YOUR FUTURE

Choices for 16-19 Year Olds

Somerset Learning Guide for young people and their parents.



Options for education, work and training





Welcome

We strongly believe that all young people in Somerset, regardless of ability or background, should achieve their full potential.

We are determined that everyone has equal access to excellent education and choice, as well as being safe, healthy, happy and resilient when learning in Somerset.

This guide will help you to find out about the many learning opportunities available in Somerset for 16-19 year olds (and 16 to 25 for SEND young people).

You may have heard that the school This guide will show you how leaving age has gone up - this isn't quite true; you are expected to stay in education or some recognised form of employment or training until you are 18, but it doesn't have to be types of schools, colleges and at school.

When choosing your next steps, whether to work for yourself or someone else, it's a good idea to develop the skills that employers are looking for, such as positive attitude, team work skills, problem-solving abilities, a hard work ethic and customer and communication skills.

qualifications and apprenticeships grow by level to help you choose the right path for you. It will also help you to understand the different training providers and give you links to find out more information.

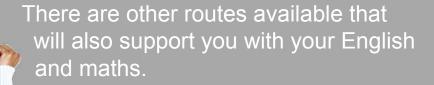
We hope that this helps you when you are thinking about your future learning and career choices. With so much choice available it is always a good idea to ask for fair advice and guidance from accredited career advisors and to check the quality of each organisation.



As you gain this experience stay confident and manage your expectations.

To be clear...

You can study full time or part time from 16. You don't have to stay at school until you gain grade 4 or above in GCSE English and maths.

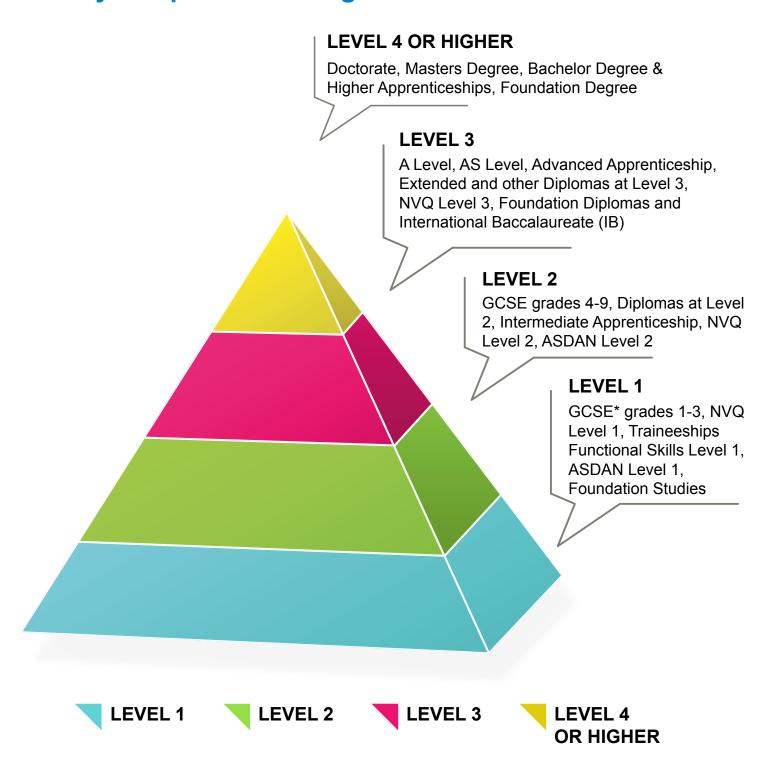






There are higher level apprenticeships that you can study at university. Sixth Form is just one of many choices available to 16 year olds. It's not too late to apply for a place in September.

How your qualifications grow



It's not too late to apply for a college place in September and remember, Apprenticeships can be applied for at any time.

Qualification Pathways

Age	Level	Qualification Pathway			Description
Usually from age 18 onwards	8	Doctorate (PhD)			Postgraduate study can take place full time or alongside employment, depending on what suits each person's circumstances.
	7	Masters Degree (MA, MSc, MPhil)			
	6	Bachelor Degree or Higher Apprenticeship OR Foundation Degree / HND / HNC within Higher Apprenticeship Foundation Diploma			Students can opt to go to university from 18 to take an undergraduate degree OR can follow an apprenticeship route to the same point - but with employment alongside.
	4				
Usually from age 16 onwards	3	AS/A Level, IB, Foundation	Extended & other Diplomas at Level 3	Advanced Apprenticeship	Some institutions offer AS level subjects, but some only offer full A levels.
		Diploma			Level 3 Extended Diplomas are equivalent to 3 A Levels.
					Diplomas are sometimes combined with A Levels.
					An Advanced Apprenticeship is equivalent to 2 A levels.
	2			Intermediate Apprenticeship	Intermediate Apprenticeships are equivalent to 5 good GCSEs.
14 to 16, but can be beyond	2	GCSE (Grade 4-9)	Diplomas, NVQs, ASDAN, Functional Skills at Level 2, VCerts		Some students choose a mixture of GCSE and Diploma courses in Year 10 and 11. A BTEC Level 2 Diploma is at the same level as a GCSE.
Age 16+	1/2			Traineeship	A Traineeship is an education and training programme with work experience that helps to unlock the great potential of young people aged 16 to 24, preparing them for their future careers by helping them to become 'work ready'.
Usually Age 11 to 16, but can be beyond	1	GCSE (Grade 1-3)	Diplomas, NVQs, ASDAN, Functional Skills at Level 1		Some students will have difficulty achieving grade 4 and above in all of their courses - but for them a grade 1-3 at GCSE or a Level 1 Diploma is a true reflection of their level of learning ability.

LEVEL 1

LEVEL 2

LEVEL 3



Schools and Academies

There are lots of different types of schools that you can choose to study at in Somerset and the South West





Schools and Academies with Sixth Forms

They cater for most students and offer a wide some will offer Level 2 and vocational options.

University Technical Colleges

The curriculum is designed in partnership with a university and combines GCSEs and A Levels with specialist technical qualifications in sectors that are growing and looking for skilled staff. Employers take an active role, regularly mentoring students and providing opportunities for work Days typically start at 8.30am and end at 5pm including time for homework. There are currently UTCs in the South West, but not yet in Somerset.

Schools & Academies with a Sixth form offer a wide range of courses including:

- Most offer A levels
- Some will offer AS levels
- Some will offer GCSEs
- Most will offer English & maths GCSEs
- Some will offer Vocational Courses



LEVEL 2

LEVEL 3



Studio Schools

Studio Schools work closely with local employers to offer a range of academic and vocational qualifications including GCSEs in English, Maths and Science, and paid work placements linked directly to employment opportunities in the local area, often with a specialism. They usually have a year-round opening (with some holidays) and a nine to five working day, so feel more like a workplace than a school.

Free Schools

Free Schools set up before May 2015 were independent state-funded schools, but are not run by the local authority. They have more control over how they do things. They are set up by groups of parents, teachers, charities, existing schools or other organisations to respond to a need for a new school in their community. To see if these schools might be a good option for you look at their websites to see what they offer.

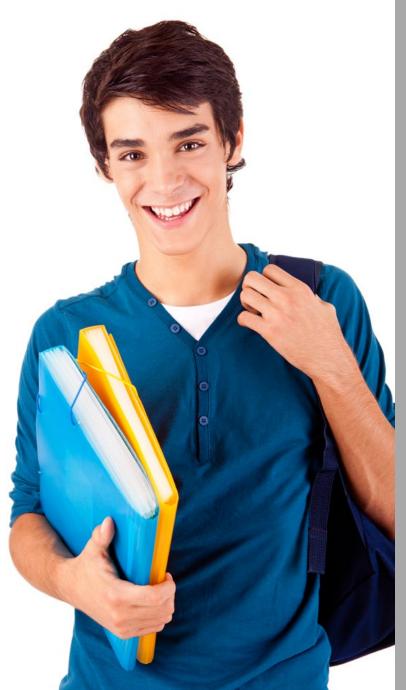
Since May 2015 any new school can be called a Free School so you may need to check their status when making contact.



Further Education Colleges

Offer a wide range of different courses. From courses that do not need any specific GCSE Grades (Foundation Studies) through to A Levels, Apprenticeships, Degrees and Professional qualifications.

Although most full time college courses are attended by 16 – 19 year olds, you will find plenty of adults studying in a college on a range of short, part-time, professional or higher education courses.



Some colleges specialise while others offer a wider curriculum. Colleges offer a wide range of courses including:

- GCSE or A levels
- Vocational courses
- · Apprenticeships and Traineeships
- Courses that prepare people for Higher Education, such as Access Courses or the Art Foundation Course.
- Vocational Higher Education courses, such as Foundation Degrees, Higher National Diplomas (HNDs) Certificates (HNCs) and Degrees.
- Foundation courses to develop maths, English, study skills, confidence and employability skills. They are designed to support progression into further study, work and adult life.

These courses can give students the chance to try out several different vocational areas.



Training Providers

Offer a range of different courses to all ability levels. From those that do not need any GCSEs to professional qualifications and Higher Level Apprenticeships.

Most offer work-based training and Apprenticeships. Many specialise in training for certain careers. Some will also offer courses to develop young people's employability skills, including Traineeships.

Most are full-time courses, but part-time and shorter courses are also available. Talk to a training provider or check details on page 21 for where you can find out more.

LEVEL 1

LEVEL 2

LEVEL 3

LEVEL 4
OR HIGHER



Starting a career... **Apprenticeships**

Apprenticeships

An Apprenticeship is a great way to build your career. You learn on the job, building up knowledge and skills, gaining qualifications and earning money at the same time.

You will be employed, spending most of your time in the workplace gaining job-specific skills, but you will also be supported by a Training Provider or FE college to build up your knowledge and qualifications.

Apprenticeship training can take between one and four years to complete and the length of your apprenticeship will depend on its level, the industry you're training in and the skills you already have.

All apprentices under the age of 19, or in their first year of an Apprenticeship will currently be paid at least £3.70 per hour.

Many apprentices earn significantly more than this.

Find out more at https://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide

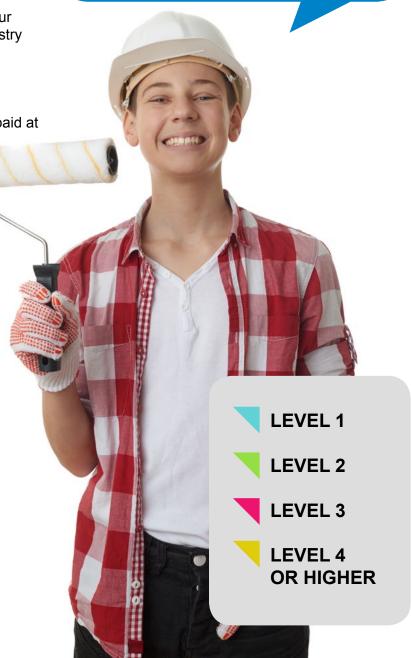
Degree Apprenticeships

Degree Apprenticeships combine fulltime work with free part-time university study. Programmes last between one and five years to make sure that apprentices graduate with the career-boosting practical skills their industry needs, with a Bachelor level qualification and no tuition fees to pay, as these are paid by the employer and the government. You will receive your Apprenticeship wage throughout and have full-time employment status.

Higher & Degree Apprenticeships (level 4 & above).

You must be 16 or over to start an apprenticeship and there are three levels you can study at:

- Apprenticeship (Level 2)
- Advanced apprenticeship (Level 3)
- Higher Apprenticeship (Level 4 & above)
- Degree Apprenticeship



Starting a career... **Traineeships**

Traineeships

to work but who need extra help to gain an Apprenticeship or job. You won't be paid, but to get an Apprenticeship or job.

They are short-term courses that last between 6 weeks and 6 months.

Traineeships have three core elements:

- 1. High-quality work placement to develop work-place skills and prove yourself to an employer
- 2. A focussed period of work preparation training focussing on CV writing, interview preparation and job search skills
- 3. English and Maths (if you haven't already got a GCSE grade 4-9 in these subjects)



Higher Education

Higher education means any sort of nationally recognised qualification which is at Level 4 or above. A degree starts at Level 4 and progresses to Level 6 in the third year. Higher education qualifications include:

- Higher & Degree Level Apprenticeships (level 4 & 5)
- Foundation Degrees
- HNDs
- HNCs
- Bachelor Degrees

Although in the past higher education courses were just delivered at universities, they are now also offered by Further Education colleges and also by some training providers in Somerset.

So, if you have Level 3 qualifications like A Levels, Advanced Apprenticeship, or a BTEC National, then you could explore higher level study at 18/19. If you haven't, but would be interested in higher level study later, there are lots of ways in, through Access courses and through study alongside work. Talk to an FE College or Training Provider for more information.

Foundation Degrees

Foundation Degrees are vocationally focused Level 5 qualifications that equate to the first 2 years of a Bachelor's Degree (BSc/BA Hons). They incorporate an element of work-based learning or practice, meaning that following completion you will have experience within the industry, career or profession you are hoping to enter. All Foundation Degrees have an automatic progression to the final year of a Bachelor's Degree programme in that subject meaning that you can complete 2 qualifications and attain work experience within the same period of time you would complete a 3-year degree. The big difference between Foundation Degrees and HND programmes of the same level (Level 5), is that Foundation Degrees have a guaranteed progression to complete the full-degree.

> Most young people are 18 or over when they start Higher Education.

There are lots of different types of higher education level courses available.

LEVEL 1

LEVEL 2

LEVEL 3

LEVEL 4 OR HIGHER



SEND provision (16-25yrs)

SEN and Disabilities Provision

If you are 16-25 and have a Statement, a Learning Difficulty Assessment or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) there are lots of options to prepare you for adulthood. The aim is for young people to move into work.

For a full range of options visit

www.somersetchoices.org.uk

All previous options are available including Supported Internships which are a new type of programme specifically aimed at a young person aged 16 to 25 who has a statement of special educational needs, a Learning Difficulty Assessment, or an Education, Health and Care Plan, who wants to move into employment and needs extra support to do so. The Internship normally lasts for one year and includes an unpaid work placement of at least six months. Placements may be with one employer or several according to the young person's needs.

The aim is for young people to move into work.



Essential Information

Financial Support - If you're about to start any education beyond 16 and think you might struggle with the associated cost of full-time further education (e.g. books or equipment) or training, there are different bursaries to which you can apply to get financial support. Each provider can give you more information.

Transport - Somerset County Council - the Local Authority (LA) offer a student 'County Ticket' to enable young people to attend the learning/training centre of their choice provided applicants meet the eligibility criteria of:

- · Being over the statutory school leaving age of 16 on 1st September of the current academic year.
- Attending a course of Further Education or training compliant with legislation relating to the raising of the participation age.

More information and costs can be found at http://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-parking-andtransport/public-transport/county-ticket/



National Careers Service

The National Careers Service is a free resource that makes it easy for everyone to find accurate information about learning and work, with a helpline giving professional advice on making the right choices. It is for everyone aged 13 and over across England.

The National Careers Service can be accessed online, including through webchat, at www. nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk and over the telephone, free from a landline, on 0800 100 900, between 8am to 10pm, seven days a week. Adults aged 19 or over, or those aged 18 and over and in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance can access face-toface careers advice in their community.

Ways they can help you:

- Helping to explore your career options Identifying your skills and strengths
- Producing a winning CV
- Job search techniques
- One-to-one support or group information sessions
- Confidence and motivation
- Support to access training to meet skills gaps
- Introduction to the National Careers Service website form
- Accessing local labour market information

Remember:

All young people are expected to stay in education or training until they are 18. This could be through any of the options we have highlighted, even a job, if it has accredited training. Accredited training will give you qualifications that will help you to progress further in your career, earn more money and have better job security.

Now I've read the information what do I do?

- Talk to an accredited career advisor and family / friends about your next steps.
- Find out more by researching all the options, start with the websites below.
- Go to open evenings or taster days.
- Apply for several things to keep your options open.

Careers Advice: 0800 100 900 www.careerpilot.org.uk

Apprenticeships and Traineeships:

Find vacancies, case studies and training providers.

Remember that vacancies can change on a daily basis:

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Job Opportunities in Somerset - Key Priority Areas

Nuclear & Energy:

Experts predict that the UK's energy and utility workforce will need to increase by more than 200,000 people by 2023. There's a particularly strong demand for engineers and scientists and the UK must recruit 50,000 engineers by 2034 to secure future power supplies.

There are currently more than 60,000 people employed in the nuclear power industry - and this number is growing. The government has decided that nuclear power should be part of the UK's low-carbon energy mix, as we move away from burning fossil fuels. Nuclear power currently contributes around 18% of the UK's electricity.

There'll also be an increase in renewable power jobs. The government is targeting renewable sources such as wind, solar and tidal energy to provide 15% of our power by 2020. To meet targets, the UK must build 7,500 offshore turbines in the next three or four years. Graduates entering the energy and utilities sector can expect:

- high starting salaries, with companies paying entrylevel graduates an average of £32,500
- varied work environments, including offices, laboratories, or offshore locations
- Opportunities to work worldwide, especially in the extraction, nuclear and exploration industries.

Digital Technology:

With nine out of 10 new jobs today needing some level of IT skills it's hard to escape it. There are so many exciting and rewarding careers within science, engineering and technology – fashion, gaming, digital media, music, motor sport, aerospace...Why not become expert and help the UK become the best innovators in the world?

Key areas in the next 5 years include:

- Big Data (including market and customer insight and predictive analytics)
- · Content marketing
- Communities (branded niche or vertical communities)
- Conversion rate optimisation (CRO) / improving website experiences
- Display (banners on publishers, ad networks social media including retargeting and programmatic)
- Internet of Things (IoT) marketing applications
 Marketing Automation (including CRM, behavioural Email marketing and web personalisation)
- Mobile marketing (mobile advertising, site development and apps)
- Paid search marketing, e.g. Google AdWords Pay Per Click Online PR (including influencer outreach)
- · Partnerships including affiliate and co-marketing
- Search Engine Optimisation (SEO)
- Social media marketing including Social CRM and Social Customer Care
- Wearables (e.g. smart watch, activity trackers, augmented reality)

Digital specialists may work across several areas or specialise in a few depending on the requirements of the organisation.

With nine out of 10 new jobs today needing some level of IT skills it's hard to escape it.

Aerospace and Engineering:

Estimates suggest there will be global demand for 27,000 new passenger planes and 40,000 commercial helicopters by 2031.

According to the Engineering UK 2015 report, engineering accounts for a quarter of all UK turnover. Although engineering companies employ 5.4 million people there are only half as many graduates as employers need. This means employment prospects are good.

The industry is working to attract a more diverse workforce and encourage more women and people from a wider range of backgrounds to become engineers.

The pace of technological development is such that many of the jobs that engineers will be undertaking in five or ten years don't exist yet.

Graduates entering the engineering and manufacturing sector can expect to:

- work in different environments depending on the industry. Engineers work in design offices, research and development laboratories, hospitals and out in the field (for example stadiums, airports, underground or at sea).
- have an average starting salary of £26,536. This is over a fifth more than for all graduates.
- work differing hours depending on your role.

Many engineering roles are office-based, with regular working hours, though some projects and assignments - such as disaster relief work - may require more flexibility:

- work in multi-disciplinary teams with colleagues from different sectors and often from different parts of the world.
- use their creativity and problem-solving skills to make a difference and tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges - from cyber security to maintaining clean water - or designing innovative products such as driverless vehicles and surgical robots.

The industry is working to attract a more diverse workforce and encourage more women and people from a wider range of backgrounds to become engineers.



Food and Drink:

The food and drink industry is the UK's largest manufacturing sector, employing around 400,000 people - yet it requires 109,000 new recruits by 2022.

A severe skills shortage, an ageing workforce and the industry's impressive resistance to any economic downturn have ensured that scientists, technologists and engineers are in particularly high demand, commanding sizeable salaries too.

The range of interesting and challenging careers available is one major perk of the sector. Exciting tasks range from creating a new product that'll be enjoyed by millions globally, to improving existing products, packaging and processes.

Construction:

Workers in construction saw their wages increase by more than 6% in the year to October 2015, compared with less than 2% across the rest of the workforce. This was partly due to a skills shortage with professionals such as quantity surveyors among those in particularly high demand. Positive data on house building towards the end of 2015, coupled with government plans to boost infrastructure spending by £12bn over the next five years, suggest that graduates should consider a career in this sector.

Elsewhere, facilities management is one of the fastest growing professions in the UK. Property is a main company asset and property management needs to be part of company strategy. Consequently, there are opportunities for jobs in-house with large companies or with specialist contractors.

More information about different job sectors and profiles can be found at

www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience

Agriculture:

Workers entering the environment and agriculture sector can expect:

- jobs involving plants or animals
- to work outdoors in all weathers or to be partoffice based
- a wide range of jobs, from practical hands-on and physically demanding work to consultancy
- varied salaries that depend upon entry qualification and the industry you work in.

Graduate members of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) earn on average £25,000, but this rises to £37,700 for those at associate level. Environmental professionals in mining and quarrying have the highest median annual salary of £57,000:

- More than 55% of the agricultural workforce is self-employed. In comparison the national average is 13%
- The sector is forecast to need 595,000 entrants between now and 2020. This includes 447,000 workers to replace those leaving through retirement
- There has been a revival in UK farming with a drive to support locally grown products, although there are challenges, particularly in areas such as dairy. As well as practical skills, prospective farmers need business skills and environmental knowledge to keep up-to-date with regulatory requirements and to take responsibility for the environment
- There is a shortage of workers with agronomy skills (soil management and crop production), an area of work increasingly vital to modern agricultural practices
- A skills shortage also exists in horticulture, landscape architecture and land-based engineering. There is also an urgent need for young people to enter fisheries management
- The environmental sector has seen an increase in renewable energy, contaminated land, flood risk management and energy management jobs.

There is a particular demand for ecologists with field identification skills to monitor biodiversity and climate change.

Healthcare:

If you want a role that makes a real difference to people's health and wellbeing, or are passionate about helping to reduce the causes of ill-health, there are many job possibilities within this sector.

The largest employer in the health sector is the NHS, which employs more than 1.6 million people in the UK. There are more than 350 different careers on offer. There is also a diverse and highly competitive independent sector which delivers a wide range of services, including alternative treatments, with providers increasingly being contracted to provide services on behalf of the NHS.

Graduates entering the healthcare sector can expect:

- a national pay system for most roles in the NHS
- opportunities to undertake shift work
- a wide range of working conditions within the same role and organisation. For example, working in a hospital will differ widely between the wards, theatre and outpatients department
- a working environment that can be demanding as well as hugely rewarding.

The number of places on some degree and postgraduate courses is regulated depending on projections of future demand. This means that some careers in this sector are highly competitive to enter, including medicine, dentistry, midwifery, children's nursing and physiotherapy.

A rise in long-term health conditions, such as diabetes and asthma, has resulted in more opportunities for health professionals to work in the community. The aim is to provide services and personalised care plans to allow those who need continuing care to manage their conditions and stay in their own homes. In addition, healthcare workers increasingly work in multidisciplinary teams in partnership with social services and other community care services.

More information about different job sectors and profiles can be found at

www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience



Tourism and Hospitality:

The Hospitality sector accounts for 2.9 million jobs, 9% of the total UK workforce. The fourth biggest UK industry is also one of the fastest growing - with nearly 46,000 hotels and an estimated 512,000 jobs in hotels and 1.5 million jobs in the restaurant industry. Customer service and management skills are in current demand, as well as skilled chefs. There are opportunities for responsibility at an early stage with rapid progression and clear routes to management. Tourism will support 3.8 million jobs by 2025, with plenty of openings and training opportunities.

Typical graduate jobs include finance, IT, sales and marketing. Workers can expect:

- Opportunities to work throughout the UK or overseas
- Some unsociable hours including weekends and evenings
- Performance related pay, commission and bonuses in some roles
- Customer-facing working environment

Case Studies

Annabella Cornish...

Completed L3 Extended Diploma in Agriculture with three distinctions and is now studying the Agricultural Management Foundation Degree.

The biggest advantage for me at College was to carry on working whilst studying. The College was able to offer me bursaries during the first year which helped me considerably. The lecturers were always supportive and helped whenever I was struggling, which helped to boost my confidence and give me the motivation to do the best I could. My favourite aspect of College has to be all the people I have met over the past three years, our year group in particularly are a great bunch of friends that have made my college years so much fun!

Where is Annabella now?

As well at living and working on a dairy farm, Annabella works at Exeter Livestock Market for Kivells, both as a drover and also in the office.



Is studying the Countryside Management Foundation Degree.

When deciding where to study, location was important, but the incredibly high quality of teaching and knowledgeable staff at Bridgwater were a huge draw for me. They offer excellent opportunities and industry relevance, with superb courses that will leave people ready to take up real-world jobs very easily. The college has also helped me to obtain a grant through Oxford Brookes to help with my studies which I will be putting towards industry relevant qualifications. I will be looking to maintain strong links with Bridgwater and hope to offer days out for future Countryside Management students to help inspire them to follow my lead.

Where is Adam now?

Adam is hoping to enter the outdoor education market, setting up forest schools and adult outdoor education sessions in partnership with Exmoor National Park.



Arran Gabell...

Has completed the Motorsport Technology Bsc (Hons).

During my time at College my lecturers were very knowledgeable and helped me find the best places to search for jobs and potential careers. Getting a first on my final dissertation project report for my Degree was great; it was a good accumulation of all my hard work that year and a nice way to recognise my achievements. After completing my Degree I worked as a composite technician for 6 months, then went self-employed as a freelance race mechanic. The best thing about my job is travelling the world doing what I love and being paid to work on race cars. I was part of a team that won the privateers LMP1 trophy last year in WEC. I hope to see a lot more success throughout my career.

Where is Arran now?

Arran is now a self-employed Freelance Race Mechanic, and has worked in WEC, 24 hour series, and club level racing.



Case Studies

John Sommer... **Level 2 Diploma in Electrical Installation**

John beat stiff competition from up and down the country to become the Screwfix Trade Apprentice 2016 runner up. The final was held at Google HQ in London in April. The competition comprised 1-2-1 interviews as well as group exercises, and a tour of Google HQ.

He studied a Level 2 Diploma in Electrical Installation at Yeovil College and is now on a L3 Apprenticeship.



Morgan Tidy... **Level 2 Extended Certificate in Creative Digital Media Production**

Morgan spent time in London this year at the British Film Institute on a residential animation workshop.

The week's worth of study and workshops culminated in a short, animated film that Morgan created herself and entered into the BFI's Short Film Festival Competition. The BFI had advertised for talented, driven, passionate young people who were keen to become animation and VFX artists.

Morgan is continuing her study and progressed onto the Level 3 this year, with a view to continuing onto a Foundation Degree at Yeovil College University Centre after that.

The BFI is a registered charity founded in 1933 that awards Lottery funding to various film production, education and market intelligence and research projects, among others.





for Somerset Post 16 Institutions & Providers:

Sixth Form Schools

Frome College **Heathfield Community School Huish Episcopi Academy Holyrood Academy** Sexeys The King Alfred School The Kings of Wessex Academy The Blue School **Wadham School West Somerset College**

www.fromecollege.somerset.sch.uk www.heathfieldcommunityschool.com www.huishepiscopi.net www.holyroodacademy.com www.sexeys.somerset.sch.uk www.kingalfred.somerset.sch.uk www.kowessex.co.uk www.theblueschoolwells.co.uk www.wadhamschool.co.uk www.westsomersetcollege.org

Colleges

Bridgwater & Taunton College www.btc.ac.uk and www.somerset.ac.uk **Richard Huish College** www.huish.ac.uk Strode College www.strode-college.ac.uk Yeovil College www.yeovil.ac.uk

Training Providers

The current list of Training Providers delivering in Somerset and Dorset can be found at the Dorset and Somerset Training Providers Network website www.dstpn.co.uk



For any feedback on this publication please email: support@somerset-ebp.co.uk

This document is available at www.somerset-ebp.co.uk/learners