

Next Steps

What happens after Year 11

2023/24

achieving for children

Achieving for Children (AfC) delivers services to children, young people and their families in Kingston and Richmond.

Our teams understand that you face big decisions about what to do after your GCSEs, so this booklet will help you to think about work and education, in order to make decisions that are right for you. It gives you details on schools, colleges and other places you can go for more help and information.

If you need some extra support finding further education, or with your learning, you might find the text in blue boxes useful. You can also look out for details of learning programmes that offer additional help, in the yellow boxes in the following pages.

Achieving for Children websites:

www.kr.afcinfo.org.uk/youngpeople

https://kr.afcinfo.org.uk/local_offer

Reaching holistic outcomes

If you are a young person who has extra support with your learning, we want to ensure that you get the right support for post-16 opportunities. To help you to have a successful transition from school, our advisers can support you so that your future needs are identified at an early stage. You can start to think about the sort of job you might want to do as an adult and the preparation and help you might need to achieve this.

Raising the participation age

The government has increased the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training. It's called **raising the participation age or RPA.**

Raising the participation age means you must continue in education or training until you are 18. It does not mean you must stay in school. You can choose one of the following options.

- Full-time education, such as school, college or learning provider
- Work-based learning, such as an apprenticeship or traineeship
- Part-time education or training if you are employed, self-employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week

Levels of learning

Entry Level	Your first step if you have no GCSEs or formal qualifications and need additional support.
Level 1	Some Level 1 courses have no entry requirements, but check with your training provider or college. Level 1 is equivalent to GCSE at Grades 1 to 3.
Level 2	A full Level 2 is equivalent to 5 GCSE Grades 4 to 9 or equivalent, like BTEC. English and maths GCSEs at Level 2 (or level 2 functional skills) will give you more work and training opportunities.
Level 3	You will usually be required to complete a Level 2 programme to enrol on Level 3. You may need Grades 4, 5 or above in English and maths. If you are progressing into an A Level programme, you may need a specific grade (such as 5 or 6) in the subjects you chose to study.

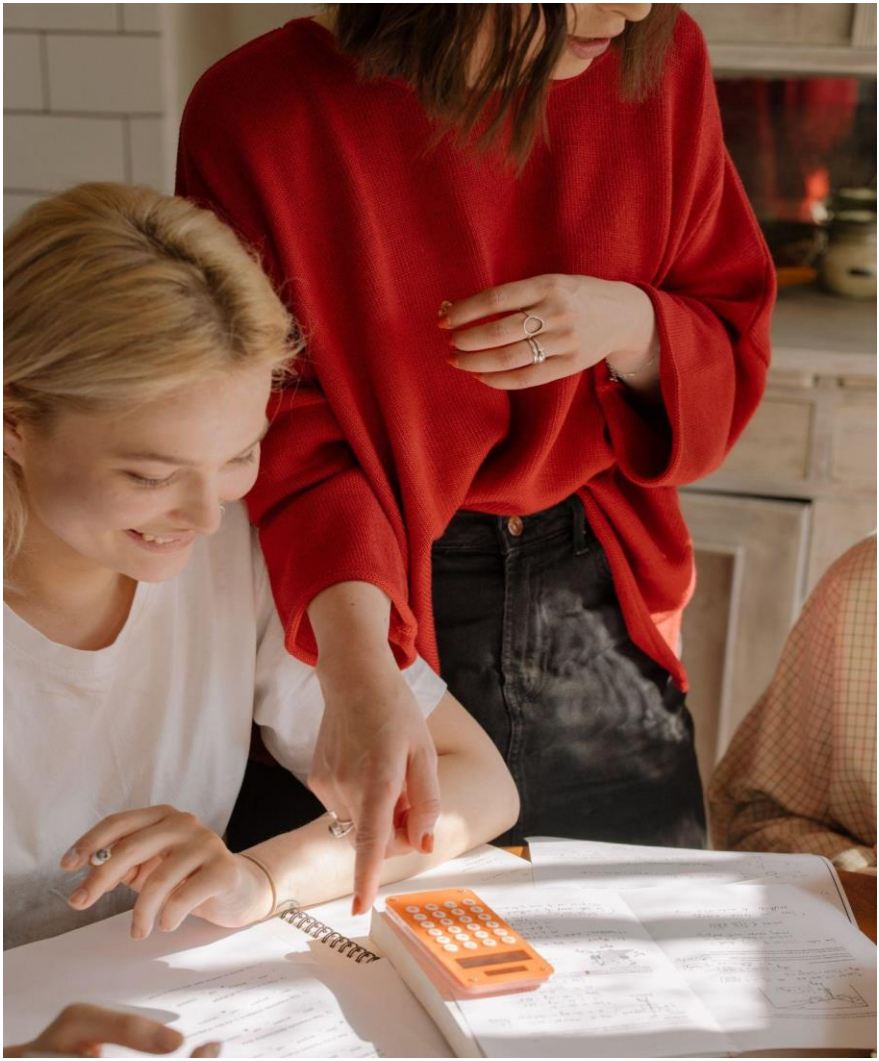
Progression routes

Entry Level		Skills for Life and vocational qualifications	Supported Internship
Level 1	GCSEs (1 to 4)	Skills for Life and vocational qualifications	Supported internship Traineeship
Level 2	GCSEs (4 to 9)	Skills for Life and vocational qualifications	Intermediate apprenticeship
Level 3	A Levels	Vocational qualifications	Advanced apprenticeship
Level 4	University		Higher or Degree apprenticeship

GCSEs are graded from 1 to 9, with the 9 being the highest grade. To progress on to a Level 3 programme after GCSEs, schools and colleges require that you have got at least 5 GCSEs at Grades 4 and above. You will usually need to get a Grade 5 or 6 in the subjects you wish to study at Level 3.

1. Choices

Here are some popular options you can choose from after your GCSEs.



School sixth form (age 16 to 18)

In most sixth forms, you will study towards a Level 3 qualification, usually A Levels or BTEC qualifications. Most schools will expect you to do three Level 3 qualifications. A school sixth form will be smaller than a college, which you may like if you would rather be in smaller groups for learning.

Most schools in Kingston and Richmond have sixth forms, contact them to find out about their application process.

Sixth form college

Similarly to a school sixth form, you will likely be expected to undertake three Level 3 qualifications and you will be expected to study on your own outside lessons. Some sixth form colleges also offer Level 2 courses so check their websites to see what is available.

You will not have to wear a uniform, and are usually given more independence than at a school sixth form.

Further education (FE) college

Colleges offer a wide variety of courses for people aged 16+ to choose from. All FE colleges offer vocational courses and some also offer A Levels. There are many large FE colleges in Kingston and Richmond as well as others within easy travelling distance. Some colleges specialise in a particular subject area.

Although you will be expected to turn up for your scheduled classes, you will have more time to study on your own. Sometimes your timetable will mean you might not have to attend for a full day.

Vocational pathways

Vocational pathways prepare you for employment by providing work placements alongside study.

Traineeships

A traineeship is a study programme that combines work experience, maths and English support and employability skills training.

Traineeships could be between six weeks and one year-long depending on the young person and employer's requirements. Some training providers are flexible and offer rolling start dates and help match you with an employer that links to your interests.

Others will have set programmes and start dates led by one particular large employer.

Visit this link to find out more about traineeships: www.gov.uk/find-traineeship.

Not all opportunities are advertised on the Find a traineeship site, so you could also contact some local providers such as:

Prevista

Pickup Academy

Brentford FC

Harlequins Foundation

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a full time job with accredited training. You will need to apply and be successful at an interview with an employer to obtain an apprenticeship. As part of your apprenticeship you will gain technical knowledge, practical experience and skills in your work area.

Your training provider can provide extra support with the training aspect of your apprenticeship, depending on your needs. The provider will have staff you can discuss your individual needs with.

Preparing for Adulthood Apprenticeship Information for young people with SEND

If you are undertaking an apprenticeship, your employer is required to support you by providing reasonable adjustments if you have a disability or long-term health condition. For example, you may need to be provided with a special piece of equipment to help you do the job.

For more information on reasonable adjustments in the workplace visit: www.gov.uk/reasonable-adjustments-for-disabled-workers.

Visit https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship to find out more about current apprenticeship opportunities.

You can also visit the Way2Work website to view the vacancies on offer from AfC's apprenticeship provider.

The current national minimum wage for an apprentice is £4.81, although many pay higher than this.

Supported internships

Supported internships suit learners who benefit from long term, structured work experience with a job coach. Internships provide more support than a traineeship or apprenticeship can normally offer. Internships can last for a year and include unpaid work placements of at least six months, supported by a job coach. There will also be the option to study English and maths and other relevant qualifications.

You will need to have an EHCP to be eligible.

You need to apply for these programmes in the same way as you would apply for a college place, so contact them early.

The below organisations offer local supported internship provision:

Kingston College

Mencap

West Thames College

West London Alliance

West London Alliance collates an annual booklet providing information on local supported internships and how you can apply. You can read the 2022 edition here.

If you are able to travel outside the local area, see further opportunities below:

TFL - Steps into Work

Ambitious about Autism

Orchard Hill

Local post-16 study programmes

FE colleges and some other organisations also offer post 16 study programmes. These are usually focused on a specific subject and also include maths and English to help you improve your levels in these subjects, a qualification based around a specific industry, and an enrichment activity such as work experience or volunteering. These programmes are delivered in small groups, often in a training centre or on an employer's premises.

You can find some local opportunities here:

Harlequins Foundation Charlton Athletic

Employment

Until you are 18 you are required to undertake training alongside employment and this should be towards an accredited qualification. Once you are 18 you no longer need to train, if you choose not to. Being in a full time job means working for 30 to 40 hours a week. In return, you will have a contract of employment. This sets out what you get paid and what is expected of you, such as punctuality, hours of work and workplace behaviour.

There is a national minimum wage - check the table below.

	Apprentice	Under 18	18 to 20	21 to 22	23+
April 2022 onwards	£4.81	£4.81	£6.83	£9.18	£9.50

2. Courses



Search for subjects

See below a summary of the **most popular courses** at colleges in Kingston, Richmond and the surrounding area.

Please note that there are more courses available in these colleges.

Animal studies	**EL**	**L1**	**L2**	**L3**
NESCOT College		●	●	●
Capel Manor College		●	●	●
Art, digital media and music technology	**EL**	**L1**	**L2**	**L3**
Richmond upon Thames College		●	●	●
Kingston College			●	●
Carshalton College		●	●	●
West Thames College		●	●	●
Brooklands College		●	●	●
Strode's College			●	●
NESCOT College		●	●	●

Beauty and hair	**EL**	**L1**	**L2**	**L3**
Brooklands College		●	●	●
NESCOT College		●	●	
Kingston College	●	●	●	●
Merton College				
Carshalton College		●	●	●
South Thames College		●	●	●
West Thames College		●	●	●
Business administration	**EL**	**L1**	**L2**	**L3**
Kingston College		●	●	●
NESCOT College			●	●
Richmond upon Thames College			●	●
Brooklands College		●	●	●
Merton College			●	●
South Thames College			●	●
West Thames College		●	●	●

Catering and hospitality	**EL**	**L1**	**L2**	**L3**
Brooklands College		●	●	●
NESCOT College		●	●	
Richmond upon Thames College		●	●	●
Merton College		●	●	●
Childcare, health and social care	**EL**	**L1**	**L2**	**L3**
Brooklands College		●	●	●
Kingston College		●	●	●
NESCOT College		●	●	●
Richmond upon Thames College		●	●	●
Merton College		●	●	●
Carshalton College		●	●	●
South Thames College		●	●	●
West Thames College		●	●	●
Strode's College		●	●	●

Construction and trades	**EL**	**L1**	**L2**	**L3**
Brooklands College		●	●	●
NESCOT College		●	●	●
Richmond upon Thames College		●	●	●
Merton College			●	
South Thames College			●	●
West Thames College		●	●	●
Engineering	**EL**	**L1**	**L2**	**L3**
Brooklands College		●	●	●
Kingston College		●	●	●
Richmond upon Thames College		●	●	●
Merton College		●	●	
West Thames College		●	●	●
ESOL/FL	**EL**	**L1**	**L2**	**L3**
Brooklands College			●	
Kingston College	●	●		
Richmond upon Thames College	●	●		
West Thames College	●	●	●	

Performing arts and drama	EL	L1	L2	L3
NESCOT College			●	●
Richmond upon Thames College			●	●
South Thames College			●	●
West Thames College			●	●
Sports, health and fitness	**EL**	**L1**	**L2**	**L3**
Brooklands College			●	●
NESCOT College		●	●	●
Richmond upon Thames College		●	●	●
Carshalton College		●	●	●
West Thames College		●	●	●
Kingston College		●	●	●
South Thames College		●	●	●
Strode's College		●	●	●

Supported learning	**EL**	**L1**	**L2**	**L3**
Brooklands College	●			
NESCOT College	●	●		
Richmond upon Thames College	●	●		
Carshalton College	●			
West Thames College	●			
Kingston College	●	●		
Merton College	●	●		
South Thames College	●			
Vehicle maintenance and repair	**EL**	**L1**	**L2**	**L3**
Kingston College		●	●	●
NESCOT College		●	●	●
Carshalton College		●	●	●
West Thames College		●	●	●

3. Local places to study



Kingston College

Kingston Hall Road
Kingston upon Thames KT12AQ

T: 020 8546 2151
W: http://stcg.ac.uk/kingston
Kingston College also offers apprenticeships

Supported learning

Support for people 16 to 24 years at Entry Level to Level 1, with an EHCP. All students follow practical options in hospitality and catering.

Or

Structured study based with an employer. Enables young people with learning difficulties to find paid employment by equipping them with work skills.

E: send.com.officer@stcg.ac.uk

Careers Advice Team Drop in to the Student Support Centre
(G75 at Kingston Hall Road)
T: 020 8268 2555
E: careers@stcg.ac.uk

Richmond upon Thames College

Langhorn Drive
Twickenham TW2 7SJ

T: 020 8607 8000
W: www.rutc.ac.uk

Education and training for people aged 16+. Wide range of qualifications including A Levels, vocational courses, apprenticeships, GCSE Pathway, access to higher education and higher education.

Apprenticeships

T: 020 8607 8000
E: apprenticeships@rutc.ac.uk

16-19 Admissions: 020 8607 8000
E: admissions@rutc.ac.uk

Supported learning

Entry and Level 1 vocational and life skills for young people with an EHCP aged 16 to 24.

English, maths, IT, work experience, volunteering and job coaching.

Paul Smyth:
T: 020 8607 8173
E: paul.smyth@rutc.ac.uk

Learning support

E: als.referrals@rutc.ac.uk

Brooklands College

Weybridge Campus
Heath Road
Weybridge KT13 8TT

T: 01932 797797
E: info@brooklands.ac.uk
W: www.brooklands.ac.uk

A large further education college close to Weybridge in Surrey. Entry Level courses offering pathways to employment or independent living. Vocational programmes at Levels 1 and 2.

London College of Beauty Therapy (LCBT)

47 Great Marlborough Street
London W1F 7JP

T: 020 7208 1300
E: info@lcbt.co.uk
W: www.lcbt.co.uk

A specialist college in central London offering courses in beauty, media make-up and fitness for 16 to 18 year olds. Phone or sign up on their website to attend an open day

Sutton and District Training

W: www.suttondistrict.co.uk

Enrolment is welcomed throughout the year. Foundation learning programmes with vocational qualifications in construction, hair and beauty, e-sports, and customer services.

Sutton
660 London Road
Sutton SM3 9BZ

T: 020 8254 083

Merton
Rosehill Court
St Helier Avenue
Morden SM4 6JS

T: 020 8685 0622

Carshalton
Lawn View Grove Park
High Street
Carshalton SM5 3BB

T: 020 8687 5225

Nescot

Reigate Road
Epsom KT17 3DS

T: 020 8394 3038
E: info@Nescot.ac.uk
W: www.nescot.ac.uk

A further education college based in Epsom offering entry level qualifications. Varied vocational curriculums and apprenticeships offered from Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 with progression on to some Higher Education options.

Supported learning

Foundation learning for people with mild to moderate learning difficulties or disabilities. Vocational courses from Entry Level 1 to Entry Level 3. Preparation for employment through work experience and work-related activities.

Merton College

London Road
Morden SM4 5QZ

T: 020 8918 7777
W: http://stcg.ac.uk/merton

Part of the South Thames Colleges' Group. Specialises in getting students ready for work or higher education and offers subjects such as business and computing, hair and beauty, construction, catering, travel and tourism. Courses start in September.

Supported learning

Skills for Work Life programme for learners with moderate learning difficulties, or learners with autistic spectrum disorder and complex needs. Individually tailored to 16 to 25 year olds who want to develop practical skills for personal development.

Strode's College

High Street
Egham TW20 9DR

T: 01784 437506
E: admissions@strodes.ac.uk
W: www.strodes.ac.uk

Sixth form college for students aged 16 to 18. Wide range of A Level and BTEC courses, Level 2 courses and a variety of enrichment courses. Vocational and BTEC Level 2 courses which are practical and work-related, assessed through assignments, not exams.

Support 4 Learning

Support for students with learning needs or disabilities. Help with transition from school or home-learning to college. For further information please contact the Support 4 Learning team.

E: courseinfo@strode-college.ac.uk

West Thames College

London Road
Isleworth TW7 4HS

T: 020 8326 2054
W: www.west-thames.ac.uk

Medium-sized college in the London Borough of Hounslow. The main campus is in Isleworth with a smaller skills centre in Feltham. The college offers a wide range of vocational courses up to higher education level.

Supported learning

Support for learners with a disability or learning difficulty. Vocational courses to develop communication, numeracy and interpersonal skills. For more information about the supported learning courses available contact the Admissions team.

T: 020 8326 2020 or visit their website

M.I.T. Skills

M.I.T. Skills - West London
TW8 9DD

T: 08454 309009

M.I.T. Skills - West Byfleet
KT14 6EW

T: 08454 309009

M.I.T. Skills specialises in work-based learning, apprenticeship preparation, apprenticeships, traineeships and study programmes.

A wide range of options for those who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), including traineeship and pre-apprenticeship programmes.

You can find more information on this here.

South Thames College

T: 020 8918 7777
E: info@south-thames.ac.uk
W: http://stcg.ac.uk/souththames

Part of the South Thames Colleges' Group with campuses in Wandsworth, Tooting and Roehampton. Entry Level to higher education qualifications as well as courses for personal development.

Capel Manor College

The Walled Garden, Gunnersbury Park
London W3 8LQ

T: 0303 003 1234
E: study@capel.ac.uk
W: www.capel.ac.uk

Capel Manor College is a leading education provider for those interested in working with plants, animals, flowers, trees and the environment.

Esher Sixth Form College

KT7 0JB

T: 020 8398 0291
E: info@esher.ac.uk
W: https://www.esher.ac.uk/Pages/default.aspx

Esher Sixth Form College is a large sixth form College provider based in Surrey, offering a range of BTEC National and A level courses to 16-18 year olds residing in South West London and Surrey.

Carshalton College

Nightingale Road
Carshalton SM5 2EJ

T: 020 8544 4501
E: admissions@carshalton.ac.uk
W: stcg.ac.uk/carshalton

Part of the South Thames Colleges' Group, Carshalton College is situated in the London Borough of Sutton. Study vocational education at all levels including full and part time courses, apprenticeships undergraduate and foundation learning.

Supported learning

Help for students who need support with learning skills and qualifications and preparation for work and independent living.

4. Stepping stones to work or study



There are many local courses, some in which you can work towards your English and maths GCSE (or functional skills) as well as getting support to equip you for getting a job.

Volunteering

Volunteering provides you with work experience, can build confidence and helps you to meet people and learn skills for work. You can volunteer as well as study at school or college.

Search for 'volunteering' on www.kr.afcinfo.org.uk for local and national voluntary organisations offering opportunities for young people.

Richmond volunteering
https://www.richmond.gov.uk/volunteering_richmond

Kingston volunteering
https://www.volunteeringkingston.org.uk/

How AfC can help

Achieving for Children offers a number of opportunities to gain support if you are not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Local Offer website

For information about support available for families with children and young people aged 0 to 25 years with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND), visit: www.afcinfo.org.uk/local_offer

The website contains information on educational opportunities and help to get into employment.

Pre-employment support

AfC offers a range of workshops, practical opportunities, online training, one-to-one support and more designed for young people aged 16+ who are not in education, employment or training. These programmes provide employability and life skills training; and support into choosing your next steps in employment or education.

Next Steps News

Next Steps News is AfC's regular newsletter designed to provide young people with the latest information on local training opportunities, useful training resources, apprenticeship vacancies and other local employment opportunities. You can find all the latest tips and guidance, virtual events and workshops around Kingston and Richmond borough, particularly aimed at young people aged 16 to 25. Read here, or go here to be added to the mailing list.

If you or a young person you know would benefit from any of the support above, scan the QR code and complete the form to express your interest.

Places to go for more help

Spear Programme

Free, six week course to help you get into work.

Monday to Friday, 2 to 5pm.

After the course, there is help with CVs, interview skills and support with job applications.

W: www.resurgo-spear.org

Hammersmith, Shepherd's Bush & Fulham
T: 020 8748 5824
Text: 07715 657279

Clapham Junction
T: 020 3327 0185
Text: 07947 131524

Hitz Programme

The Harlequin's Rugby Club's Hitz Programme is a fully-funded study programme. Learners must be aged 16 to 19. Courses include:

- Functional Skills English and maths (Accredited)
- Qualifications in sport, employability
- Year 2: NCFE Level 2 in Sport along with Employability Level 2
- Work experience learners with SEND up to 24 years will be considered.

You can also take part in rugby and other sports, adventure activity days and volunteering.

To find out more and sign up for this programme please contact:

T: 07817 076851
E: supporterservice@quins.co.uk

Prince's Trust

Prince's Trust programmes can help you if you are unemployed or in education, and aged between 16 and 25 years. The Team Programme is a 12 week personal development course, offering work experience, practical and employability skills, community projects and a residential week. You can achieve an award or certificate in employment, teamwork and community skills.

The programme is completely free and won't affect Jobseeker's Allowance.

To sign up you can contact the general enquiries helpline:
T: 0800 842 842

Financial help with studying

Colleges and other providers offer financial help to young people who need support to continue in education and training post 16.

If you need help to buy meals, books or other learning materials, talk to the school or college to see if they are eligible under the 616 to 19 bursary scheme. For more information, visit the website below.

W: www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund/overview

Disclaimer:

While the information is considered to be true and correct at the date of publication, changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of the information. The information may change without notice.

This booklet was printed autumn 2021.

This booklet is aimed at you as a young person making choices for your future. If you, your parents or carers, have any comments on the booklet or suggestions as to other information you think we should include, let us know.

E: 14-25@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Find the latest version of this booklet on www.afcinfo.org.uk

Search in the Kingston and Richmond area for Information and Advice - Preparing for Employment

achieving for children