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| **Sixth Form** | **College** | **Apprenticeship** | **Alternative Provision** |
| **What?** | **What?** | **What?** | **What?** |
| Staying on at a school sixth form/ sixth form college after Year 11 to study A Levels and /or Level 3 BTEC courses for 2 years. | You can go to college to study ‘vocational’ subjects like Animal Care, Cadets, Engineering, Hairdressing, Health & Social Care and Construction. Courses are available from Entry Level to Level 3. | A full time paid job with training – you learn work-based skills on the job and normally attend college for one day per week. Often leads to a permanent job. | For students for whom sixth form, college or an apprenticeship is not a suitable environment, there is specialist Post16 provision available.  |
| **Where?** | **Where?** | **Where?** | **Where?** |
| Thomas Hardye School or another school sixth form or sixth form college. | Local colleges are Kingston Maurward College, Poole & Bournemouth College, Weymouth College or any other college provider | Lots of employers in Dorset offer apprenticeships and training is normally provided by a local college. | Providers can be found through Dorset Council |
| **What grades do I need?** | **What grades do I need?** | **What grades do I need?** | **What grades do I need?** |
| At least 5 GCSEs at Grade 9 - 4 including English and / or Maths.Some subjects such as A Level Maths and Science have higher minimum grade requirements. | Entry Level – no specific grades.Level 1 – Normally 3 subjects at Grade 2 or aboveLevel 2 – Normally 3 subjects at Grade 3 or aboveLevel 3 - Normally 4 subjects at Grade 4 or above including English and also Maths for some courses.  | This varies but in most cases employers ask for GCSE Maths & English at Grade 4 or above as a minimum. Competition for apprenticeships is fierce; the most important thing is determination and motivation. | No specific grades required. You can receive support with Functional Skills (English, Maths & IT) and employability skills such as CV writing, interview techniques, job applications, etc. Work experience may also be offered. |
| **How to find out more** | **How to find out more** | **How to find out more** | **How to find out more** |
| * Start website: [www.startprofile.com](http://www.startprofile.com)
* Sixth Form Open Evenings
* Sixth Form prospectuses (Careers Library)
 | * Start website: [www.startprofile.com](http://www.startprofile.com)
* Attend college open days/ taster days.
* College prospectuses (Careers Library)
* Look on college websites
 | * Start website: [www.startprofile.com](http://www.startprofile.com)
* Request a Careers Appointment
* National Apprenticeships website – [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)
* ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk
 | * Contact Dorset Council.
* Speak to the Careers Team to find out more.
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