HARTFORD
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
HIGH SCHOOL

Applying for a post-16 establishment

A Guide For Parents

Academic Pathway

Qualification

A-Levels (Advanced Levels)

- You study typically 2–4 subjects studied over 2 years.
- Focuses on academic learning and preparation for university and further education.

Ideal for students who enjoy studying subjects in depth, want to attend university, or pursue professions that require specific academic knowledge

Vocational/Technical Pathway

Qualification

BTEC Level 3 Diplomas/Certificates, T-Levels, NVQs

- Emphasis on practical, work-related skills
- Often includes industry placements or hands on experience.

Entry Level Courses

- For students who need extra support before progressing to higher level study or training

Ideal for students who prefer applied learning, want to gain skills for specific careers, or move into employment or apprenticeships.

Apprenticeships

Qualification

Can lead to vocational certificates, NVQs, BTECs, or even higher-level qualifications depending on the programme.

- Combines paid work with study
- Levels: Intermediate (Level 2), Advanced (Level 3), Higher (Levels 4-7)

Ideal for students ready to work and earn while they study, looking for practical experience and progression in a chosen career

Specialist or Alternative Pathways

- Creative/Arts Pathways: Diploma or Extended Diploma in Art, Music, Drama, Media.
- Sports Pathways: Sports BTEC, diplomas in coaching fitness

Don't Delay Act as Soon As You Can

- Visit Open Evenings or Open Days
- Have a Plan A, Plan B, Plan C
  - Your child can apply for more than one college
  - Some colleges allow you to apply for more than one course.
  - Encourage your child not to delay in applying – some colleges have an application window
  - Once your child's application has been accepted they should expect an interview of some kind.

First impressions count

- Remind your child to use correct grammar
- They should share their predicted grades; these are they grades they believe they will achieve in August.
- They should share all their engagements in enrichment activities and the skills they have developed.
- They should share how the course they have applied for links to their aspirations