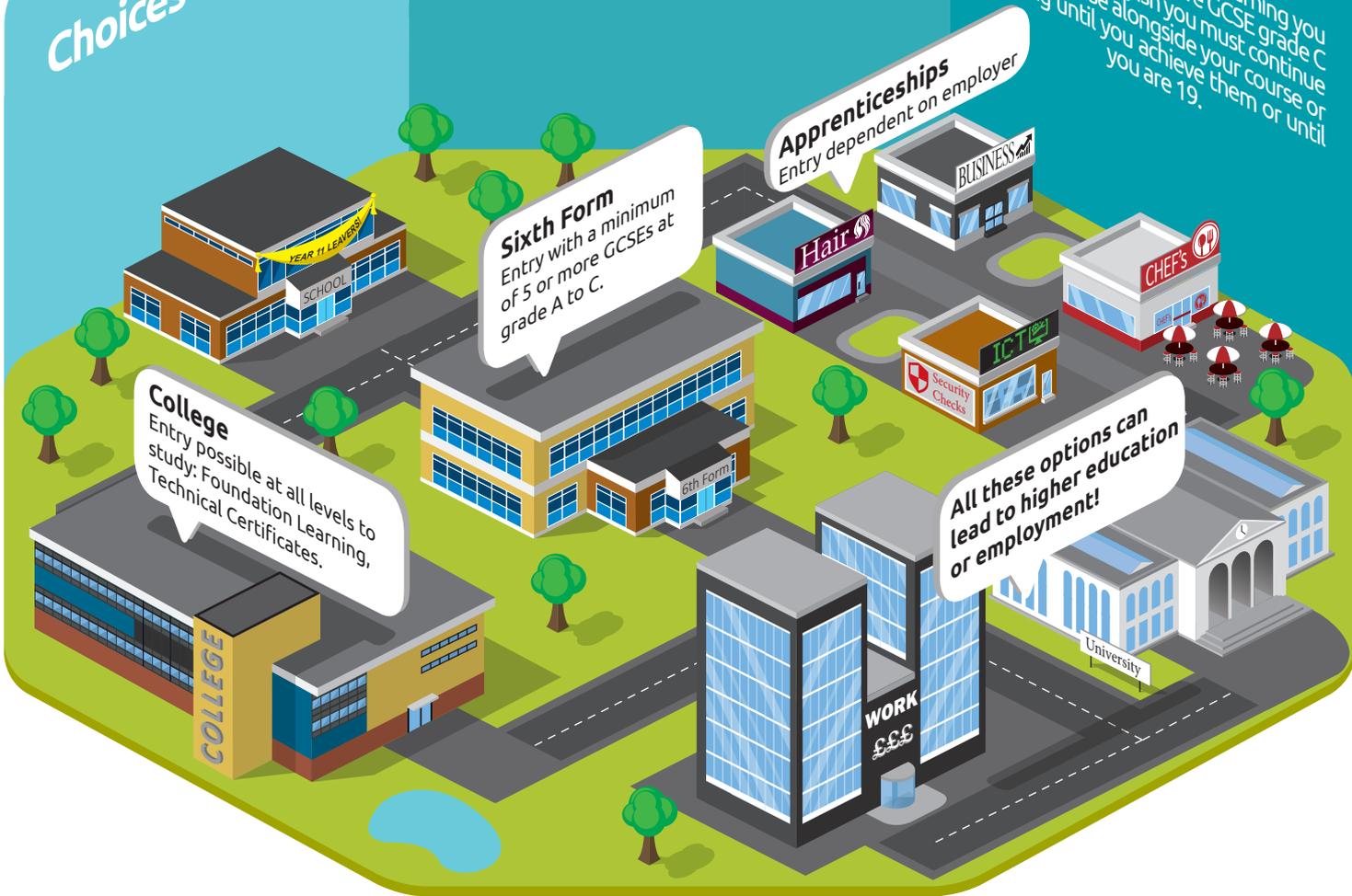


**Choices at  
16+**

# Choices at 16+ Map

When you complete your compulsory education at the end of year 11 you have choices about what you will do next. If you know what you want to do you might have to study specific qualifications or subjects? Use the section on resources to find out more...

Whichever type of post 16 learning you choose if you do not have GCSE grade C in maths and English you must continue to study these alongside your course or training until you achieve them or until you are 19.



**Sixth Form**  
Entry with a minimum of 5 or more GCSEs at grade A to C.

**Apprenticeships**  
Entry dependent on employer

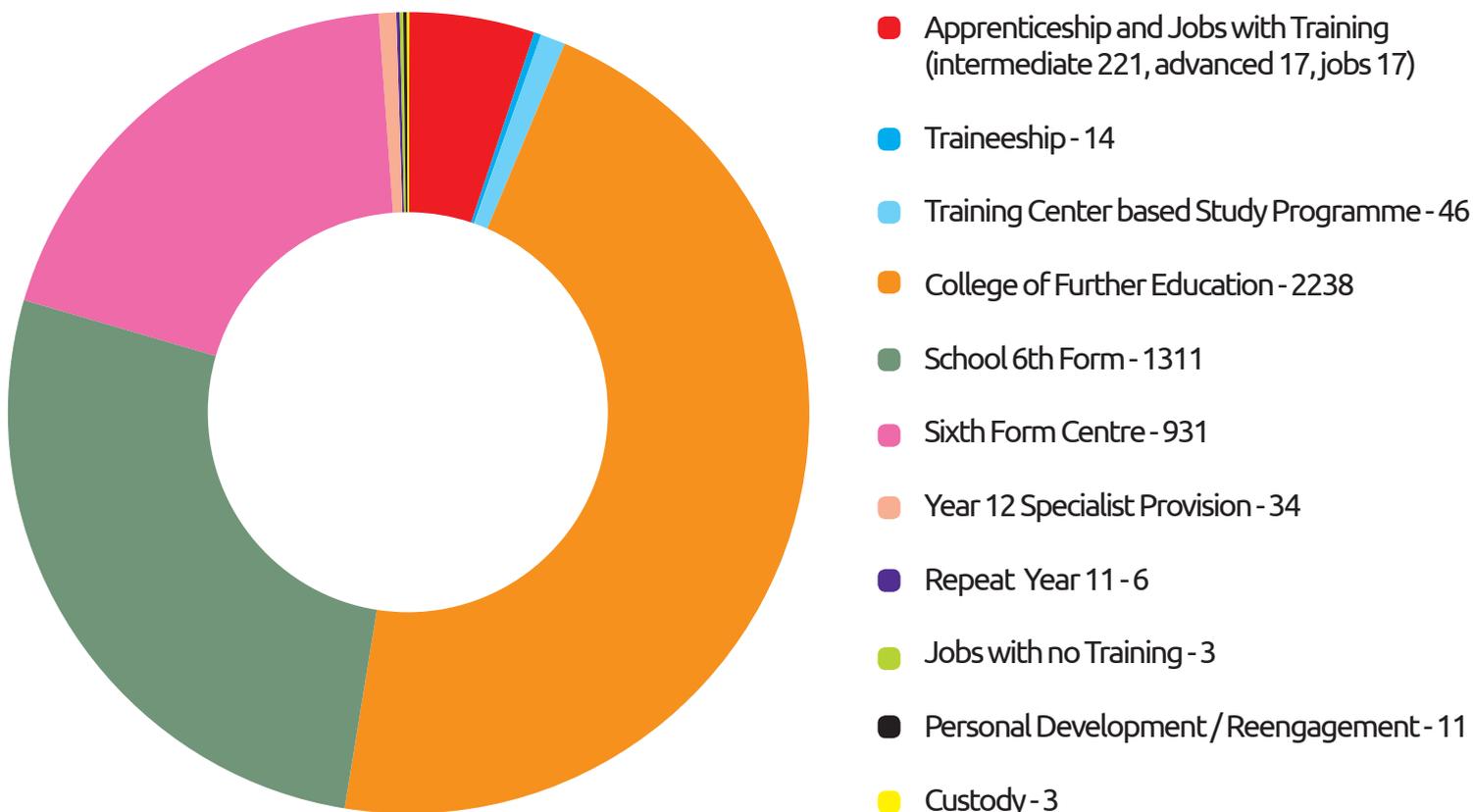
**College**  
Entry possible at all levels to study: Foundation Learning, Technical Certificates.

All these options can lead to higher education or employment!

## What do young people in Durham Choose at 16?

Overwhelmingly young people in Durham choose to stay on in learning after compulsory education. Raising the Participation Age (where young people have to stay in some form of learning up to the age of 18) has meant there are fewer young people going into jobs without accredited training than ever.

5151 young people left year 11 over the summer of 2016. By November 1st most have settled into some form of learning. This year we have details of 4843 that are actively participating in education, employment or training; this is what they are doing:



## Post 16 Choices

Post 16 Choices are available at Entry Level up to Level 3. The Level that you choose to study will depend on the grades that you achieve at GCSE and for apprenticeships the grades required by an employer.

### Foundation Learning

Foundation Learning is the name given to all full time study at entry level and level 1. It is for students with few or low grades in their GCSEs.

Foundation Learning is made up of assessed qualifications and non-assessed developmental learning which is personalised to the needs of each learner. Each qualification taken as part of foundation learning will be graded. Students can progress within foundation learning but may move on to the level 2 programmes.

### Technical Certificates

Technical certificates are rigorous intermediate (level 2) technical qualifications recognised by employers lasting 1 year. They may be offered by different exam boards such as BTEC or City and Guilds. They are for post-16 students that want to specialise in a particular job and can be used to gain employment.

There are 65 different subjects available e.g.

- City and Guilds Level 2 in Agriculture
- VTCT Level 2 Diploma in Women's Hairdressing
- OCR Level 2 Diploma in Business Administration

### Traineeships

Traineeships are a way for young people who want an apprenticeship but aren't quite ready, to get some training in the skills for work. They combine an extended work placement of 6-26 weeks with work preparation training and study of maths and English. The focus of the traineeships is dependent on the type of job role in the work placement.

### National Vocational Qualification (NVQ)

National Vocational Qualifications are work based qualification that can be part of an apprenticeship or taken when employed as an assessment of your skills for the job. NVQs are made up of units that cover key aspects of a role in which you are assessed as 'competent'

### Apprenticeship

Apprenticeships are jobs with nationally recognised training. You are fully employed and will be paid a salary. There are 4 levels of apprenticeship but at the end of statutory education you could apply for an: Intermediate Apprenticeship (level 2) or Advanced Apprenticeship (level 3).

The apprenticeship is made up of 3 parts:

- An academic qualification to develop your underpinning knowledge for the job
- A Competence based NVQ to assess your work skills
- Functional skills or GCSE in maths and English

There may be additional elements for specific roles such as coaching qualifications for apprentices in sport or a CSCS site safety course for apprentices in construction.

## A full time Level 3 educational course post 16 is called a Study Programme; they are made up of several elements:

- A main course of learning e.g: A levels taken together or a full time vocational course
- Meaningful work experience related to the course or subjects studied
- Functional skills or GCSE maths and English (if not achieved pre-16)
- Other non-assessed activity to enhance the course

### A (Advanced) Level

An 'A' level is a single subject studied in depth at level 3. They are usually studied in schools sixth forms or sixth form centres. Students usually take 3 different A level subjects at the same time; although they can be taken alongside Applied General qualifications and AS levels. Recent changes to the structure mean that 'A' levels in most subjects are taken as a 2 year course with exams at the end. There is limited on-course assessment in practical subjects such as languages and art.

A levels are available in around 80 different subjects including history, law, economics, etc. For some Higher Education courses such as medicine or veterinary science and for some institutions, typically the Russell Group universities they are the preferred qualification. French, etc.

### AS Level

New AS levels are a level 3 qualification are similar in structure to A levels but studied in 1 year. They can be taught alongside A levels to enable students to broaden the range of subjects that they study. They can have common content with the A level course in the same subject but are a standalone qualification.

Typically student may take 3 A level subjects and 1 AS. Previously AS levels formed the first year of the A level and some students may still be studying in this format as the changes to A levels are phased in.

### Applied General

Applied General qualifications are level 3 (advanced) qualifications that allow students to develop transferable knowledge and skills. They are recognised by Higher Education Institutions for entry and can be studied in sixth forms alongside A levels or a full time college courses. They are currently available in around 25 vocational areas including:

- BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport
- NCFE Level 3 Certificate in Art and Design

### Tech Levels

Tech levels are rigorous level 3 (advanced) qualifications equivalent to A levels but for students wishing to specialise in a technical occupation or prepare for a specific job. They will equip a student with specialist knowledge and skills, enabling entry to employment, an apprenticeship in that occupational group or progression to a related further or higher education course. There are around 70 vocational study areas and they are usually taught in colleges.

Tech Levels are recognised by employers or professional bodies as qualifications for working in a specific job roles. In some cases they can provide a 'licence to practise' or exemption from professional exams. Subjects include:

- AQA Level 3 Diploma in Accounting
- City and Guilds Level 3 Diploma for Legal Secretaries

## Changes to A level

In September 2015 the Department for Education began to introduce changes to A levels alongside the changes to GCSE. These are being phased in so that by 2017 all subjects will be in the revised structure.

The main changes include:

- The removal of the AS qualification as part of the A level; it is now a stand-alone qualification. No marks from the AS will count towards the A level grade.
- The transfer from modular teaching with frequent exams, to a single linear course with exams at the end of year 13.
- Less coursework and fewer practical assessments in most subjects

What isn't changing with A levels: They will still be graded A\* - E and students will normally take 3 subjects at the same time.

### New A levels being taught from September 2015

Art and design  
Biology  
Business studies  
Chemistry  
Computing  
Economics  
English language  
English language/literature  
English literature  
History  
Physics  
Psychology  
Sociology

### New A levels being taught from September 2016

Art and design  
Biology  
Business studies  
Chemistry  
Computing  
Economics  
English language  
English language/literature  
English literature  
History  
Physics  
Psychology  
Sociology

### New A levels being taught from September 2017

Accounting  
Ancient history  
Archaeology  
Classical civilisation  
Design and technology  
Electronics  
Film studies  
Geology  
Government and politics history of art  
Law  
Maths and further maths  
Media studies  
Music technology  
Philosophy  
Statistics

**These subjects will no longer be available as A levels although some may be taught under an Applied General syllabus:** Anthropology, citizenship studies, communication and culture, creative writing, critical thinking, engineering, general studies, health and social care, home economics, food, nutrition and health, human biology, humanities, ICT, leisure studies, media - communication and production, moving image arts, pure mathematics, science in society, statistics, travel and tourism, world development.

**Also discontinued are:** applied subjects including: art and design, business, information and communication technology and applied science.

**These subjects are now available as an AS qualification only:** global development, science, use of mathematics and quantitative methods.

The logo features a large, light green circle centered on a dark green background with a low-poly, crystalline pattern. A series of small black dots forms a diagonal line that passes through the center of the circle, starting from the bottom-left and ending at the top-right. The text "Sixth Forms" is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the circle, with the dotted line passing through the letter 'h' in "Forms".

# Sixth Forms

## Information



In this section you will find a list of the Sixth Forms in County Durham and its surrounding travel to learn areas.

In Sixth Form you would usually study A Level, AS Level or Applied General Qualifications.

*Paragraphs starting with an asterix "\*" is material sourced from sixth forms website.*

 Icons Key

-  Out of area school
-  Location of School
-  Leader of Establishment
-  Website Address
-  Phone Number
-  Email Address

## Apollo Studio School

Apollo Studio Academy is a new school, which opened in September 2014 in Peterlee. It is sponsored by The Academy at Shotton Hall and East Durham College and caters for up to 300 students aged between 14 and 19.

Apollo offers a completely different educational path to conventional secondary schools and sixth forms by blending academic qualifications and the world of work into one unique and outstanding learning experience. As a student here, not only will you achieve national qualifications such as GCSEs, A Levels and BTECs, you'll also gain a wealth of workplace knowledge and skills that will set you apart and give you a real head start in life.

Apollo specialises in three subject areas post-16; STEM engineering, computer science and health and social care. So, if you want to have an outstanding career in any of these sectors Apollo is the perfect choice.

-  Willerby Grove, Peterlee, SR8 2RN
-  Sally Hudson, Principal
-  [apollostudioacademy.co.uk](http://apollostudioacademy.co.uk)
-  0191 518 5595
-  [Enquiry@apollostudioacademy.co.uk](mailto:Enquiry@apollostudioacademy.co.uk)

## Byron Sixth Form College

In Byron we aim to ensure that our students enjoy their time with us and that they reach their full potential. Many of our students join the 6th form because they prefer the environment and sense of community which we provide as we aim to know each of our students personally. Students soon find that they make new friends and that there is always someone to whom they can turn for advice, encouragement and support.

We strive to work in close partnership with parents and carers, as we appreciate the vital role that they play in the learning of their sons and daughters. We do expect our students to aim high, work hard and accept responsibility for their own learning, in a supportive environment. Our teachers, mentors and other staff are therefore always on hand to support our students on their journey to success.

-  Westway, Peterlee, SR8 1DE
-  Mrs Jacqui Jenkin, Progress Leader
-  [stbedeandbyron.durham.sch.uk](http://stbedeandbyron.durham.sch.uk)
-  0191 587 6220
-  [Enquiries@st-bedes.durham.sch.uk](mailto:Enquiries@st-bedes.durham.sch.uk)

## Cardinal Hume Catholic School <sup>A</sup>

\*Our Sixth Form offers students a curriculum that supports their academic development and an environment that nurtures them into caring and highly educated individuals. We are proud of every individual's achievements and aim to encourage all sixth formers to make the most of their abilities and talents.

Our Year 13 graduates this year recommend our Sixth Form because 'it has high quality teaching, continuous support from subject teachers within a friendly, social environment' with pastoral staff 'that really care about your personal goals, not just your grades' and 'they know you on a personal level, know your strengths and weaknesses, keeping you on track with your work and up-to-date with your progress'.

-  Old Durham Rd, Gateshead, NE9 6RZ
-  Mrs S. West
-  [Cardinalhume.com](http://Cardinalhume.com)
-  0191 487 7638
-  [Info@cardinalhume.com](mailto:Info@cardinalhume.com)

## Carmel Sixth Form College <sup>A</sup>

Carmel College offers Sixth Form students the chance to join a vibrant and high-achieving cohort of 300 students aged 16-18. We are the only Sixth Form provider in our area to be rated Outstanding in all areas by OFSTED, in recognition of the high standard of teaching and pastoral support we provide for our students. Students in our college have access to their own common room, library and teaching areas and are taught in smaller-than-average classes by experienced professionals. We provide daily pastoral support to students and more weekly teaching time for each subject than many other colleges. We are also one of the few colleges in our area who offer bespoke packages as we endeavour to tailor a programme that meets the needs of each individual. Students are welcome to take three, four or five A-level subjects in their first year if they meet our academic requirements.

-  The Headlands, Darlington, DL3 8RW
-  Louise Burnett, Head of Sixth Form
-  [Carmel6.org.uk](http://Carmel6.org.uk)
-  01325 254 525
-  [Enquiries@carmel6.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@carmel6.org.uk)

## Consett Academy

\*At Consett Academy Sixth Form we believe that every student deserves the very best. This can only be achieved through standards of excellence, delivered by dedicated teachers providing stimulating learning, personal tutoring and guidance. We also value our student's opinions, evidenced by our student committees allowing you to shape the Sixth Form and your future. All lessons are delivered by specialist subject teachers providing high quality teaching and learning to all students.

It is vitally important to offer students opportunities beyond their academic courses and as such, Consett Academy Sixth Form emphasise enrichment, citizenship and personal development. This includes fundraising and charity work.

-  Ashdale Rd, Consett, DH8 6LZ
-  Rachel Somerville, Head of 6th Form
-  [Consett-Academy.org.uk](http://Consett-Academy.org.uk)
-  01207 507 001
-  [Enquiries@consettacademy.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@consettacademy.org.uk)

## Durham Johnston Comprehensive School

Our motto 'sapere aude' sums up what we offer in the sixth form: education with added daring to make you the best you can be! Our A level courses are traditional, excellent and, very successfully, add value to your qualifications.

Our results at A level are almost always the best or nearly the best for any state school in the region, but our value-added puts our achievements in the top few comprehensive schools nationally.

We are committed to a vision of teaching and learning built on the concepts and knowledge which will open all the doors in the world to our young people. Our learning programmes fosters global community cohesion, international understanding and equality of opportunity. Above all of that, however, we know that most of our young people like it here and do well.

-  Crossgate Moor, Durham, DH1 4SU
-  Dr Michael Wardle, Headteacher
-  [Durhamjohnston.org.uk](http://Durhamjohnston.org.uk)
-  0191 384 3887
-  [School@durhamjohnston.org.uk](mailto:School@durhamjohnston.org.uk)

## Durham Sixth Form Centre

Durham Sixth Form Centre is the largest post-16 school in the North East of England, and 1 of only 5 nationally. We are a diverse and vibrant community of over 1,300 students, who generally enrol with us from over sixty different secondary schools from across County Durham, Sunderland, Northumberland and further afield, including international students. As we are located in the middle of Durham city, just a couple of minutes walk from both the bus and railway station, we are very accessible.

With over 30 A-Levels and almost 20 vocational qualifications, we have one of the broadest curriculum offers in the area. Our courses are delivered and led by specialist staff who have expertise in working with 16-19 year olds and, as our results testify, we have an excellent track record of academic success. In the summer of 2016, three-quarters of grades were awarded at A\*-B level (or equivalent) and our average point score per entry for both academic and vocational cohorts was higher than the national average. In vocational qualifications, students achieved, on average, the highest award of a Distinction\*.

-  Providence Row, Durham, DH1 1SG
-  Ellen Beveridge, Headteacher
-  [Durhamsixthformcentre.org.uk](http://Durhamsixthformcentre.org.uk)
-  0191 383 0708
-  [dsfc@durhamsixthformcentre.org.uk](mailto:dsfc@durhamsixthformcentre.org.uk)

## East Durham Sixth Form (ED6)

ED6 offers all the benefits of a small sixth form: small class sizes; personalised teaching; support and guidance – as well as the resources and facilities of a large college. The best of both worlds!

We are proud to offer our A-level students a full five hours, per subject, per week, classroom teaching time – whilst many other sixth forms are reducing their teaching hours to 4½ or even 4 hours. That makes quite a difference over the course of a year's teaching time.

An impressive 98.2% pass rate (100% in 15 of 16 subjects last year), strong high grades achievement and students progressing to study degrees such as biology, chemistry, engineering, ICT, journalism, medicine, pharmacy, radiography, speech therapy and psychology make ED6 well worth a closer look.

-  Willerby Grove, Peterlee, SR8 2RN
-  Suzanne Duncan, Principal
-  [ED6.ac.uk](http://ED6.ac.uk)
-  0191 518 2000
-  [Enquiries@eastdurham.ac.uk](mailto:Enquiries@eastdurham.ac.uk)



## Emmanuel College

\*The majority of Emmanuel students stay with us from 11 to 18 with a small intake coming directly into the Emmanuel Sixth Form. Here at Emmanuel our aim is to help young men and women achieve their academic best and develop character to make a positive difference in the world they live in as they become leaders of the future.

Probably the best preparation for adulthood is to do hard things. The Emmanuel Sixth Form will certainly push you out of your comfort zone. Academically we focus on traditional, facilitating A levels which are still the 'gold standard' for universities and employers. Every student in the sixth form will be challenged to serve others in a leadership role and this may be in leading a choir, coaching or mentoring younger students or working with orphans in Africa.

-  Consett Road, Gateshead, NE11 0AN
-  Jonathan Winch, Principal
-  [Emmanuelcollege.org.uk](http://Emmanuelcollege.org.uk)
-  0191 460 2099
-  [Enquiries@emmanuelctc.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@emmanuelctc.org.uk)



## English Martyrs School & Sixth Form College

We have approximately 300 students in our sixth form and offer a wide range of a level courses, from those you may have studied at GCSE level such as English literature to new subjects such as law.

Currently students who study with us choose four as subjects in year 12 with a view to concentrating on three in year 13. We have students who study with us from all over the north east and we are very proud of the sense of community spirit and family that we have established here.

We offer over 25 subject choices; a combination of a levels and more vocational based courses such as the OCR level 3 Cambridge technicals. Students are given a one to one appointment to ensure that they are enrolling on to the correct study programme which best suits their aspirations.

-  Catcote Rd, Hartlepool, TS25 4HA
-  Mr Stephen Hammond, Headteacher
-  [Emshartlepool.org](http://Emshartlepool.org)
-  01429 273 790
-  [Admin@ems.hartlepool.sch.uk](mailto:Admin@ems.hartlepool.sch.uk)

## Framwellgate School Durham

A place where education is viewed as a lifetime pursuit and skills for learning are seen as vital tools to shape young people's futures. The experience of learning here is designed to inspire students to explore their talents & provide them with intellectual challenges & the support they need to meet them.

We aim for excellence. We have a track record of uniquely student-centred provision, high quality pastoral care & a strong community ethos. We believe we achieve results through a balance of traditional academic rigour & pragmatic innovation.

We are a school that delivers more than examination results: there is an exceptional range of opportunities available for students to engage with beyond the classroom & the wider responsibility that a school has to foster reflective, responsible & proactive citizens is one that we take seriously.

-  Newton Dr, Durham, DH1 5BQ
-  Mr Fran Ward, Head of 6th Form
-  [Fram.durham.sch.uk](http://Fram.durham.sch.uk)
-  0191 386 6628
-  [Enquiries@fram.durham.sch.uk](mailto:Enquiries@fram.durham.sch.uk)

A

## Gateshead College

\*Gateshead College Sixth Form offers an experience that can't be matched by many school sixth forms and other colleges.

We're in the top 10% of colleges in the country, our success rates outperform the sector by 8.2% and our students are more likely to succeed with us than with most other colleges.

We offer 20 A Level subjects and 10 vocational subjects. You can choose a combination of three or four A Levels or combine A Levels with a vocational subject.

Our approach to teaching and learning means you'll be inspired to be the best. With stretching targets, personalised study programmes, weekly reviews, a wealth of enrichment activities and a highly qualified team, we develop both the academic and the 'softer' skills that ensure university and ultimately career success.

-  Quarryfield Rd, Gateshead, NE8 3BE
-  Judith Doyle, Principal
-  [Gateshead.ac.uk](http://Gateshead.ac.uk)
-  0191 490 0300
-  [Start@gateshead.ac.uk](mailto:Start@gateshead.ac.uk)

A

## Hartlepool Sixth Form College

\*At Hartlepool Sixth Form College we recognise how exciting the move to college can be and how important it is that you choose the right college for you. All the staff at Hartlepool Sixth Form College are committed to ensuring that you achieve your potential – and more! In becoming a Hartlepool Sixth Form College student you will be joining an established academic community with roots back to the 1980s.

The College has a culture of high aspirations and expectations, our £25m state-of-the-art campus will provide you with the very best specialist facilities to support your chosen programme of study. We continue to develop strong links with local employers and many of our students benefit from work placements and expert advice from industry professionals during their courses.

-  Blakelock Rd, Hartlepool, TS25 5PF
-  Alex Fau-Goodwin
-  [Hpoolsfc.ac.uk](http://Hpoolsfc.ac.uk)
-  01429 294 444
-  [Hsfc@hpoolsfc.ac.uk](mailto:Hsfc@hpoolsfc.ac.uk)

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## Joseph Swann Academy

\*Our Sixth Form offers the chance to progress and build upon successes at Key Stage 4. We aim to offer a wide variety of courses which meet the needs of our young people, and give them the support and opportunities that they need in order to achieve the highest standards possible.

We know that our young people will progress along a wide range of paths including apprenticeships, university courses and ultimately into the world of work. We want to make sure that our Sixth Form students are equipped to meet these challenges and be in a position to favourably compete with students from other schools and colleges. The most important decision is whether or not Joseph Swan Academy Sixth Form is the right choice for you!

-  Saltwell Rd South, Gateshead, NE9 6LE
-  Miss H. E. Scott, Headteacher
-  [Josephswan.org.uk](http://Josephswan.org.uk)
-  0191 442 2000
-  [Enquiries@josephswan.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@josephswan.org.uk)

## King James I Academy

We have an expanding 6th form of over 160 students, however we have managed to keep class sizes reasonably small to ensure students receive the support they need.

A wide range of subjects is available. All the subjects available at GCSE level are also available as Level 3 options in 6th form as well as subjects such as Psychology, Sociology and Creative Writing.

We offer a balance of traditional academic subjects and vocational BTEC's to suit the needs of individual students.

In addition to Level 3 qualifications the sixth form offers a Level 2 Pathway where students can undertake English, Maths, a range of specialist vocational options and a weekly work placement.

-  S Church Rd, Bishop Auckland, DL14 7JZ
-  Mr David Shearer
-  [Kingjames1academy.com](http://Kingjames1academy.com)
-  01388 603 388
-  [Kingjames@durhamlearning.net](mailto:Kingjames@durhamlearning.net)

A

## Kingsmeadow School

\*Kingsmeadow Sixth Form Centre has a vibrant and successful provision, with excellent opportunities for all including both academic and enrichment activities. We work in partnership with Usworth Sixth Form Centre to provide more choice, opportunity and support for our students. There are 35 A-Level subjects to choose from and a range of BTEC courses at Level 3.

The progress and development of each student is carefully monitored by their tutors and the A-Level team and pastoral care continues throughout Years 12 and 13.

The sixth form centre includes a common room with flat screen TV, kitchen and study area and a computer suite. This allows students to have access to excellent modern facilities for both study and socialising.

-  Market Lane, Gateshead, NE11 9NX
-  Mr Doug Pettitt
-  [Kingsmeadow.org.uk](http://Kingsmeadow.org.uk)
-  0191 460 6004
-  [Admin@kingsmeadow.org.uk](mailto:Admin@kingsmeadow.org.uk)

A

## Lord Lawson Beamish School

We are a supportive and inclusive Sixth Form which aims to promote academic achievement for all students. We aim to give students greater responsibility for their own learning and encourage students to make well informed decisions about their futures. We expect sixth formers to represent mature and respected role models to lower school students.

We have an active Sixth Form Council which organises Charity and Social events and has a say in decision making. All Sixth Form students benefit from advice from Connexions regarding University and vocational courses. Our team of experienced tutors assist with UCAS applications and help prepare students for work, interviews and life after Lord Lawson.

-  Portobello Lane, Birtley, DH3 2LP
-  Mr M Lovatt, Principal
-  [Lordlawson.org.uk](http://Lordlawson.org.uk)
-  0191 433 4026
-  [Sixthform@lordlawson.org.uk](mailto:Sixthform@lordlawson.org.uk)

## New College Durham Sixth Form Centre

New College Durham has one of the largest Sixth Forms in County Durham with an excellent reputation for success. We offer over 20 different A-Level subjects plus the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Students are given individual support, expert teaching and help to progress to university or work.

A-Level subjects includes:

Art & Design	Film Studies
Biology	Further
Business Studies	Mathematics
Classical Civilisation	Geography
Chemistry	Government & Politics
English	History
Language	Law
English	Mathematics
Literature	Physics
Ethics & Philosophy	Psychology
	Sociology
	Criminology

 Framwellgate, Durham, DH1 5ES

 Jon Ridley

 [Newcollegedurham.ac.uk](http://Newcollegedurham.ac.uk)

 0191 375 4000

 [Help@newdur.ac.uk](mailto:Help@newdur.ac.uk)

## Newcastle Sixth Form College

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\*We offer 30 different subjects at AS or A Level, as well as a programme of GCSEs (Access to A Levels).

Our AS and A Level subjects include some of those which you might not have had the opportunity to study at school, including Classics, Psychology, Law, Geology and Economics.

Our teachers, many of whom are A Level examiners for national awarding bodies, only teach 16-19 year olds. This allows them to focus their skills, knowledge and experience on making sure our students have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Newcastle Sixth Form College is the only purpose-built sixth form college in the city, providing a world-class learning environment for our students.

 Westmorland Rd, Newcastle, NE4 7SA

 Gerard Garvey, Principal

 [Newcastlesixthformcollege.co.uk](http://Newcastlesixthformcollege.co.uk)

 0191 272 1001

 [Enquiries@newcastlesixthformcollege.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@newcastlesixthformcollege.co.uk)

## North Durham Academy

North Durham Academy's sixth form currently has around 150 enthusiastic and active students studying for academic A Level courses and level 3 BTECs in a range of subjects which have proven successful in getting our Year 13 students into some of the country's most prestigious universities.

Students can follow a personalised pathway, depending on their ability and aspirations which include a 'High Achievers' pathway for students taking an academic A Level route and aiming for Russell Group or competitive universities. We also offer a 'Vocational' pathway, which allows students to mix A Level and BTEC courses - a study programme which allows students to gain vocational qualifications and that has developed a track-record for enabling our students to progress onto a range of prestigious university and employment destinations.

 High Street, Stanley, DH9 0TW

 Mrs Lynn Hole, 16+ Progress Leader

 [Northdurhamacademy.co.uk](http://Northdurhamacademy.co.uk)

 01207 292 180

 [Info@ndacademy.co.uk](mailto:Info@ndacademy.co.uk)

## Park View School

Park View Sixth Form has a long standing reputation for academic success at Advanced level. This has been built upon our belief that post-16 education should embrace cutting edge practice but also be rooted in traditional values: this blend of forward thinking and solid moral foundations is at the heart of all that we do. We have approximately 285 students in our Sixth Form. Our 'staying on' rate is high and we welcome students from other institutions.

The Sixth Form is housed in a separate centre to the rest of the school and there is very much a college flavour to its atmosphere which allows post 16 students to enjoy a degree of independence. This facility houses not only classrooms but also a fully equipped study centre & a discrete common room.

-  Church Chare, Chester-le-Street, DH3 3QA
-  Mr James Cooper, Head of 6th Form
-  [Parkviewonline.org.uk](http://Parkviewonline.org.uk)
-  0191 388 2248
-  [Success@parkviewlearning.net](mailto:Success@parkviewlearning.net)

## Queen Elizabeth High School <sup>A</sup>

Our aim at Queen Elizabeth High School Sixth Form is to provide a challenging and friendly environment in which students can succeed and enjoy their Level 3 studies.

Queen Elizabeth High School is one of the top sixth forms in the North of England and outperforms most schools in the region. At A Level over 60% of entries were awarded the top grades of A\*-B in 2016.

Our size means that we can offer more choice to suit the needs of all students, with over 30 A level and Level 3 vocational courses. We want our students to succeed academically but also to develop as individuals, through encouraging community involvement and other extra-curricular activities.

-  Whetstone Bridge Rd, Hexham, NE46 EJB
-  Mr Andy Byers, Head of School
-  [Qehs.net](http://Qehs.net)
-  01434 610 312
-  [Curriculum@qehs.net](mailto:Curriculum@qehs.net)

## Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College <sup>A</sup>

\*Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College is a sixth form college for students over the age of sixteen.

Our success and popularity as a college are built upon our commitment to providing our students with the best possible learning environment and highest possible standards of support and guidance.

The College has been a popular choice for students and has continued to expand. There are approximately 2000 students on roll with a significant proportion coming from outside Darlington. The majority of our students have a full programme of Advanced Level courses and the academic work of the College is of a high standard with an excellent record of examination success across the curriculum.

-  Vane Terrace, Darlington, DL3 7AU
-  Mr Tim Fisher, Principal
-  [Qeliz.ac.uk](http://Qeliz.ac.uk)
-  01325 461 315
-  [Enquiry@qeliz.ac.uk](mailto:Enquiry@qeliz.ac.uk)

## Southmoor Academy



\*The Sixth Form is not all hard work. Right from the start, on Transition Days in the summer, we mix our academic focus with trips, socials, community volunteering and in-school clubs and societies. There are regular small scale day trips, ranging from visits to Durham University library, to sketching in Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Students are encouraged to set up and self-manage the activities they would like to take part in.

Excellent off-site activities are also available, such as the opportunity for students to enrol in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold award or the NCS graduate scheme. And this is not just for a few of the students – all year 12s attend a weekend leadership course in Derwent Hill in the early weeks of the autumn term, where they bond with their new tutor groups and decide amongst themselves who will be the Student Leadership Team.

-  Ryhope Road, Sunderland, SR2 7TF
-  Mr Wright, Director of Sixth Form
-  [TheSixthFormAtSouthmoor.co.uk](http://TheSixthFormAtSouthmoor.co.uk)
-  0191 553 7600
-  [Southmoor6th@southmoorschool.co.uk](mailto:Southmoor6th@southmoorschool.co.uk)

## St Aidans Catholic Academy



\*St. Aidan's offers a vibrant and engaging environment for learning. We actively encourage our students to develop a love of academic excellence so that they can go on to become active and engaged citizens.

Our curriculum is wide and varied and we have specialist teachers in all subject areas to ensure students get the best possible first teaching in their chosen subjects. We offer both A-Levels and BTEC qualifications so there is accessible courses for a wide ability range. We are also keen to enhance the whole person and have started all of our lower sixth students on the volunteering pathway, VInspired. We have a thriving student council and students are keen to participate in additional duties to enhance the physical aesthetic of their environment as well as the learning environment.

-  Tunstall Rd, Sunderland, SR2 7HJ
-  Mr K. Shepherd, Headteacher
-  [StAidansCatholicAcademy.co.uk](http://StAidansCatholicAcademy.co.uk)
-  0191 553 6073
-  [Contactus@staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk](mailto:Contactus@staidanscatholicacademy.co.uk)

## St Anthony's Girls Academy



\*St. Anthony's is an Outstanding Catholic Academy for girls aged 11-18 years, within the Mercy tradition. Our academy was established in 1904 and has been delivering high-quality education for young women for over a century. St. Anthony's was judged to be 'Outstanding in all categories' by Ofsted in March 2013, and we have achieved Teaching School status from September 2014.

Our curriculum is broad based and challenging, and we have specialist teachers in all of our subject areas. We offer a range of A Levels and other academic and vocational qualifications to guarantee there is something for all students who wish to continue their education.. We also offer a huge range of extra curricular activities through our enrichment programme to ensure that all Sixth Form students have an enjoyable experience.

-  Thornhill Terrace, Sunderland, SR2 7JN
-  Mrs M. Shepherd, Headteacher
-  [St-anthonys-academy.com](http://St-anthonys-academy.com)
-  0191 565 8904
-  [Enquiries@st-anthonys-academy.com](mailto:Enquiries@st-anthonys-academy.com)

## St Bede's Catholic School & Sixth Form College

St Bede's Sixth Form College is a Level 3 provision within St Bede's Catholic School, judged by Ofsted as 'outstanding'.

We currently have 305 students studying level 3 qualifications. Our curriculum offers a wide range of both A level and BTEC provision and enrichment opportunities, details of which are on our website.

Our general entry requirement is 5 A\*-C GCSE grades in five different subjects including English or maths, subject specific entry grades are available are also available on our website. Students have access to a comprehensive PSHE programme including support in applying to universities, employment and apprenticeships from our Progression Coach.

-  Consett Road, Lanchester, DH7 0RD
-  Mrs E Graham, Director of 6th Form
-  [Stbedes.durham.sch.uk](http://Stbedes.durham.sch.uk)
-  01207 520 424
-  [Stbedes@stbedes.durham.sch.uk](mailto:Stbedes@stbedes.durham.sch.uk)

## St. John's Sixth Form College

St John's Sixth Form values and respects each and every individual who joins our vibrant community. We encourage all individuals to aspire to academic and vocational excellence, believing that there are no limits to a student's potential. We are committed to the highest standards of teaching, learning and pastoral care, empowering our students to achieve success and become the leaders of tomorrow.

We currently offer an extensive range of A Level courses and Level 3 BTEC vocational programmes as well as the Edexcel Extended Project. In addition, our Rugby Academy provides a specialised coaching system for talented athletes and offers opportunities for students to gain RFU coaching qualifications. Accredited with "Leadership Academy" status, we encourage our young people to develop their skills to make a positive impact on the world around them.

-  Woodhouse Ln, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6JT
-  Lisa Byron, Headteacher
-  [Stjohnsrc.org.uk](http://Stjohnsrc.org.uk)
-  01388 603 246
-  [Staff@stjohnsrc.org.uk](mailto:Staff@stjohnsrc.org.uk)

## St Leonard's Catholic School

The Sixth Form ranges in size between 250 and 300 students with many coming from Year 11 at St Leonard's but increasing numbers from other schools. Students follow routes consisting of: A level courses; Level 3 vocational courses; or a combination of the two where appropriate. Currently we offer 23 subjects at A level and 3 vocational courses (ICT, Sport, Business).

Key features of the Sixth Form are the high academic standards and expectations together with the pastoral support and guidance provided. We have a strong record of students gaining places at their first choice universities & securing apprenticeships.

Experience has taught us that co-curricular opportunities play a major role in ensuring that our students leave St Leonard's as rounded, active, successful citizens and there is an extensive programme of activities on offer. Large numbers of students benefit from the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

-  N End, Durham, DH1 4NG
-  Mr Q Hughes & Mrs E Alderson (Heads)
-  [St-leonards.durham.sch.uk](http://St-leonards.durham.sch.uk)
-  0191 384 8575
-  [Admin@st-leonards.durham.sch.uk](mailto:Admin@st-leonards.durham.sch.uk)

## Teesdale School

Teesdale School is a unique and vibrant community where all young people are supported and nurtured to be healthy, happy, safe and successful.

Teesdale Sixth Form provision is designed to be the perfect bridge between study and higher education, specialist training or work. Our wide range of both academic and vocational courses, complemented by the internship programme for competitive sectors allows each student to be offered a personalized experience.

The consistently high standard of teaching means that lessons are always engaging and challenging, whether students are discussing nineteenth century literature, exploring the Doppler effect in Physics, or evaluating Charles I's responsibility for the English Civil War. The dedicated Sixth Form Centre has recreational and study areas designed by students themselves to make maximum use of their time outside taught lessons.

-  Barnard Castle, Durham, DL12 8HH
-  Mrs Margaret Robson, Head
-  [Teesdaleschool.com](http://Teesdaleschool.com)
-  01833 638 166
-  [Office@teesdaleschool.com](mailto:Office@teesdaleschool.com)

## The Hermitage Academy

Hermitage Academy 6th form currently has 198 students on role across Years 12 and 13. We are a comprehensive and non-selective 6th form offering twenty A Level courses and seven vocational courses. In addition, students undertake an enrichment programme in which courses in CoPE, Sports Leaders Award and Extended Project may be taken. Our Guidance programme helps students prepare for their Post 18 pathway into either employment, apprenticeships or Higher Education. 80% of our students go on to study at university and all students find their way into further training or employment.

Applicants can download an application form from the Post-16 area of the school website, or collect a hard copy from the Sixth Form office. Application forms will also be sent out if requested by telephone call, email or in writing.

-  Waldrige Ln, Chester-le-Street, DH2 3AD
-  F Smith, Principal
-  [Thehermitageacademy.net](http://Thehermitageacademy.net)
-  0191 388 7161
-  [Learning@thehermitageacademy.net](mailto:Learning@thehermitageacademy.net)

## UTC South Durham

6th Form is about to get seriously hands on. UTC South Durham is a school and 6th form specialising in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

Set up by University of Sunderland, Hitachi and Gestamp Tallent, we open on the Aycliffe Business Park this September. Our focus is on preparing our students for outstanding careers. Academic and technical qualifications are brought to life through visits, placements and projects with a wide range of companies.

Post-16 you'll follow one of three pathways, all involving a strong core of academic and technical subjects, project work and placements with businesses. These can lead to university, apprenticeships, further study and direct employment. You'll develop employability skills and confidence in real-world work situations through our project and placements.

-  Aycliffe Business Park, DL5 6AP
-  Tom Dower
-  [Uticsouthdurham.org](http://Uticsouthdurham.org)
-  0191 515 3185
-  [Office@utcsouthdurham.org](mailto:Office@utcsouthdurham.org)

## Whickham School & Sports College

A

\*Our modern Sixth Form centre provides students with the learning environment they deserve. There are spacious study areas with high quality wireless network access as well as numerous fixed computers.

Our dedicated Sixth Form catering facility is open throughout the day providing hot meals, snacks, drinks & Starbucks coffee.

We provide the challenge and support that is necessary to achieve at the highest level and we never rest on our laurels.

The vast majority of our students progress to university, with a number going on to Oxbridge. Those who choose not to go to university are well prepared for employment or further training and are given support and guidance to ensure they are successful in their chosen path.

-  Burnthouse Ln, Newcastle, NE16 5AR
-  Steve Haigh, Headteacher
-  [Whickhamschool.org](http://Whickhamschool.org)
-  0191 496 0026
-  [Info@whickhamschool.org](mailto:Info@whickhamschool.org)

## Whitworth Park School and Sixth Form College

Our sixth form numbers are set to expand dramatically in coming years. Sixth Form students are based in our modern, purpose built sixth form centre with its own access points and start-of-the-art ICT facilities. We offer A Level courses in Art, History, Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Psychology, German, Geography, Health and Social Care, Music, English Language, English Literature, Business Studies, Economics, Law, Ethics/Religion and Graphic Communication. In addition, we offer vocational courses in Applied ICT and Extended Sport Diploma, as well as GCSE resits in English and Maths.

All sixth form students complete a week of work experience in year 12 and are encouraged to widen their CVs by participating in voluntary activities, charity-based activities or work placements one afternoon per week. There is also an opportunity for students to participate in AQA's Extended Project Qualification, something that is highly valued by universities.

-  Whitworth Ln, Spennymoor, DL16 7LN
-  Head of 6th Form Mrs G Wood
-  [Whitworthpark.org.uk](http://Whitworthpark.org.uk)
-  01388 824 800
-  [Office@whitworthpark.org.uk](mailto:Office@whitworthpark.org.uk)

## Wolsingham School

Wolsingham Sixth Form is totally committed to giving support and guidance to all students to help them achieve their goals, whether it be university, training or employment. We are an established Sixth Form with a reputation for delivering a high standard of academic and vocational courses for all Post-16 students.

Our newly built Sixth Form accommodation, is fully equipped and supported by study rooms and fantastic computer suites. Most importantly we recognise that you are a unique learner. As a result we will guarantee you an individually negotiated timetable that will ensure you are on the correct academic pathway that is absolutely tailored to your progression.

-  Mr Delf, Senior Leader
-  Leazes Ln, Wolsingham, DL13 3DN
-  [Wolsingham.school.net](http://Wolsingham.school.net)
-  01388 527 302
-  [Info@wolsingham.school.net](mailto:Info@wolsingham.school.net)



**COLLEGES**

## Information



In this section you will find a list of the Colleges in County Durham and its surrounding travel to learn areas.

We have included more distant specialist colleges where they offer courses not available locally.

Colleges usually offer vocational courses at all levels for both young people and adults.

*Paragraphs starting with an asterix "\*" is material sourced from colleges website.*

### Icons Key

-  Distant Specialist Colleges
-  Out of area school
-  Location of School
-  Leader of Establishment
-  Website Address
-  Phone Number
-  Email Address

## Askham Bryan College



Askham Bryan College is one of the leading land-based colleges in the UK and is the largest provider of specialist land-based further education in England.

Today the College offers courses from entry level to honours degrees in a number of Centres.

The College's campuses extend through Yorkshire, Cumbria & the North East. Each location offers something different, whether it's a particular course or specialist facilities. What all our campuses do have in common is easy access to stunning countryside including the Yorkshire Dales, Lake District and Northumberland National Park, which act as the perfect outdoor classroom for our students exceeded UK expectations in these two areas.

-  Multiple Locations
-  Wes Johnson, Principal of the North
-  [Askham-bryan.ac.uk](http://Askham-bryan.ac.uk)
-  0191 274 8465
-  [enquiries@askham-bryan.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@askham-bryan.ac.uk)

## Bishop Auckland College

Bishop Auckland College has a strong reputation for delivering high level training and apprenticeships across the North East.

The College is recognised as one of the top performing colleges in the country for student success rates and apprenticeships.

Bishop Auckland College's engineering partner South West Durham Training (SWDT) has been providing first class engineering training for nearly 50 years and was the first member of the Group Training Association of England to receive an outstanding Ofsted grade across all areas of provision.

At the College we offer a wide range of exciting programmes helping you to get the skills and get the job. If you prefer to study higher we offer BTEC Extended Diplomas (equivalent to 3 A Levels).

-  Woodhouse Ln, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6JZ
-  Natalie Davison-Terranova
-  [Bishopaucklandcollege.ac.uk](http://Bishopaucklandcollege.ac.uk)
-  01388 443 028
-  [Start@bacoll.ac.uk](mailto:Start@bacoll.ac.uk)

## City of Sunderland College

A

\*Sunderland College is one of the largest providers of education in the North East.

The quality of our education and the support we provide to our students is paramount to us. We pride ourselves on this and our success speaks for itself, we have held a 99% pass rate for the past seven years and have an impressive number of students securing places at top universities. Many of our vocational programmes have a 100% pass rate and we are one of the largest trainers and suppliers of apprentices in the region

In addition, we have been awarded the Matrix, National Quality Mark for Advice and Guidance four times in a row.

Sunderland College is a world class provider of education, with four campuses located across the city. We offer one of the region's largest range of school leaver, adult and higher education courses as well as courses for international students.

-  Durham Road, Sunderland, SR6 0AN
-  Anne Isherwood, Principal
-  [Sunderlandcollege.ac.uk](http://Sunderlandcollege.ac.uk)
-  0191 511 6000
-  [Info@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk](mailto:Info@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk)

## Cleveland College of Art & Design

A

\*CCAD is a community. Here you are a person, not just a number. We get to know our students individually and support you throughout your academic experience. We are proud to be unique, you can be too. You are surrounded 24/7 by like-minded creative people with no distractions. We help you find your own unique style and develop as a successful artist or designer. We offer different study route options to suit the way you want to develop as an individual.

Because we are a specialist college, we don't have to spread our budget across many courses. We can invest in a superb range of dedicated creative facilities and equipment all in one place. Our equipment and facilities reflect many of the tools used in the creative industry itself. This means we equip you for the real world.

-  Green Lane, Middlesbrough, TS5 7RJ
-  Mr. Martin Raby
-  [Middlesbrough.ccad.ac.uk](http://Middlesbrough.ccad.ac.uk)
-  01642 288 000
-  [StudentServices@ccad.ac.uk](mailto:StudentServices@ccad.ac.uk)

## Darlington College of Technology

A

\*Here at Darlington College we provide a huge variety of courses to suit the ambitions of every single student.

If you are leaving school, considering a return to education, looking to enhance your career development, an employer seeking training for your employees, or simply want to learn for fun, we have a course for you.

Darlington College is at the heart of the local community and we strive to serve their educational needs. We have forged strong relationships with partners such as Teesside University and formed excellent links with employers, both locally and nationally, and can assist you in finding work placements whilst studying and employment upon completion of courses.

-  Houghton Road, Darlington, DL1 1DR
-  Kate Roe, Principal & Chief Exec
-  [Darlington.ac.uk](http://Darlington.ac.uk)
-  01325 503 050
-  [Enquire@darlington.ac.uk](mailto:Enquire@darlington.ac.uk)

## Derwentside College

### Mission

Derwentside College provides high quality education and training that focuses on developing the knowledge, skills and qualities needed by our learners to progress into sustained employment and build successful careers.

### Vision

Derwentside College aims to be:

- The best college in the country at supporting learners into sustained employment and in building successful careers;
- Renowned for our excellent relationships with employers and partners;
- Recognised as delivering innovative and excellent teaching, learning and assessment.

 Front Street, Consett, DH8 5EE  
 Karen Redhead, Principal & Chief Exec  
 [Derwentside.ac.uk](http://Derwentside.ac.uk)  
 01207 585 900  
 [Enquiries@derwentside.ac.uk](mailto:Enquiries@derwentside.ac.uk)

## East Durham College

Our priority is to give all our students the edge when it comes to future employment opportunities. 1000s of our former students have quickly found employment, apprenticeships, progressed to the next level of study and university, or even set up their own successful businesses.

High grades are becoming increasingly important in the competitive world we live today. The proportion of our level 3 students who achieved high grades in 2014/15 was 48%. The national average is only 42%. Plus, well over 30 of our level 3 courses were graded as 'Outstanding to Very Good' by ALPS in 2015.

The college has two sites in Peterlee and our land-based college in Durham, the Houghall Campus, which is currently undergoing a redevelopment and specialises in areas such as animal care, equine studies and horticulture.

 Peterlee & Durham  
 Suzanne Duncan, Principal & Chief Exec  
 [Eastdurham.ac.uk](http://Eastdurham.ac.uk)  
 0191 518 8222  
 [Enquiries@eastdurham.ac.uk](mailto:Enquiries@eastdurham.ac.uk)

## Gateshead College



\*We're the top performing college in the region, number three in England and one of only two colleges in the country to secure Ofsted's 'outstanding' grading in the last academic year. Because we put in everything we've got to make sure our students succeed.

At Gateshead College we give our students the employment edge. That means work-ready students with the unique combination of high quality education and real world skills. We develop our courses hand in hand with local companies, so our students will have the experience and work ethic to do their employer proud.

Our individuality is not only what makes us all unique, it is also our strength. We're focused on creating the right environment, culture, processes and policies that fit our whole college community.

 Quarryfield Road, Gateshead, NE8 3BE  
 Judith Doyle, Principal  
 [Gateshead.ac.uk](http://Gateshead.ac.uk)  
 0191 440 1477  
 [Start@gateshead.ac.uk](mailto:Start@gateshead.ac.uk)

## Hartlepool College of Further Education <sup>A</sup>

The College is the largest provider of apprenticeships in the Tees Valley and is rated 7th best in England. It has contact with over 2,000 businesses and employers. Employer engagement is rated as "Outstanding" by OfSTED.

Many employers recognise that their future lies in quality Apprenticeships. Hartlepool College of Further Education believes this too, and we're one of the biggest providers of Apprenticeships in the Tees Valley and County Durham, supporting over approximately 900 Apprentices.

The College also offers Higher Apprenticeships in the following areas: Construction, Civil Engineering and Building Services Engineering.

-  Stockton St, Hartlepool, TS24 7NT
-  Darren Hankey
-  [Hartlepoolfe.ac.uk](http://Hartlepoolfe.ac.uk)
-  01429 295 000
-  [Enquiries@hartlepoolfe.ac.uk](mailto:Enquiries@hartlepoolfe.ac.uk)

## Middlesbrough College <sup>A</sup>

Middlesbrough College is unique in the range of courses on offer for school leavers. This includes a fantastic choice of A Levels at our dedicated sixth form MC6, alongside our wide range of vocational courses and apprenticeships. We have courses available at every level, so whether you join us with few qualifications, a mix of grades or a string of A\* grades, we have a starting point that is right to take you to your next level.

Our modern college campus based in Middlehaven offers fantastic learning facilities to prepare you for your next steps, and better still, the majority of our tutors have worked in the industries they now teach! That's why, last year over 95% of our students progressed into employment, further or higher education, or an apprenticeship.

-  Dock St, Middlesbrough, TS2 1AD
-  Zoe Lewis, Principal & Chief Exec
-  [Mbro.ac.uk](http://Mbro.ac.uk)
-  01642 333 333
-  [Courseinformation@mbro.ac.uk](mailto:Courseinformation@mbro.ac.uk)

## New College Durham

New College Durham in Framwellgate Moor is a top performing college. We are consistently in the top 10% of colleges nationally for performance. Last year 96% of our students passed their course. 87% of our students progressed into employment or further study. We have a wide range of further education courses from A-Levels, to full-time vocational programmes, and apprenticeships.

Our courses are taught by expert teaching staff with industry experience and we have lots of support available to ensure every student achieves their full potential. Students have the opportunity to take part in enrichment activities such as competitions, visits and trips and guest speakers to complement their learning, give them a confidence boost and gain skills and personal qualities outside of the classroom. Our state-of-the-art campus has specialist facilities to prepare students for life after college, with real working environments and industry standard equipment.

-  Framwellgate Moor Campus, Durham, DH1 5ES
-  John Widdowson, Principal & Chief Exec
-  [Newcollegedurham.ac.uk](http://Newcollegedurham.ac.uk)
-  0191 375 4000
-  [Help@newdur.ac.uk](mailto:Help@newdur.ac.uk)



## Newcastle College

\*Newcastle College serves over 20,000 learners from our main Rye Hill campus in the heart of Newcastle upon Tyne, our nine satellite sites in and around the city, and at four community-outreach venues across the North East.

Newcastle College prides itself on the breadth and depth of its course provision. We offer over 100 full-time vocational courses, for those aged 16-18, who are looking for a more practical and career-focused way of learning that will enable them to progress into higher education or into employment.

At Newcastle College our courses give you experience of work combined with in-depth industry knowledge from inspirational teaching staff. We aim to give you an exceptional learning experience in fantastic facilities that replicate a real work environment. When you leave us you'll be in the perfect position to find employment or continue onto higher education.

-  Scotswood Rd, Newcastle, NE4 7SA
-  Carole Kitching, Principal
-  [Ncl-coll.ac.uk](http://Ncl-coll.ac.uk)
-  0191 200 4000
-  [Enquiries@ncl-coll.ac.uk](mailto:Enquiries@ncl-coll.ac.uk)



## Newton Rigg College

Newton Rigg College based at Penrith provide specialist land-based and outdoor education with additional centres in Newcastle and Guisborough. The main campus at Penrith provides residential facilities from 16.

The College offer study programmes to include: Agriculture, Animal Management, Equine, Countryside, Horticulture, Land-Based Engineering as well as general education areas such as Health and Social Care, Sport, Uniformed Public Services and Hair and Beauty.

Newton Rigg also offers Intermediate (Level 2) and Advanced (Level 3) Apprenticeship programmes in the following areas: Agriculture, Environment Conservation, Trees & Timber, Game-keeping & Wildlife Management, Horticulture and Land-based engineering operations.

-  Newton Rigg College, Penrith, CA11 0AH
-  Liz Philip, Principal
-  [Newtonrigg.ac.uk](http://Newtonrigg.ac.uk)
-  01768 893 400
-  [Enquiries@newtonrigg.ac.uk](mailto:Enquiries@newtonrigg.ac.uk)



## Northern Racing College

The Northern Racing College (NRC) opened in 1984 and is situated in the beautiful grounds of Rossington Hall, on the Great North Road, approximately 7 miles south of Doncaster. The facilities have been developed through funding from the racing industry, generous donations and grants from statutory and charitable sources and with the help of the Friends of NRC.

The NRC now boasts some wonderful facilities for the learners and horses. It prides itself on being the Northern Centre of Excellence for the British Racing Industry.

NRC offers a range of courses at all levels for people who are looking at horseracing as a future career and for those who are currently working in the industry wishing to develop their qualifications and skills.

-  Great North Road, Doncaster, DN11 0HN
-  Sarah Beattie
-  [Northernracingcollege.co.uk](http://Northernracingcollege.co.uk)
-  01302 861 000
-  [Info@northernracingcollege.co.uk](mailto:Info@northernracingcollege.co.uk)

A

## South Tyneside College

(inc. South Shields Marine School)

\*Thousands of students choose to study at South Tyneside College every year - from the local community, across the UK and over 30 countries worldwide. We have a strong track record of success with outstanding employers links - helping you improve your career prospects.

The college has a commitment to ensuring that we do everything possible to help you achieve your full potential and fulfil your aspirations.

We are proud to be a world-renowned centre of excellence for marine education and training. We offer programmes across the whole spectrum of marine education and nautical sciences, including navigation, operations, marine and electrical engineering, communications and catering. We also provide an extensive range of short courses for the marine offshore markets.

-  St George's Ave, South Shields, NE34 6ET
-  Lindsey Whiterod, Principal
-  [Stc.ac.uk](http://Stc.ac.uk)
-  0191 427 3500
-  [Info@stc.ac.uk](mailto:Info@stc.ac.uk)

A

## Stockton Riverside College

\*Whatever your ambition there has never been a better time to come and join us at Stockton Riverside College.

College is a big step from school. It's great preparation for the rest of your life as you're treated like an adult. Managing your time and studies is up to you but we are always there to help and support where needed. As one of our students, you will learn in a small, caring and friendly environment. We want to see you reach your full potential and get the most out of your time with us.

With a wide range of courses and business services to offer, we can help you on your way to achieving your dreams.

What's more, we pride ourselves on offering courses that will give you the skills that we know employers are looking for. So choose your course, apply today, and together we can help you reach your potential.

-  Harvard Ave, Stockton, TS17 6FB
-  Phil Cook, Principal & CEO
-  [Stockton.ac.uk](http://Stockton.ac.uk)
-  01642 865 400
-  [Info@stockton.ac.uk](mailto:Info@stockton.ac.uk)

A

## Tyne Metropolitan College

\*We offer a wide range of full-time vocational and apprenticeship courses at our Coast Road Campus including: Beauty Therapy, Catering, Computing, Construction, Creative Industries, Engineering, Floristry, Hairdressing & Barbering, Health & Social Care, Sport, Travel & Tourism, Uniformed / Public Services and Working with Children & Young People.

Whether you're studying to kick-start your career or as a stepping-stone to Higher Education - we promise to provide the inspiration, support, knowledge and networks you need to achieve the future you want. Now is the time to make a difference, to embark on something new.

With determination and the right support, you can do great things. If you are committed and work hard, in return TyneMet will give you the right tools, support and a whole host of exciting opportunities to fulfil your ambitions.

-  Battle Hill Drive, Wallsend, NE28 9NL
-  Mr Jon Vincent / Principal & CEO
-  [Tynemet.ac.uk](http://Tynemet.ac.uk)
-  0191 229 5000
-  [Enquiries@tynemet.ac.uk](mailto:Enquiries@tynemet.ac.uk)

The image features a large, vibrant red circle centered on a background of a low-poly, faceted red pattern. A series of small black dots are arranged in a curved path that starts near the bottom left and ends near the top right, passing through the center of the red circle. The text 'TRAINING PROVIDERS' is written in a bold, white, sans-serif font across the middle of the circle.

**TRAINING  
PROVIDERS**

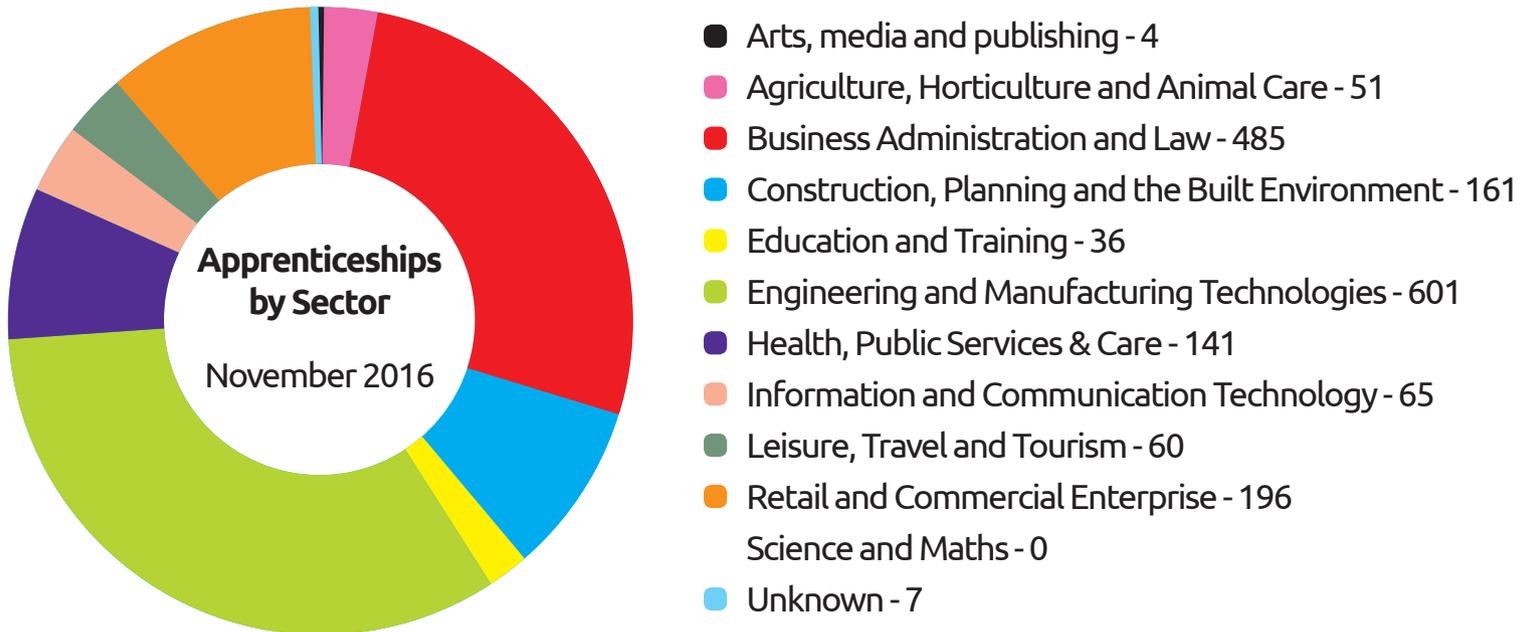
# Apprenticeships in Durham

In November 2016, 1747 young people in County Durham were on an apprenticeship<sup>1</sup>.

- 41.7% Female
- 58.3% Male

Of the 1747, 1028 (59%) are Intermediate Apprenticeships at level 2; 701 (40%) are Advanced Apprenticeships at Level 3 and 19 (1%) are Higher Apprenticeships at level 4 or above.

Although Apprenticeships cover 170 industries, not all are available in County Durham. Apprenticeships are real jobs that are available in sectors that represent the employment make up of an area. For example Teesside may have opportunities in the chemical industry and offshore roles that are not replicated in Durham.

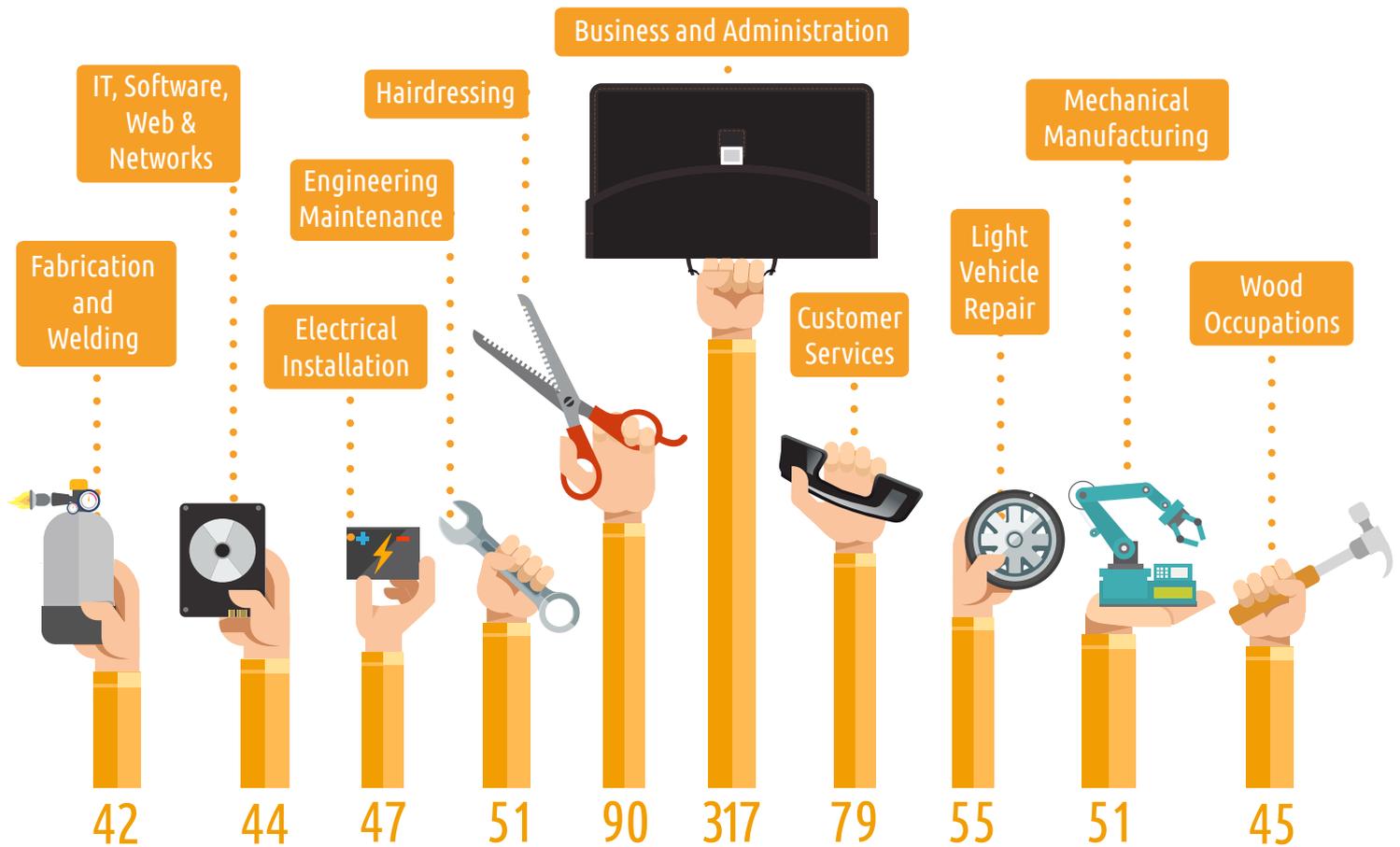


<sup>1</sup> Information from the National Apprenticeship Service which may exclude apprentices who were on an apprenticeship provided entirely in-house by the employer.

# Apprenticeships in Durham

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## Information



In this section you will find a list of the Sixth Forms in County Durham and its surrounding travel to learn areas.

In Sixth Form you would usually study A Level, AS Level or Applied General Qualifications.

*Paragraphs starting with an asterix "\*" is material sourced from providers website.*

### Icons Key

-  Location of School
-  Leader of Establishment
-  Website Address
-  Phone Number
-  Email Address

## Access Training

Access is an award winning training provider, based in the state-of-the-art Skills Academy on Team Valley, Gateshead, offering Apprenticeships in a wide range of occupational areas.

Apprenticeships are designed to help you learn on the job, developing your practical skills and abilities and helping you to become the best at what you do, whilst gaining highly recognised qualifications.

It's a fantastic route into the world of work for talented individuals and we offer apprenticeships in the following areas:

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Customer Service
- IT User
- Social Media & Digital Marketing
- Warehousing
- Manufacturing
- Installing Security Systems

Access Training provides Intermediate, Advanced & Higher Level Apprenticeships.

-  Gateshead (NE11 0JL)
-  Kate Veitch / Lauren Allison
-  [Accesstraining.org](http://Accesstraining.org)
-  0191 490 4646
-  [Info@accesstraining.org](mailto:Info@accesstraining.org)

## Adult Learning and Skills Service

Durham County Council's Adult Learning & Skills Service exists to raise the aspirations and achievements of residents across County Durham.

The Adult Learning & Skills Service is committed to providing learning and skills training which will support young people and adults in County Durham to gain skills and employment as well as to improve their quality of life and maintain their health and wellbeing.

The Adult Learning and Skills Service offer a number of courses at locations across County Durham.

We offer A range of traineeships are available depending upon your area of interest. We also offer Intermediate and Advanced Apprenticeships in: Business Administration, Customer Service, ICT, Health and Social Care, Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools and Early Years Educator.

-  North Terrace, Crook, DL15 9ES
-  Engagement Team
-  [Durham.gov.uk/adultlearning](http://Durham.gov.uk/adultlearning)
-  03000 266 115
-  [Alss@durham.gov.uk](mailto:Alss@durham.gov.uk)

## Baltic Training Services

Apprenticeships are a great way to start your career, they can open up permanent job opportunities in a range of industries. All apprenticeships at Baltic Training are directly linked to a vacancy with an employer in the IT and Digital industry. This means you will be placed with an employer from day one, gaining work experience as well as nationally recognised qualifications.

Apprenticeships we offer:

### Level 2

- IT Systems and Principles

- Software Development

### Level 3

- IT Fundamentals
- Microsoft MSCA
- Social Media & Digital Marketing
- Software & Web Development

### Level 4

- IT Professional
- Digital Marketing
- Software Development

 Hilton Road, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6EN

 Brooke Hodgson

 [Baltictraining.com](http://Baltictraining.com)

 01325 731 050

 [Yourfuture@baltictraining.com](mailto:Yourfuture@baltictraining.com)

## Bishop Auckland College

The Apprenticeship offer continues to excite and grow, we offer higher level apprenticeships in a number of areas - here are some of our current apprenticeships (if you cannot find what you are interested in, contact the College:

Hospitality	Early Years
Customer Service	Engineering
Horticulture	Mechanical
Heritage	Electrical
Barbering	Fabrication
Bricklaying	Welding
Beauty Therapy	Toolmaking
Business management	Tourism
Customer Service	Health & Social Care
Cleaning & Support Skills	Housing
Catering	Maintenance
Carpentry	Operations
Digital Marketing	Motor Vehicle
	Outdoor Instructing
	and many more.

 Woodhouse Ln, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6JZ

 Natalie Davison-Terranova

 [Bishopaucklandcollege.ac.uk](http://Bishopaucklandcollege.ac.uk)

 01388 443 028

 [Start@bacoll.ac.uk](mailto:Start@bacoll.ac.uk)

## BL Hairdressing Training

BL Training specialises in delivering Hairdressing and Barbering traineeships and apprenticeships as well as offering higher education provisions such as management training.

BL operates across the north east, currently from 5 sites - Newcastle, Sunderland, Durham, Darlington and Middlesbrough.

Working closely with a cohort of employers, BL offers bespoke, up to date and relevant training for the hairdressing industry, as well as numeracy and literacy support within the programmes to help learners progress in their futures.

We offer apprenticeships in Hairdressing, Barbering, Customer Service & Team Leading at intermediate and advanced levels. We also offer Levels 3, 4 & 5 NVQ Diploma in Management.

 8 Mosley Street, Newcastle, NE1 1DE

 Bobby Trotter - Learner Recruitment

 [Blhairdressing.co.uk](http://Blhairdressing.co.uk)

 07889010787 / 0191 261 9636

 [Bobby.trotter@blhairdressing.co.uk](mailto:Bobby.trotter@blhairdressing.co.uk)

## Catch 22

Ofsted rated as “Good”, Catch 22 are a national charity working throughout England and Wales. Our education mission, “Catch 22 provides young people aged 14-18 with alternative education in order for them to progress and succeed in sustained education or employment. We do this through high quality teaching and learning based on effective relationships that enable the achievement of life skills and meaningful qualifications”.

In the North East we have 3 delivery sites all within town centres with easy access to public transport. These are Bishop Auckland, Stanley and Peterlee. Ofsted rated as a ‘Good’ provider.

Our unique selling point is that we work with small groups as well as 1:1 where necessary, Financial bursaries are available to support learning.

-  Castledene, Peterlee, SR7 7WE
-  Sharon Stainsby - Head of Region N.E.
-  [Catch-22.org.uk/education](http://Catch-22.org.uk/education)
-  0191 518 1561
-  [Sharon.stainsby@catch-22.org.uk](mailto:Sharon.stainsby@catch-22.org.uk)

## Darlington College of Technology

How to apply for an Apprenticeship with Darlington College Use the National Apprenticeship Service website to find a local Apprenticeship vacancy: [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk) or call our team on 01325 503210 to learn more. You can view live vacancies on our website or If you are currently employed or already have a job lined up – and if your employer agrees – you can still apply for an Apprenticeship.

When you complete the online application form you will be invited to attend the college for an interview with a Tutor and the Apprenticeship Team. This gives you an opportunity to ask any questions and learn more about your Apprenticeship, discuss employability, and how you can find a job.

You can apply anytime throughout the year, although many Apprenticeships begin in September. Why not attend one of our open events to talk to tutors, tour the college and find out what student life is all about.

-  Houghton Road, Darlington, DL1 1DR
-  Kate Roe, Principal & Chief Exec
-  [Darlington.ac.uk](http://Darlington.ac.uk)
-  01325 503 050
-  [Enquire@darlington.ac.uk](mailto:Enquire@darlington.ac.uk)

## Derwentside College

Apprenticeships allow you to work, earn and gain a qualification to help you in your career. How you study can vary - you may have to attend college one day a week, or you may be required to do all of your studying at work - or even a blend of the two.

Apprenticeships are available at three different levels, so there’s something to suit everyone. Typically it takes one to two years to complete an Apprenticeship; however some may take longer due to the nature of the programme.

At Derwentside College we offer Apprenticeships in the following areas: Accounting, Barbering, Beauty Therapy, Business, Management and Administration, Business Enterprise, Catering, Childcare/Children & Young People’s Workforce, Cleaning & Support Services, Construction, Customer Service, Electrical Installation and many more.

-  Front Street, Consett, DH8 5EE
-  Karen Redhead, Principal & Chief Exec
-  [Derwentside.ac.uk](http://Derwentside.ac.uk)
-  01207 585 900
-  [Enquiries@derwentside.ac.uk](mailto:Enquiries@derwentside.ac.uk)

## DISC

DISC helps people realise their potential by working with them to make the most of their individual strengths and talents.

DISC offer excellent opportunities with challenging and realistic work placements tailored to meet young peoples future vocational aspirations; whether it be a placement in social care or game keeping we will work with local employers to fulfil their needs. Every student has a personalised programme of study to enable students to progress into employment, apprenticeships or further education. DISC offer a small friendly training environment with groups sizes of less than 8 students DISC is Ofsted Grade 1 Outstanding in all areas.

-  Horndale Ave, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6DS
-  Andrea Dixon, Education Services Mngr
-  [Disc-vol.org.uk](http://Disc-vol.org.uk)
-  01325 731 160
-  [Andrea.dixon@disc-vol.org.uk](mailto:Andrea.dixon@disc-vol.org.uk)

## East Durham Business Service

\*Based at Novus Business Centre Peterlee and Novus Seaham, EDBS provides business support and advice as well as office space, meeting facilities and branding services to new and established businesses on a range of topics including business planning, marketing, retail and apprenticeships as well as business growth and funding opportunities.

If you are thinking of starting your own business, looking to develop your existing business, employ an apprentice or find new business premises within East Durham, EDBS can help.

EDBS has specialists in start up and established business advice, marketing and apprenticeships.

-  Spectrum Business Pk, Seaham, SR7 7TT
-  Denise Fielding, Director of Operations
-  [Edbs.co.uk](http://Edbs.co.uk)
-  0191 586 3366
-  [Enquiries@edbs.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@edbs.co.uk)

## East Durham College

There's never been a better time to become an apprentice and East Durham College are here to help you turn your career dreams into a reality. We have a dedicated team of specialists who work closely with you. They will guide and support you throughout the whole experience and will be there for you every step of the way. Alongside four days of employment you'll attend the college one day a week to learn from our highly experienced lecturers in our state-of-the-art facilities.

We offer Apprenticeships in sectors ranging from beauty, bricklaying and business administration to horticulture, small animal care and even veterinary nursing. The college works with 100s of employers including Caterpillar, the Esh Group, East Durham Homes, Mears and Durham County Council to name but a few.

-  Peterlee & Durham
-  Suzanne Duncan, Prncipial & Chief Exec
-  [Eastdurham.ac.uk](http://Eastdurham.ac.uk)
-  0191 518 8222
-  [Enquiries@eastdurham.ac.uk](mailto:Enquiries@eastdurham.ac.uk)

## Foundation of Light

\*Our mission is simple: to provide opportunities to everyone through which they can improve their lives.

We utilise the power that the Sunderland AFC brand and football has in the North East to engage people in a way which other organisations can't. It's then the work of our programmes and excellent staff which makes the real difference.

The cross section of people we work with is unparalleled within our community; those we work with vary in age from 18 months to 80 years plus. We truly do offer something for everyone, with programmes impacting health, behaviour, attitude, skills, knowledge and more.

-  Stadium of Light, Sunderland, SR5 1SU
-  Lesley Spuhler OBE, CEO
-  [Foundationoflight.co.uk](http://Foundationoflight.co.uk)
-  0191 551 5191
-  [Info@foundationoflight.co.uk](mailto:Info@foundationoflight.co.uk)

## Gateshead College

\*One of the brilliant things about Gateshead College (there are many) is that you can start your study programme with us and move into an apprenticeship at any time if a vacancy becomes available.

Opportunities available are in: Construction & Building Services, Engineering & Manufacturing, Motor Vehicle, Hairdressing, Early Years, Health & Social Care, IT & Computing and Retail.

This means you can get a job, earn a wage and complete your qualification. Result!

And the best thing is, we have a contact list of more than 450 employers including some of the region's very best in every sector from catering to engineering and construction to digital media.

An apprenticeship can be the ideal way to kick-start your career or if you are an employer a cost effective way to invest in your business.

-  Quarryfield Road, Gateshead, NE8 3BE
-  Judith Doyle, Principal
-  [Gateshead.ac.uk](http://Gateshead.ac.uk)
-  0191 440 1477
-  [Start@gateshead.ac.uk](mailto:Start@gateshead.ac.uk)

## Groundwork North East

\*Groundwork North East & Cumbria contracts with New College Durham to deliver a range of Apprenticeship programmes at level 2 and 3. You must be already employed and aged 19 or over as of 31st August 2015. The programmes we offer can be completed in a variety of employment settings such as; Management, Team Leading, Customer Service and Business Administration.

Our Apprenticeship Framework consists of several elements; NVQ, Functional Skills, PLTS, Employment Rights & Responsibilities.

Each qualification consists of units that allow the learn to apply knowledge, understanding and skills in their occupational sector to prove competency in their job role.

-  Durham Way South, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6XP
-  Dawn Motion, Training Performance Lead
-  [Groundwork.org.uk/sites/northeast](http://Groundwork.org.uk/sites/northeast)
-  01325 300 544
-  [Dawn.Motion@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:Dawn.Motion@groundwork.org.uk)

## Hartlepool College of Further Education

The College is the largest provider of apprenticeships in the Tees Valley and is rated 7th best in England. It has contact with over 2,000 businesses and employers. Employer engagement is rated as "Outstanding" by OFSTED.

Many employers recognise that their future lies in quality Apprenticeships. Hartlepool College of Further Education believes this too, and we're one of the biggest providers of Apprenticeships in the Tees Valley and County Durham, supporting over approximately 900 Apprentices.

The College also offers Higher Apprenticeships in the following areas: Construction, Civil Engineering and Building Services Engineering.

-  Stockton St, Hartlepool, TS24 7NT
-  Darren Hankey
-  [Hartlepoolfe.ac.uk](http://Hartlepoolfe.ac.uk)
-  01429 295 000
-  [Enquiries@hartlepoolfe.ac.uk](mailto:Enquiries@hartlepoolfe.ac.uk)

## Ingeus

\*Since starting in the UK in 2002, Ingeus UK has grown from a team of three people to become a leading provider of people-centred services, such as employability programmes, skills training and health-related support, which help people to reach their full potential. From a network of more than 80 offices and over 1,600 employees.

Ingeus supports people through; Employability Programmes, Skills & Training, Traineeships, Apprenticeships & Pre-employment training and Health-related services.

Ingeus's teams are dedicated to designing the right support for each individual to help them progress into work and in life. We work alongside over 100 partner organisations from the public, private and third sectors that share our commitment to delivering excellence with integrity.

-  Framwellgate Moor, Durham, DH1 5EJ
-  Jack Sawyer, Chief Executive Officer
-  [Ingeus.co.uk](http://Ingeus.co.uk)
-  0845 330 8184
-  [Training@ingeus.co.uk](mailto:Training@ingeus.co.uk)

## ITEC North East Ltd

ITEC NE LTD is a not-for-profit inspiring independent training provider accredited by Ofsted as a Grade 2 provider. Operating across the North East region with training facilities in Newton Aycliffe, Gateshead and Middlesbrough. We have celebrated over 30 years of educational excellence, delivering a portfolio of vocational (via apprenticeships & traineeships) and classroom based study.

Learners & Employers will benefit from:

- Full support when selecting and screening potential candidates
- Flexible bespoke delivery models that meets both employer and learner needs
- Dedicated tutors with industry experience ensures that learners acquire the essential skills and knowledge for their job role
- Regular workplace visits and excellent quality assurance systems result in high success rates in the planned time
- Additional support with Functional Skills is available if required

-  Durham Way South, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6XP
-  Tracy Wilson, Managing Director
-  [Itecne.co.uk](http://Itecne.co.uk)
-  01325 320 052
-  [Info@itecne.co.uk](mailto:Info@itecne.co.uk)

## J&K Training Ltd

\*At J and K Training Ltd we specialise in the delivery of English and Maths programmes and have developed a flexible delivery model which has enabled us to successfully deliver this provision throughout the country.

Our team of highly motivated tutors design and deliver occupationally relevant English and Maths programmes to meet both the needs of the learner and the employer.

As an SFA approved provider and partner with a number of FE colleges and training providers we can provide information, advice and guidance on training and support available and source available funding opportunities to meet your training needs.

-  Cockton Hill Rd, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6HS
-  Ann Johnson, Managing Director
-  [Jandktraining.co.uk](http://Jandktraining.co.uk)
-  01388 604 004
-  [Info@jandktraining.co.uk](mailto:Info@jandktraining.co.uk)

## Key Training Ltd

At Key Training we offer a wide range of office based apprenticeship programmes from Business Administration, Customer Service, Sales to industry specific apprenticeships in Recruitment and Education plus many more.

Our apprenticeship programmes include: Business Administration apprenticeship programmes - Level 2, 3, 4, Customer Service apprenticeship programmes - Level 2 and 3, Sales apprenticeship programmes - level 2 and 3, Information Technology Intermediate Apprenticeship Level 2, Technical Apprenticeship Level 3

Other apprenticeship programmes: We offer a wide range of other apprenticeship programmes: Team Leading, Management, Employment Related Services, Advice & Guidance and Warehousing and Storage.

-  Dean Street, Newcastle, NE1 1PG
-  Lesley Miller, Business Development Mngr
-  [Keytraining.co.uk](http://Keytraining.co.uk)
-  0191 261 8906
-  [Lesley.miller@keytraining.co.uk](mailto:Lesley.miller@keytraining.co.uk)

## Livin Homes

\*Apprentices recruited through the livin futures will be employed directly by livin or by one of our partners, spending four days per week in the workplace and one day per week at college.

Entry requirements for the livin futures apprenticeship programme are four or more GCSEs at Grade C or above, including English and Maths. An assessment test prior to interview may be required. Where the entry requirements can't be met there may be an opportunity to work towards achieving functional skills in English and Maths level two qualifications.

Our apprenticeship vacancies are normally advertised between May and July every year. Vacancies are advertised on the jobs page of our website, LinkedIn Facebook and Twitter.

-  Arlington Way, Spennymoor, DL16 6NL
-  Colin Steel, Chief Executive
-  [Livin.co.uk](http://Livin.co.uk)
-  07891 000 849
-  [Futures@livin.co.uk](mailto:Futures@livin.co.uk)

## Middlesbrough College

\*Middlesbrough College has a fantastic range of Apprenticeships to choose from and we will support you in finding an employer relevant to your career aspirations.

Apprentices are employed for a minimum of 30 hours per week and learn both on the job and at College. Your training will be funded and you will be paid for the work you do - the minimum Apprenticeship wage set by the government is £3.30 per hour, however the majority of employers pay significantly more.

After successfully completing your Apprenticeship you can choose to progress on to an 'Advanced Apprenticeship' or further study, such as a Foundation degree at Middlesbrough College.

-  Dock St, Middlesbrough, TS2 1AD
-  Zoe Lewis, Principal & Chief Exec
-  [Mbrc.ac.uk](http://Mbrc.ac.uk)
-  01642 333 379
-  [Jobshop@mbro.ac.uk](mailto:Jobshop@mbro.ac.uk)

## NECC

\*The North East Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest training providers in the North East. We have training centres across the region and more than 1,100 learners participating in courses. As a membership organisation NECC understands the needs of business and its courses are designed and delivered to meet the needs of both businesses and individual learners.

NECC Apprenticeships develop highly-skilled employees and ensure that businesses benefit from an effective and efficient workforce.

Work-based and practical, NECC Apprenticeships provide staff with the opportunity to gain skills and experience directly relevant to their own company and with many programmes, supplement this with classroom learning.

-  Akley Heads, Durham, DH1 5TS
-  James Rambotham, Chief Exec
-  [Necctraining.co.uk](http://Necctraining.co.uk)
-  0800 195 7373
-  [Apprenticeships@necc.co.uk](mailto:Apprenticeships@necc.co.uk)

## NECC Training & Assessment Centre Ltd

NECC Training & Assessment Centre Ltd has two training rooms based in Blyth Northumberland and Bishop Auckland in County Durham. We are a team of 5 full time staff, and 2 part time staff, all of which are highly experienced and skilled in working with young people from 16-18 and 19+ from a range of social, cultural and economic backgrounds.

Our ethos at NECC Training & Assessment Centre is to ensure that all young people are provided with the opportunity to learn and develop in their chosen career, our organisations slogan 'Where success matters' underlines for us all how important it is to succeed in life.

The success of the young people we work with, is at the heart of everything we do. Our organisation works closely with the young person from the start of the program to identify any additional needs or support required to support them through their learning journey.

-  4 Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland, DL14 7EH
-  Sharon Major
-  [Necctraining.co.uk](http://Necctraining.co.uk)
-  07766 881 608
-  [Sharon@necctraining.co.uk](mailto:Sharon@necctraining.co.uk)

## New College Durham

Our success rates for apprenticeships are consistently above the national average. We work with over 350 employers to help young people earn while they learn.

We offer a variety of apprenticeship programmes from Intermediate to Advanced to the new Higher Apprenticeships, in over 20 different sectors, including:

Accountancy, Beauty Therapy, Brickwork, Building Services, Business & Management, Carpentry & Joinery, Computing & IT, Construction, Customer Services, Dental Nursing, Early Years, Education, Electrical Installation, Engineering, Hairdressing & Barbering, Health & Social Care, Housing, Human Resources, Motor Vehicle, Painting & Decorating, Plumbing, Podiatry, Retail, Sport.

-  Framwellgate Moor, Durham, DH1 5ES
-  John Widdowson, Principal & Chief Exec
-  [Newcollegedurham.ac.uk](http://Newcollegedurham.ac.uk)
-  0191 375 4000
-  [Help@newdur.ac.uk](mailto:Help@newdur.ac.uk)

## Newcastle College

Study an Apprenticeship at Newcastle College and you'll enter the world of work, get paid and continue your education at the same time.

An Apprenticeship is available to anyone aged 16 years and over, each one involves a structured programme of training, leading to a recognised qualification. They are available at different levels, letting you choose the speed you wish to learn at.

We have invested millions in real-working environments to give you the best possible training while you also benefit from our well established links with local employers and you will learn through a combination of college attendance, online assessments and assessments in your workplace.

-  Scotswood Rd, Newcastle, NE4 7SA
-  Carole Kitching, Principal
-  [Ncl-coll.ac.uk](http://Ncl-coll.ac.uk)
-  0191 200 4781
-  [Enquiries@ncl-coll.ac.uk](mailto:Enquiries@ncl-coll.ac.uk)

## Newton Rigg College

Newton Rigg College based at Penrith provide specialist land-based and outdoor education with additional centres across the north (including Newcastle and Guisborough). The main campus at Penrith provides residential facilities from 16. The College offer study programmes to include: Agriculture, Animal Management, Equine, Countryside, Horticulture, Land-Based Engineering as well as general education areas such as Health and Social Care, Sport, Uniformed Public Services and Hair and Beauty.

Newton Rigg also offers Intermediate (Level 2) and Advanced (Level 3) Apprenticeship programmes in the following areas: Agriculture, Environment Conservation, Trees & Timber, Game-keeping & Wildlife Management, Horticulture and Land-based engineering operations.

-  Newton Rigg College, Penrith, CA11 0AH
-  Liz Philip, Principal
-  [Newtonrigg.ac.uk](http://Newtonrigg.ac.uk)
-  01768 893 400
-  [Enquiries@newtonrigg.ac.uk](mailto:Enquiries@newtonrigg.ac.uk)

## Nordic Training

\*With more than 25 years' experience providing award winning training, Nordic Focus Training Group brings together 'Nordic Pioneer' and Focus Training & Development', two hugely successful and highly respected national training providers, in a strategic partnership.

With offices in Darlington and London, we provide funded training and apprenticeships across a wide spectrum of disciplines and market sectors.

By working closely with employers, we seek to understand company needs and help co-ordinate the workforce development through cost-effective training methods.

-  Chesnut Street, Darlington, DL1 1QL
-  Jane Bradshaw, Chief Executive
-  [Nftg.co.uk](http://Nftg.co.uk)
-  01325 355 633
-  [Info@nftg.co.uk](mailto:Info@nftg.co.uk)

## Northern Learning Trust

\*Northern Learning Trust provides support for young people, families and adults living in Newcastle. Our work covers Skills for Life, Skills for Work and Family Learning.

We provide one to one and small group support for individuals who need to improve their reading, writing, numeracy and communication skills.

We provide workshops and short programmes for those individuals who are aged over 16 and who are unemployed. We also offer Skills for Work for young people who are NEET or who are not attending mainstream education.

We provide a range of Family Learning programmes all of which support parents and carers to play a significant role in their child's development.

-  Beaminster Way, Newcastle, NE3 2EZ
-  Avril Gibson, Chief Executive
-  [Northernlearningtrust.org.uk](http://Northernlearningtrust.org.uk)
-  0191 271 0131
-  [Enquiries@northernlearningtrust.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@northernlearningtrust.org.uk)

## Optimum Skills

\*Optimum Skills Limited is a high quality training organisation that has been set up to meet the growing demands of businesses seeking to ensure that their skills requirements are met.

We are dynamic, professional, creative, innovative and successful. We are passionate about young people and aid in aspiring their futures.

We invest in both our learners and our employees – everyone has a desire to make a positive impact. Our training is delivered in a way that promotes and facilitates positive changes to people's behaviour, outlook, aspirations, prospects and lives.

-  Aycliffe Business Pk, DL5 6DX
-  Diane Shakespeare, Director
-  [Optimumskills.co.uk](http://Optimumskills.co.uk)
-  01325 311 832
-  [info@optimumskills.co.uk](mailto:info@optimumskills.co.uk)

## Profound Services

Profound Services is one of the North East's leading training provider specialising in the delivery of Apprenticeships and Traineeships.

We work with young people who wish to gain the qualifications and work experience required to go further in their careers. We also have strong links with local businesses who are actively looking to employ an apprentice. We assist potential candidates find a job in the right sector and on the correct apprenticeship.

We offer Apprenticeships in a wide range of sectors.

Our Traineeships are a 10-week work placement programme designed for 16 to 24 year olds who are looking to find work but may not have the experience or appropriate skills to secure a job or an apprenticeship.

-  Bracken Hill Business Park, SR8 2RR
-  Claire Turner and Aisha Kalimba
-  [Profoundservices.com](http://Profoundservices.com)
-  0191 587 4570
-  [Info@profoundservices.com](mailto:Info@profoundservices.com)

## South West Durham Training Ltd

\*Apprentices learn through a combination of on and off-the-job education and training. In the workplace they work alongside your staff and the rest they learn from S.W Durham Training. In most cases this is on a day release basis. Apprenticeships help you stay competitive by developing the kind of people your business needs for the future.

Apprentices make a contribution to your business from day one. Apprentices learn while they work, so their knowledge is up-to-date. Because their training is on the job, the practical skills they gain are the ones that are right for your business.

Apprenticeships offer your business training for all your existing staff and new recruits in a wide range of areas, from business administration and customer service, to specialist skills like engineering.

-  Aycliffe Business Park, DL5 6AT
-  Trevor Alley, CEO
-  [Swdt.co.uk](http://Swdt.co.uk)
-  01325 313 194
-  [Admin@swdt.co.uk](mailto:Admin@swdt.co.uk)

## Springboard East Durham

Springboard is one of the largest and longest established training providers in the North East of England. Over the past 40 years we have grown into a vibrant organisation with excellent premises and facilities across East Durham, Sunderland, South Tyneside, and Hartlepool offering a wide range of training courses and employment opportunities, including traineeships and apprenticeships.

Vocational areas Springboard currently offers apprenticeships in are: Business Administration, Medical Admin, Customer Service, Retail, Warehousing, Performing Manufacturing Operations, Business Improvement Techniques, Property and Residential Letting, Print and Design, Sport and Active Leadership, Childcare, Care, Hospitality and Catering, Motor Vehicle, Horticulture, Team Leading and Management.

-  North West Ind Est, Peterlee, SR8 2RB
-  Hayley Jones, Skills Project Officer
-  [Springboard-ne.org](http://Springboard-ne.org)
-  0191 518 5020
-  [Hjones@springboard-ne.org](mailto:Hjones@springboard-ne.org)

## Stockton Riverside College

Apprenticeships are a great route into employment and a career. You learn a trade while earning a wage. Anyone over the age of 16 can undertake an Apprenticeship.

Stockton Riverside College offers a wide range of Apprenticeship and Advanced Apprenticeship opportunities at Level 2 and Level 3 as well as some with higher level qualifications including: Accounting, Art & Design, Beauty Therapy, Bricklaying, Business, Catering, Childcare, Cleaning & Environmental Support Services, Computing, Creative Media, Customer Service, Electrical Installations, Facilities Services, Hairdressing, Health & Social Care, Hospitality, Joinery, Management, Motor Vehicle, Painting & Decorating, Performing Manufacturing Operations, Retail, Sport, Supporting Teaching & Learning, Traineeships and Warehousing & Storage.

-  Harvard Avenue, Stockton, TS17 6FB
-  Michelle Elliott Director of Business Development
-  [Stockton.ac.uk](http://Stockton.ac.uk)
-  01642 865 400
-  [Info@stockton.ac.uk](mailto:Info@stockton.ac.uk)

## Sunderland College

If you are looking for an apprenticeship you can search for live vacancies on the Sunderland College website. If we don't have don't have an apprenticeship vacancy in the area you'd like, complete the form online the college will contact you when an opportunity becomes available. Anyone age 16+ can apply for our apprenticeships but if you're in Year 11, you can complete the online form so that the college knows what you are interested in.

There are apprenticeships in lots of sectors including, hospitality and catering, construction, administration, health and care, etc. Apprenticeships are a great way to earn while you learn! Our apprenticeship vacancies are open to all ages, to apply please check out our list of vacancies or call us on 0191 511 6484 or email [apprenticeships@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk)

-  Durham Road, Sunderland, SR6 0AN
-  Anne Isherwood, Principal
-  [Sunderlandcollege.ac.uk](http://Sunderlandcollege.ac.uk)
-  0191 511 6000
-  [Info@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk](mailto:Info@sunderlandcollege.ac.uk)

## YMCA Teesdale

We are a small provider based in rural Teesdale. Main centre in Barnard Castle. We respond to the needs of the community by developing innovative and inspiring opportunities of personal development to enable people to achieve their potential. One to one and small group support. Specialising in craft and vocational based qualifications and training.

NCFE Centre offering Level 1 & 2 courses including V Certs. Creative Craft and Art & Design. Also courses such as Health and Safety. Ability to offer Music Technology Courses. Support with core subjects such as Maths, English and Science. Holistic support is a key part of our offer.

-  46 Galgate, Barnard Castle, DL12 8BH
-  Kevin Wake, CEO
-  [Teesdaleymca.com](http://Teesdaleymca.com)
-  01833 695 5780
-  [Kev@teesdaleymca.com](mailto:Kev@teesdaleymca.com)

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What are an Studio Schools and University Technical Colleges?

Studio Schools are a type of free school that is sponsored by existing schools, colleges, and community groups. Studio Schools are designed to be small, with a maximum of 300 students, which enables them to foster a supportive, personalised learning environment with a strong focus on pastoral care. The schools forge close links with businesses and enterprises in their specialist industries who support the schools through activities such as mentoring, work placements, and curriculum design and delivery. UTCs are a type of free school which has a University as a lead sponsor and offer clear routes into Higher Education or work.. University Technical Colleges are specifically designed to enroll students aged 14–19. The most distinctive element of UTCs is that they offer technically oriented courses of study, combining National Curriculum requirements with technical and vocational elements. UTCs must specialise in subjects that require technical and modern equipment, but they also all teach business skills and the use of ICT.

## Do I have to stay in school until I am 18?

No, under Raising the Participation Age you have to say 'in learning' but this does not have to be in school, your further learning could be your own school sixth form, another school sixth form, a sixth form centre, college. or you could be learning in the workplace on an apprenticeship or a job with training. The important thing is that you continue to learn and develop your skills for work.

## How do I decide between sixth form, college or apprenticeship?

The first thing to do is decide whether you feel ready for the workplace. If the answer is no then apprenticeship is not right for you... yet. If you do feel ready you can start searching via the website [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk) Remember you cannot actually start to work until the official school leaving date which is the last Friday of June of Year 11. To help you decide between sixth form and college you should consider: what job you eventually want to do then look at all the possible routes into it. If both A levels or a vocational course are possible routes you can attend open days and speak to tutors and other students; particularly find out where previous students did after completing their studies.

## If I don't study A levels can I still go to university?

A levels are one of the qualifications that can get you into university (higher education), but there are other routes. A levels can be combined with vocational courses (Applied General) or you could do a full time level 3 (Tech Level) course at college and go onto a course in a related subject at university. You can also attend university after doing a work based qualification such as an advanced apprenticeship. Whichever route you are considering taking you should check the course requirements at each university because some courses require you to study specific subjects and achieve specific grades. Find out more at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

# Jobs of the Future

In December 2014 the UK Commission for Employment and Skills produced a list of the 40 most needed jobs in the future. Their list was based not only the need for new jobs due to expansion of the sector but also replacement demand where older employees are retiring.

The 40 jobs fall into 10 sectors:



**Manufacturing, Installation & Maintenance**  
Electricians and Electrical Fitters, Metal Working Production & Maintenance fitters, Aircraft Maintenance and Telecommunications Engineers.



**Protective Services**  
Police Officers



**Agriculture**  
Farmer



**Business and Finance**  
Sales accounts and Business Development Managers, Business Project Managers, Mortgage Advisers, Investment Analysts, Chartered Accountants and Management Consultants.



**Construction**  
Construction Project Managers, Carpenters and Joiners, Plumbers, Heating and Ventilation Engineers, Chartered Surveyors and Architects.



**Education**  
Education Managers such as College Principals, & Head Teachers, Nursery, Primary and Secondary Education teachers & Teaching Assistants.



**Information Technology**  
Programmers and Software Developers, IT Specialist Managers, IT Business Analysts, Systems Designers, IT Project Managers, Web Designers and Website Developers.



**Health and Care**  
Doctors, Dentists, Nurses, Nursing Auxiliaries and Assistants, Care Workers and Home Carers.



**Science, Engineering & Tech**  
Mechanical Engineers, Science and Tech Research & Development Managers, Scientists Inc. a range of Scientific roles from Physicist to Geologist, Design & Development engineers, biological scientists & biochemists.



**Transport & Logistics**  
Aircraft Pilots, Large Goods Vehicle Drivers, Train and Tram drivers and Ship Officers.

# The North East Picture...

## The 5 most important employment sectors in the North East

### Advanced manufacturing

It is expected that 8,500 skilled people will have retired from advanced Manufacturing jobs by the end of 2016 (since 2011) creating a need to recruit new staff to the sector. In the North East there are significant opportunities in car manufacturing and its supply chain, including new electric cars such as the Leaf being produced by Nissan. There are also opportunities in sustainable energy production such as: offshore wind, low carbon technology, etc.

### Engineering

Linked to manufacturing are opportunities for skilled Engineers, these may be in offshore industries, in sectors such as the manufacture of wind turbines and expansion of the established sea technology sector, and building up local supply chains. The North East has particular science and engineering research strengths in higher education.

### Digital and ICT (information and communications technology)

Roles include developing and working in digital, media, telecoms and software. It is estimated that this sector will require 470,000 replacement new jobs in the next 5 years the future workforce may be working on developments include automotive software and in-car systems for several major automotive brands. Support for business is another key area as is data storage and analysis. The area hosts a number of the major software companies such as Sage plc and Leighton, the digital consultancy.

### Retail, culture, tourism and hospitality

The Eldon Square shopping centre in Newcastle, and the Metro Centre employ around 10,000 staff across a range of occupations in retail and associated services.

The tourism industry is the backbone of employment in many parts of the rural economy. In addition to accommodation and restaurants creating jobs, this industry supports a strong local food market and accounts for just under 44,000 employees across the sector.

### Health and social care

There is likely to be significant demand for employment in the health and social care sector due to an ageing population and the need to replace retiring workers. Demand for skills in this sector relates to new and improved health care standards, which will continue to drive up skills needs within the sector. The main employers are the NHS and Local Authorities.

(Source National careers Service 2016)

# Useful Resources

## National Careers Service

The National Careers Service provides free and impartial careers information, advice and guidance to anyone aged 18+.

[NationalCareersService.direct.gov.uk](http://NationalCareersService.direct.gov.uk)

## Plotr

Careers advice that's useful, inspiring and tailored to YOU. Play the free careers advice Game, explore detailed career profile hubs - then take next steps.

[Plotr.co.uk](http://Plotr.co.uk)

## Apprenticeships

Being an apprentice gives you the opportunity to gain a recognised qualification and develop professional skills, while earning a salary, inside some of Britain's best companies.

[Apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://Apprenticeships.gov.uk)

## Barclays Life Skills

LifeSkills, created with Barclays, helps young people get the skills and experiences they need to enter the world of work.

[BarclaysLifeSkills.com](http://BarclaysLifeSkills.com)

## Prospects

Prospects for graduate jobs, postgraduate study, advice about work experience, internship opportunities and graduate careers.

[Prospects.ac.uk](http://Prospects.ac.uk)

## Help4Teens

Help4Teens focuses on the teenagers in the County Durham region and is a one stop place for information to help them develop.

[Help4Teens.co.uk](http://Help4Teens.co.uk)

# Glossary of Terms

**A-level** A qualification at Level 3 usually studied in sixth form over two years, widely accepted for entry to higher education in the UK.

**AS** – A 1 year qualification at Level 3 usually studied in sixth form, previously as part of a full A level, now a standalone course which can be combined with other Level 3 courses for entry to Higher Education.

**Academy** – A school which is funded directly by central Government not via the Local Authority.

**Applied:** A term often used to indicate that a qualification has a practical rather than theoretical focus e.g. ‘applied science’ focus on practical experiments and science in the workplace.

**Applied General:** A level 3 Qualification that provides work related knowledge but not training for a job.

**BTECs** (Business and Technology Education Council): one- or two-year courses in work-related subjects such as engineering, art and design, agriculture, and health and social care.

**College:** An institution for education at a level between school and university – for example, a sixth-form college for A-levels, or a college of technology that offers vocational qualifications.

**Further education:** Learning that takes place after the end of statutory education at 16. It can include courses at entry level up to level 3.

**GCSE:** General Certificate of Secondary Education): Qualifications taken at age 14–16 in subjects such as English, mathematics, or history. Some subjects are compulsory and others are optional.

**IGCSE** (International GCSEs): GCSEs designed for students outside the UK.

**Higher Education:** Learning at level 4 and above that is usually taught in Universities.

**Linear Course:** A course that is taught as a whole programme with assessments at the end.

**Modular course:** A course consisting of several independent units with assessment at the end of each unit.

**National Curriculum:** The programme of study that must be followed in state schools which includes certain compulsory subjects such as English, maths and science.

**NVQ** (National Vocational Qualifications): Work-based qualifications assessed in the workplace on the skills that you have for a particular role.

**Secondary or statutory education:** Compulsory education for pupils aged 11

to 16.

**Sixth form:** The first and second years of further education in a UK school or sixth form college (except Scotland), often called Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth.

**Study Programme:** the name given to all Level 3 courses of full time post 16 education that include a main course of study, work experience and enrichment activities.

**Technical Award:** A level 2 qualification for 14-16 year olds that provides knowledge and skills about a broad area of work such as ICT or Health and Social Care.

**Technical Certificate:** A level 2 qualification for post 16 students that provides knowledge and skills for work such as ICT or Health and Social Care.

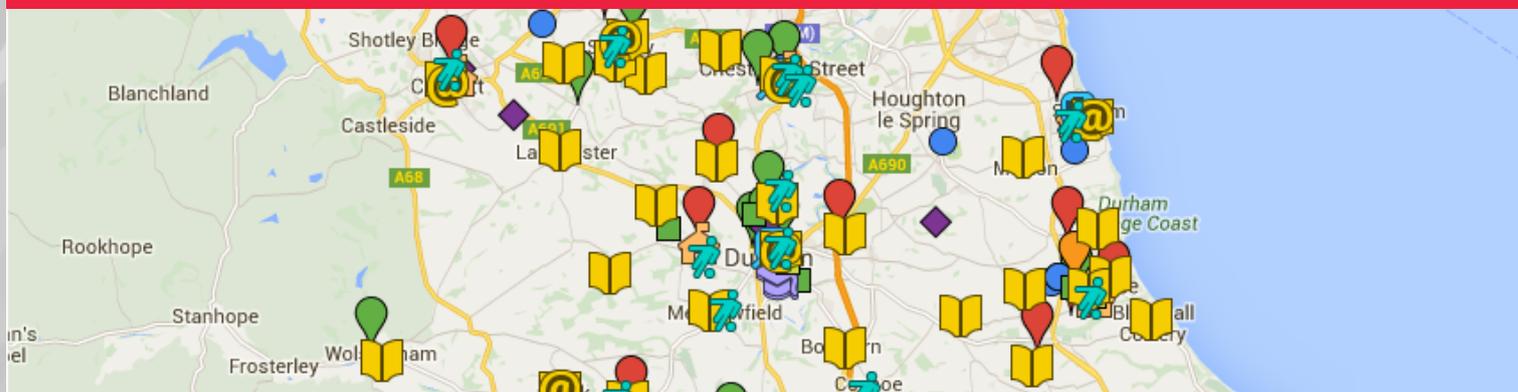
**Tech Levels:** A level 3 qualification for post 16 students that provides detailed knowledge and skills to prepare for a specific job e.g. engineering, accounting,

**Vocational course:** study that is related to the knowledge and skill for a type of work or specific job.

**Work experience:** A period spent within a work environment; provide an introduction to the industry.



# Education & Transport Map of Durham



On this Map you will be able to find all kinds of information regarding education in the County Durham region. From Bus & Transport to One Point Hubs & Schools this map will show you what is in your area and hopefully help you in your decisions! The Map uses Google Map technology to help you feel more accustomed with the features. Using the Arrow button in the top left you will be able to open up the sidebar that will help you filter out things you may not want to see which will help you refine & organise the map to your taste. If you wish you can view the map in full screen or even share it with friends, family or your school.

If you would like Help4Teens to **add a feature** to this map that you think would benefit the Education of young people please email: **Help4Teens@Durham.gov.uk**



Visit the Map at [Help4Teens.co.uk/Where-to-learn/Map](https://www.help4teens.co.uk/where-to-learn/map) or by clicking here.

Icons made by Freepik from [www.flaticon.com](http://www.flaticon.com), Icons made by Dave Gandy from [www.flaticon.com](http://www.flaticon.com), Icons made by SimpleIcon from [www.flaticon.com](http://www.flaticon.com), Icons made by Zurb from [www.flaticon.com](http://www.flaticon.com), Jobs of the Future Avatars Designed by Freepik, The Importance of Good Careers Guidance graphic Designed by Freepik.