**Post 16 Options & Qualifications Required**

There are many places you can go and courses you can do when you leave school. It all depends on your achievements, your career interests, where you live and the type of environment you like to learn in.

If you gain a minimum of five GCSEs grade 9-4 (A\*-C), including English and Maths, you can progress on to a **Level 3** course and have the choice of **A Levels**, **Vocational Qualifications** or **Apprenticeships**. All three options lead to Higher Education and all last 2 years. Normally you need to achieve a grade 5-6 (B) to study any A Level that you studied at GCSE.

**A Levels** can be studied at school **6th Form/Post 16 Centres**, as well as **Colleges**.

**Vocational Qualifications** are work related courses, which cover a wide range of industries, such as; Art, Catering, Childcare, Computing & Games Design, Construction, Engineering, Hair & Beauty, Health & Social Care, Motor Mechanics, Performing Arts, Public Services, Sports and Travel & Tourism. Some of these may be available at school **6th Form/ Post 16 Centres** but a much wider range can be studied at local **Colleges**.

If five GCSEs grade 9-4 are not achieved, it is not possible to then do A Levels. However, **Vocational Qualifications** are available at lower levels; **Level 2** or **Level 1,** which last for 1 year. If this level is achieved, then you can usually move up to the next level the

following year. In some colleges, GCSE retakes may be possible and if passed, A Levels can be progressed on to the next year.

If you do not achieve a GCSE Level 4 in English or/and Maths, you will need to retake it alongside your main course.

It is possible to study for an **Apprenticeship** after Year 11. The majority of time will be in the workplace, whilst being supported by a training provider where you will gain valuable working experience in an industry you are interested in. An apprenticeship often will lead to a permanent job. You do not necessarily need five GCSEs grade 9-4 to do an apprenticeship but it will help, as Level 2 standard (GCSE grade 9-4) at English and Maths is needed to achieve.

If you are not yet work ready or/and do not achieve five GCSEs grade 9-4, you may be able to study on a **Traineeship**. This is a course designed to provide working experience whilst developing employability skills as well as support to improve English and Maths in the classroom. These can be across all industries in any areas with opportunities to progress onto an Apprenticeship or a job with training.

If you do not want to go to college and would rather study in a smaller environment, you may be able to choose a local **Training Provider**, where courses often include qualifications, employability studies and work experience.

A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generated

