

KENT CHOICES

Parent and Carer Webinar 2023 Question and Answers

Thank you for attending the 2023 KentChoices Parent and Carer Webinar. We hope you found the information useful to support your young person with their post-16 options.

We had several questions on the evening, below we have collated some of the frequently asked ones for your information.

Application Questions

Is there a limit to the number of sixth forms you can apply to?

- We recommend that you make a minimum of two and maximum of five applications to chosen sixth forms, colleges or training providers.

How do we sign up for sixth form?

- Most sixth forms in Kent use KentChoices but some only accept applications directly. Please check the application process for the sixth form the young person is interested in. Please also note that if your child is looking to move onto their current school's sixth form, they must still apply as this process is not automatic.
- Here is a useful guide to searching and applying for courses:
<https://kentchoices.info/search-apply-2324>

With sixth form - will priority be given to young people who currently attend that school? We want to understand more about how they select students if they are oversubscribed. Is it like usual admissions? i.e., distance, sibling link etc.

- Schools will have varying selection processes; these will consist of young people achieving the set entry requirements for the school/course they would

like to study. Priority is not necessarily given to those who are currently attending the school, have a sibling at the school or live closest to it. Check the entry criteria on KentChoices of the school/college website.

How do you sign up for college?

- All colleges in Kent now accept applications via KentChoices. [Search for colleges](#)

When we visited a college last weekend, we were asked to apply on that day. Do we need to apply via KentChoices and the college?

- Your young person will not need to apply via KentChoices if you made an application directly to the college on the day. Your young person may want to make other applications via KentChoices as their back up plan though.

For sixth form: If I apply for a course before the deadline, does it make a difference how early I have applied, i.e., do earlier applications have a higher chance of acceptance?

- An early application does not mean a higher chance of acceptance at a school or college. Applications allow schools and colleges to gain an understanding of the possible numbers on their courses. We recommend applying early for popular courses at colleges as these do fill up quickly.

Can I still change my application for sixth form after completing the applications before Christmas?

- If you need to make any changes to an application you have already submitted, you can click the 'withdraw' button and select 'change'. You will then have the option to amend and resubmit.

Can you make more than one application for a school but for different courses?

- You can usually only make one application per sixth form, so make sure to add all chosen courses to that application. If you change your mind, you can

message your school to return you application and amend your choices before their application window closes.

- When applying for college, you can make multiple applications for different courses.

Is there a closing date for applications?

- Applications opened on KentChoices on the 1 November 2023. Some schools may have later opening dates and varying closing dates. Most tend to keep applications open until February time but do check with the schools directly in case these are earlier.

I have tried applying for courses on KentChoices but it's asking for qualifications and I haven't finished my GCSEs yet. What do I do?

- When making applications to post 16 options you don't need to have your final results but you will need to put in the predicated GCSE grades. Your school will base these around mock exams you have taken and will share the grades with you. Add any predicted grades you have to your applications. If you don't have them, ask your school.

KentChoices Questions

For sixth form, do you also have to apply direct to the school as well as via KentChoices?

- No, if the school are accepting applications via KentChoices you do not need to apply to the school directly.

When do you get login details for KentChoices?

- Login details for KentChoices are provided by the young person's school, if the school have not issued these yet, please contact them in the first instance. If the school are choosing not to use KentChoices, please contact the KentChoices team via the website or via the email address:

KentChoices@theeducationpeople.org

- For young people who are home educated or currently study outside of Kent, you can self-register on KentChoices and make applications this way. Here's a guide that shows the process: <https://kentchoices.info/how-to-self-register>

Do all schools accept applications via Kent choices?

- Yes, this is correct. Most schools use KentChoices for their applications. There are some schools who do not, however. Find out how to apply for these at open events, by visiting their website or the course information provided on KentChoices.
- Here is a list of the sixth forms who do not currently accept applications via KentChoices: *Cranbrook School, Dartford Grammar School for Girls, Dartford Science & Technology College, Dover Grammar School for Boys, Duke of York's Royal Military School, Ebbsfleet Academy (The), Gravesend Grammar School, Hayesbrook School (The)(Now Leigh Academy Tonbridge), Invicta Grammar School, Judd School (The), Leigh Academy (LAT16), Leigh UTC (The), Longfield Academy, Maidstone Grammar School, Mascalls Academy, Northfleet School for Girls, Sir Roger Manwood's School, Skinners School (The), Stone Lodge School, Tonbridge Grammar, Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School, Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys, Weald of Kent Grammar School, WG6 (Joint Sixth Form) Wilmington Girls and Boys, Wilmington Academy (LAT16).*

Qualification Questions

Can you explain what the different qualification levels mean?

- There are currently nine qualification levels in the UK, four of which you may encounter on your young person's post-16 journey:
 - Entry level (E.g., functional skills, essential skills, Skills for Life)
 - Level 1 (E.g., functional skills, essential skills, GCSE grades 1,2 & 3)
 - Level 2 (E.g., intermediate apprenticeships, GCSE grades 9, 8, 7, 6, 5 & 4)
 - Level 3 (E.g., AS/A Levels, T Levels, advanced apprenticeships)

[Click here to find out more about qualification levels](#)

Do young people receive support to find a workplace when doing a T Level?

- The school or college that are offering T Levels as an option will support a young person to secure a suitable work placement as part of the qualification.

[Find out more about T Levels](#)

What is a BTEC?

- A BTEC stands for Business and Technology Education Council. They are practical and/or vocational qualifications that can be studied at school or college. They can be studied from Level 1 to Level 3. Level 3 BTEC qualifications are equivalent to A Levels.

Can a young person apply for different types of education provider?

- Yes. A young person can apply to a college and a sixth form if they wish.

Can you apply for a BTEC Level 3 if you haven't done Level 2?

- Yes, you can apply for BTEC Level 3 without completing Level 2, but your GCSE results matter. Grades 4-9 are like Level 2 qualifications and will most often meet entry requirements. Make sure to check the sixth form or college for specific entry requirements though!

Apprenticeship Questions

Where is the best source to look for apprenticeships?

- You can find the Government's apprenticeship vacancy feed on KentChoices: <https://kentchoices.info/find-an-apprenticeship>
- Once on the Gov.uk website, you can set up an account and make applications to opportunities that are available. Please note: You cannot apply for apprenticeships using your KentChoices account.
- Please be aware that not all companies advertise their vacancies on the government's site, so make sure to check their own websites too.

- Further information on apprenticeships can be found at <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

Are apprenticeships the same as Level 2 or 3 training courses?

- Yes. Apprenticeships can be studied at Intermediate, Advanced or Higher/Degree Level. Intermediate apprenticeships are level 2 equivalent and advanced are level 3 equivalent. More information on apprenticeship levels can be found at <https://www.findapprenticeships.co.uk/apprenticeship-levels/>

Can I do an apprenticeship and A Levels at the same time? E.g., studying A Levels in the day and doing the apprenticeship training in the evening?

- No. Both opportunities are considered to be full time, A young person does have the option to complete their A Levels and then look to apply for an apprenticeship afterwards. Apprenticeships are open to anyone over the age of 16, there is no upper age limited and can be applied for at any time.

Should I be applying for apprenticeships now?

- It is recommended that you start to look at the apprenticeship opportunities that are available in the industry sector that interests you. Information on sectors can be found here <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/employers/browse-by-sector>
- When looking at opportunities, do look at when the start date of the apprenticeship is, some companies may be looking for someone to start before you have finished Year 11.

What if? Questions

What are my young person's options if they don't achieve any passes at GCSE?

- Depending on their results, they may still get a spot in school or college. Typically, schools look for grades 4 or above in English and Maths. If not, there are vocational courses at level 2 and level 1 available at college. Start by talking to your school and if they can't assist you, [contact us](#).

If a child has been out of school for 2 years what are their options, can they re-take years? Is there anywhere where a young person can repeat a programme of GCSEs rather than do a BTEC Level 2?

- There is not the opportunity to re-sit the whole of Year 10 or Year 11. A young person may be offered resits in GCSE English and Maths at a school or college if they achieved a grade 3. For those who have achieved below this and attending college, they may be offered Functional Skills qualifications to continue to support their English and Maths development. Talk to a college as early as possible to establish your options.

What happens if my young person does not sit any GCSE exams?

- If a young person does not sit their GCSE exams, there are some Level 1 vocational courses at the colleges across Kent that do not have any entry requirements. These courses do become oversubscribed and may not be an in area of study that a young person wants to pursue. Talk to a college as early as possible to establish your options.
- If a young person not secure education or training, a referral can be made to the NEET Support Service. The team are available to provide free support to any young person aged 16-18 years old who is not in education, employment or training. [Find out more](#)

If a young person wants to consider options outside of Kent, can they still get support from KentChoices? E.g. I live in Dartford. If we want to apply for any Bexley Schools, is this through KentChoices?

- KentChoices and the Engagement Team can offer support on the type of options that are available post 16 and can suggest alternatives that are out of the Kent area, for example if our young person is considering schools or colleges in the London Borough of Bromley. [Get in touch to find out more.](#)
- Here is a list of 'out of county' providers currently advertising on KentChoices:
 - Ark Alexandra Academy (East Sussex)
 - Bexhill College (East Sussex)
 - Charlton Athletic (London)
 - East Sussex College
 - Plumpton College (East Sussex)
 - Uplands Academy (East Sussex)

What if my child does not know what career path to take?

- It is ok if your young person does not know what career path they want to take. Each school and college have a careers team, so we would encourage young people to seek additional support from this team initially for guidance.
- The National Careers Service also has lots of information on about career pathways <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>
- We would encourage a young person to pick options and/or subjects they are interested to study over the 2-year period and keep these broad if possible. This will leave more options available to them when they may have a clearer idea about what career path to take.

What happens if I get higher GCSE grades than expected and want to look at other options?

- On results day, please contact the school or college you are interested in directly if a young person does better than expected. They may be able to offer a place on a course or on subjects at this point.

What happens if I get lower GCSE grades than expected and want to look at other options?

- If a young person's grades are lower than expected, encourage them to speak to the school or college and see what else they can offer based on the qualifications received.

What happens if a child has mental health disorders and they are too unwell to complete any of these options?

- In the first instance please discuss this with the young person's school, if they are home educated, please talk to you EHE worker.
- If the school cannot help, [contact KentChoices](#) and we can look at what provision is available at the time.

Any other Questions

What advice would you give a student with EHCP when visiting open evenings?

- We advise that you contact Kent County Council's SEND Information Hub for advice - [Support for Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities](#)

Will you have to complete an interview after applying for any college course?

- Yes. Colleges and some sixth forms usually ask for an interview after you apply. These interviews are designed to find out more about you and why you want to take the course. Depending on the application, you might need to prepare work, a portfolio, or show specific skills during the interview.

My young person wants to start full time work when they are 16 years old. Do they have to continue education as well?

- Young people should study towards to a recognised qualification while undertaking employment before the age of 18. More information can be found on the following websites:
 - [KentChoices | Employability support courses](#)
 - [Gov.uk | Know when you can leave school](#)
 - [Gov.uk | Participation of young people in education, employment or training](#)

If my child does not have an ECHP but has a diagnosis of Autism, do they get any extra help getting into their current school for sixth form?

- We advise that you contact Kent County Council's SEND Information Hub for advice - [Support for Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities](#)

Do you apply to re-sit maths and English at a later stage once the grades are out?

- Depending on the grade achieved in these subjects a school or college may offer the opportunity to re-sit these qualifications. A college for example will enrol the young person automatically onto a GCSE or Functional Skill in these subjects, this will be discussed at enrolment. There is not a set provision that offers these as a stand-alone re-sit option.

Will young people receive several offers and then make a final decision upon receiving results?

- Yes, young people may receive several offers and will need to accept these and then rank them in order of preference. Once they have received their results, they can accept whichever they prefer (depending on their results).
- We also recommend letter the school or college know that they no longer wish to accept the place they were offered.