



College Open Days and Apprenticeship Information

September 2024



Local College Open Events

You have to stay in education until aged 18. This can be at a college or via an apprenticeship (which can be provided via a College). It is worthwhile having a look at a variety of colleges, to make sure you know what the options are.

It is also important to apply to more than one Further Education Provider (so you have a back up plan, no matter what the GCSE results / in case you change your mind).

Year 10: Start to look / visit colleges now- see open events. There will be assemblies for Year 10 from the colleges (presentations).

Year 11: Start / revisit colleges now- see open events. We also have the colleges visiting during assembly time.

Year 11 will be guided through the application process in school in tutor / PSHCE time, and supported by Ms Barrowclough & Mr Stockwell (EBP careers advisor). Tutors and Head of Year/pastoral support can also help.

Your child must have / know the following information when they apply to college:

- Student must have their own email address (not a school one)- they need to know what the email address is and the password to access this- please make sure they can access this at school!
- Student must have / know their own mobile or telephone number.
- Student must know/ have their parent/Guardian's email address and phone number (mobile is fine).
- Student must know their nationality and how long they have lived in the country for (if new to UK, they need to know date they arrived here and if they have the right to stay/residency).
- All students must know their postal address, date of birth & ethnicity.



2024-2025 Open Evening/Day Dates

You will likely need to register to attend – please click the link
There are bus routes to all these colleges- so don't be put off by distance

Peter Symonds College- [Peter Symonds College | Open Evening \(psc.ac.uk\)](https://www.psc.ac.uk)

QMC (Queen Mary's College in Basingstoke) –www.qmc.ac.uk/admissions/open-events/

Andover College - www.andover.ac.uk/open-events/

Sparsholt College- Saturday 9th Nov & other dates throughout the academic year.
Also offers apprenticeship options. www.sparsholt.ac.uk/opendays/

BCOT (Basingstoke College of Technology) –www.bcot.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/

Alton College -www.hsdac.ac.uk/events-calendar/alton-campus/#main

Farnborough College of Technology - www.farn-ct.ac.uk/events-in-person/

Newbury College - 7th November: [Open Event November 2024 \(newbury-college.ac.uk\)](https://www.newbury-college.ac.uk)

BCOT (Basingstoke College of Technology) **Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair - 3rd February :**
www.bcot.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/



College Application deadlines

- **Peter Symonds:** 9th December 2024
- **QMC:** 10th December 2024
- **Andover College:** 2nd January 2025
- **Alton College:** TBC
- **BCOT:** TBC – but have a soft close; aim to get it in by Christmas, but they will take applications after this.
- **Sparsholt:** TBC – but have a soft close; aim to get it in by Christmas, but they will take applications after this.
- **Farnborough Tech:** TBC – as above
- **Football Academies** - contact & apply as soon as possible- they will likely need to see you play.

Interested in Football?

There are specific post 16 courses for this!

You will need to be already playing regularly in a team though
- at school or outside; they take those with clear skill and experience!



Basingstoke Training Academy: [Basingstoke Town Football Club Academy Programme \(btfc.co.uk\)](http://btfc.co.uk)

Eastleigh Football Academy: [Academy – Eastleigh FC](#)

Newbury College – Procision Football Academy: [Football Academies \(newbury-college.ac.uk\)](http://newbury-college.ac.uk)
[currently boys only]

Procision Football Academy, Reading [girls team also]: [PROCISION GIRLS – Procision Football Academy \(procisionfa.co.uk\)](http://procisionfa.co.uk)



Important notes/ things to consider!!

Sparsholt - Not just an agricultural college! Has excellent football/sport, Public Services, Mechanics courses too! Also very supportive for SEND students. Good range of Apprenticeships. Sparsholt and Andover College work together.

Alton College- does technically offer apprenticeships BUT most (all?) of these are based at their other campus which is South Downs College, Waterlooville (near Portsmouth) – so quite a trek... Something to consider. This is a lovely college though, and smaller than some of the bigger colleges, so nice for those who find busy places intimidating. Has a very exciting new Physics & Engineering- Space Industry programme!

Andover College- works in conjunction with Sparsholt; good range of traditional academic subjects and more practical courses.

Peter Symonds College- has excellent record of getting students into medicine, dentistry and veterinary courses. Very large college, but offers good range of A Levels due to the size.

QMC- One of the best colleges in Hampshire, excellent for student progress, nice and local being in Basingstoke itself! Also has a great programme to support applicants who want to study medicine, dentistry and veterinary courses at uni.

BCOT- Very good range of technical subjects, from childcare to mechanical- take a look at all their options! It is in town so easy access, good support for students of all abilities.

**** If you want to study A Level- really you need to be aiming to get a minimum GCSE grade 6 in that subject. It is highly unlikely that you will be able to study an A level in a subject with a grade 4 or below (and even 5)- some colleges also do not offer vocational courses, and so will only take grades 5+ GCSEs. Always ask about their entry requirements.



Interested in an Apprenticeship?

You will need to decide on a job sector / apprenticeship employer **and** find a provider to support the apprenticeship. Sometimes the employer will sort the apprenticeship for you, at other times you may have to find the Employer or apprenticeship provider yourself.

Example 1: If doing an Army apprenticeship, they will sort the practical and education/apprenticeship provision for you.

Example 2: If applying to do a apprenticeship via a college - you may be asked to find/approached employers yourself and secure the apprenticeship placement, then give both the college and employer the details of each other, and then they will work together to sort your apprenticeship. **Or** the college may know of /have a list of employers that they already work with and they can help to arrange a placement for you.

Example 3: You know an employer (might be a friend of relative) who can offer you an apprenticeship - they need to register as an apprenticeship provider [if they aren't already] and ensure all paperwork is correct - this is done via the government Website & they can contact Hants County Council for support with this. So if you want to work for a family member / friend - check they are registered and then they can connect with a local college to help provide the apprenticeship training, or contact an independent training provider for that industry.

Example 4: You can contact an independent training provider and they can then help you find an employer / help sort your apprenticeship.



Apprenticeship Providers

First stop: visit- www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices and Amazing Apprenticeships

Colleges:

- BCOT [[Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair - 3rd February](http://www.bcot.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/) : www.bcot.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/]
- Sparsholt
- HSDC / Alton & South Downs College
- Farnborough College of Technology
- Newbury College
- Andover College

Additional Help & Support:

www.theapprenticeshiphub.com/become-an-apprentice/
(Local Hants Support).

Hampshire County Council support:

[Apprenticeships | Hampshire Services for Schools](http://www.hants.gov.uk/apprenticeships)
([hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)) or email: apprenticeships@hants.gov.uk

Government website:

[Apprenticeship training courses \(education.gov.uk\)](http://www.apprenticeship.gov.uk/apprenticeship-training-courses)

Some Independent Apprenticeship Providers (local in Hampshire) to get you started:

- FarePort: www.fareport.co.uk
- Protrain: www.protrain-solutions.co.uk/apprenticeships-and-learners/
- Aspire: www.aspiretrainingteam.co.uk/locations/hampshire/
- PETA: www.peta.co.uk/9/418/apprenticeships
- ITS: www.independenttrainingservices.co.uk/our-services/apprenticeships/

Some Employers that offer apprenticeships (there are thousands more! This is just to get you started!)

Army, Navy, Royal Airforce, Police, NHS, Fire Brigade

Local to Basingstoke: Many local hair salons and care homes/businesses, mechanics, restaurants, shops – make an enquiry!

Basingstoke & Dean Council, Middlesex Aerospace, Progressive Technology (visit the BCOT apprenticeship fair to find more!)



Timescale for Apprenticeship applications

You can find apprenticeships all year round, however, due to the nature of the school year, for pupils it is helpful to remember:

Year 10: too early to apply for an apprenticeship, but certainly start looking at the options

Year 11: Autumn Term - continue to look at the options. Military sometime allows earlier applications.

Most apprenticeships that you can do will be opened in the Spring term, this is because you will not be able to start the apprenticeship until you have left school (some few exceptions dependent on individual circumstances* see below). Therefore, there is no point in applying for an apprenticeship that starts in March when you are in Year 11, as you won't be able to do it. You will need to apply for ones that start in July - September or after.

*Usually you have to be 16 to start an apprenticeship however you may **start an apprenticeship** at 15 years of age if your 16th birthday is between the last Friday of **June** and 31st August and provided you have completed your exams.

Provided you **have left school** and have an employment offer in place, then starting employment as an **apprentice** can occur throughout the year.