

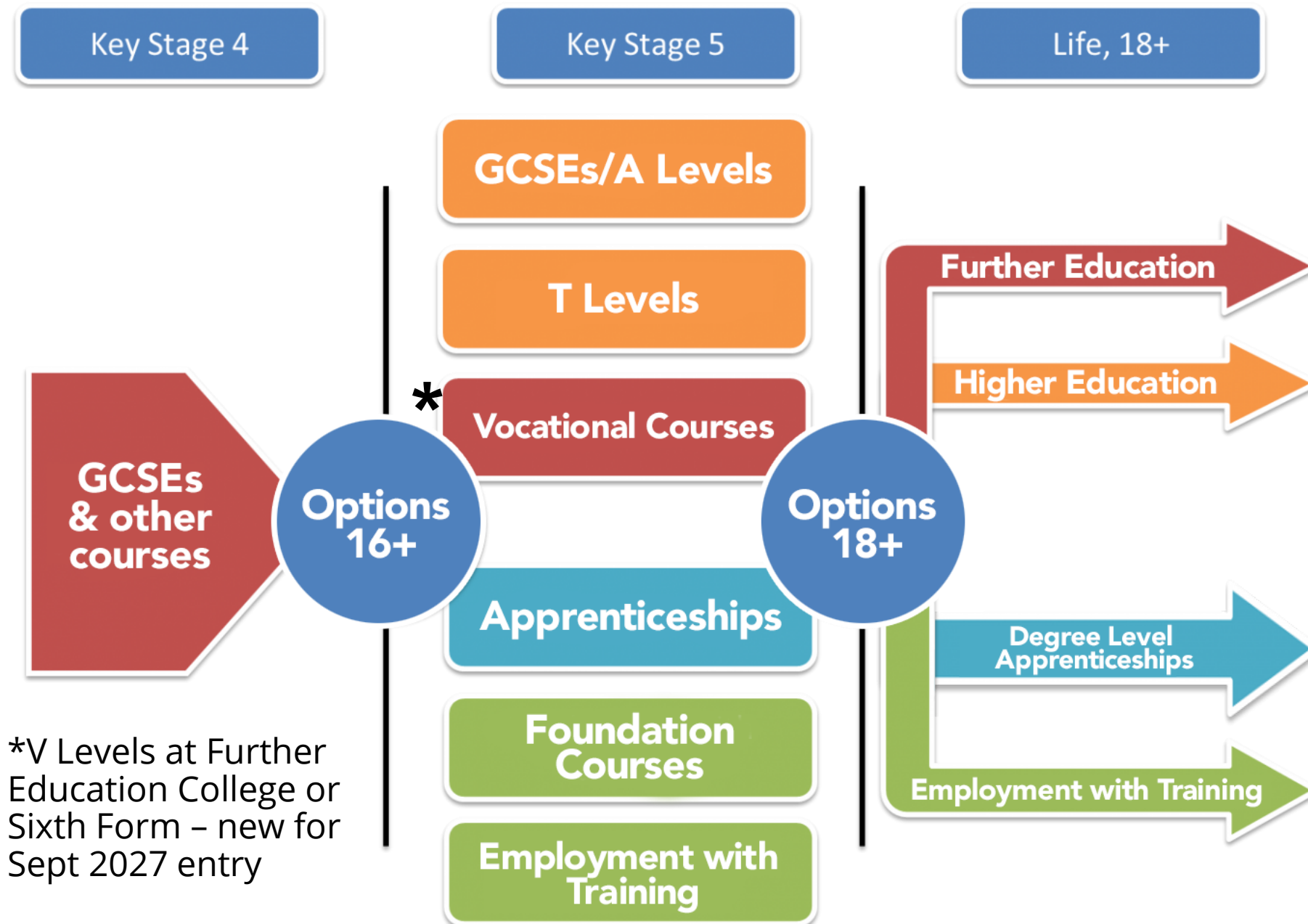


Year 11

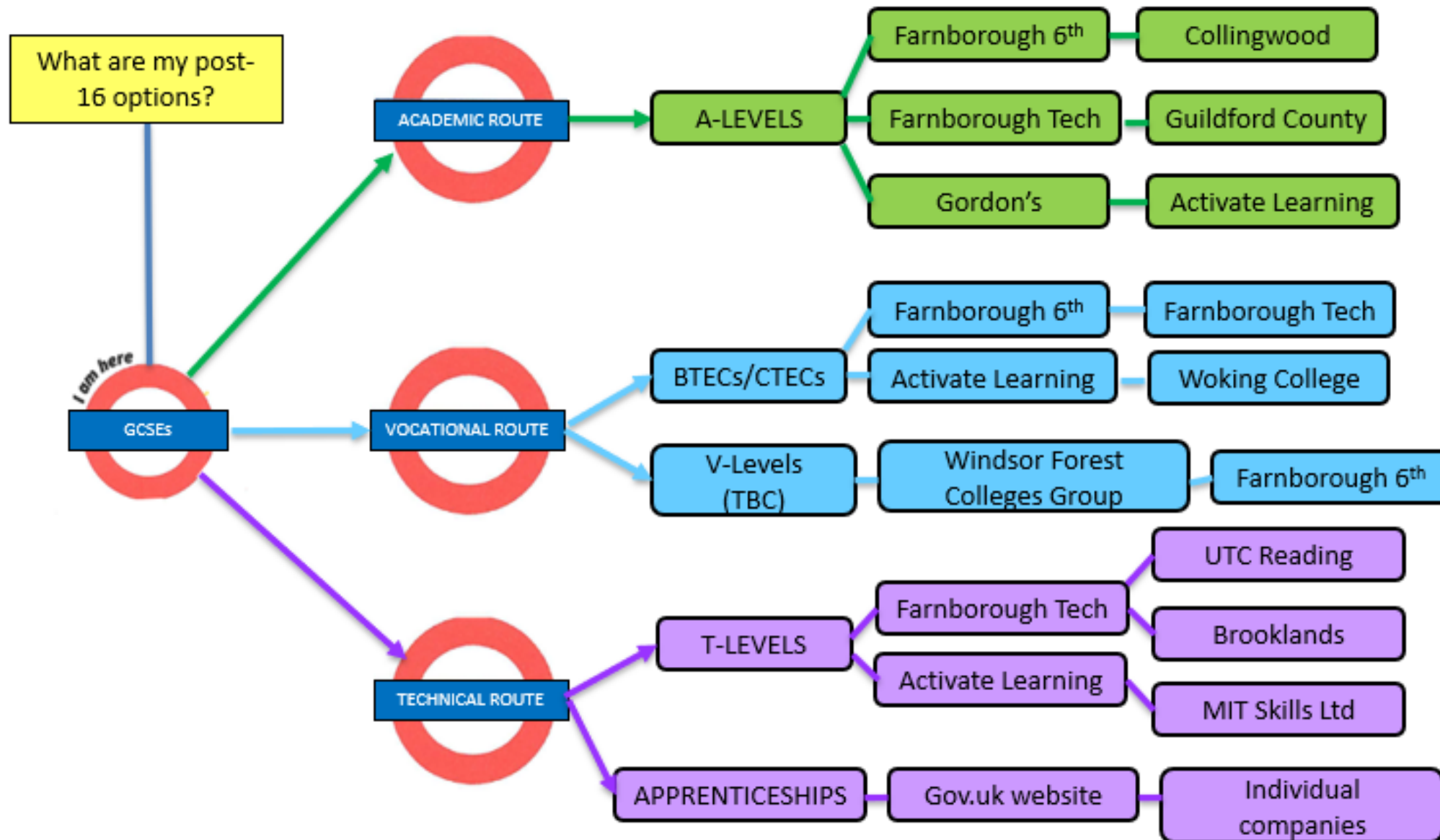
Post-16 pathways and progression routes

Steps after Year 11

Autumn 2026



An
overview of
post-16
and post-
18 options



Local
providers
of all 3
main
pathways

There are three main post-16 pathways available to school leavers:

Academic

- A-Levels (FE Colleges/Sixth Forms)

Vocational

- BTECs/CTECs (FE colleges)
- V-Levels (New for Sept 2027- FE colleges/Sixth Forms)

Technical

- T-Levels (FE colleges)
- Apprenticeships (job)

A-Levels: Academic Pathway

- L3 academic qualification (step up from GCSEs/L2) and require a lot of independent study
- Examination based
- Most students would typically study 3 individual A-Level subjects
- Common entry criteria- at least 5 GCSE passes at a minimum of a grade 4 or 5 (colleges will have specific entry requirements and will all be different)

A-Levels: Local providers

- The Sixth Form College, Farnborough
- FCOT (Farnborough College of Technology)
- Activate Learning Group (Farnham/Guildford/Reading College campuses specifically)
- Local school Sixth Form colleges (e.g. Collingwood College, Gordon's, Guildford County)

BTECs/CTECs: Vocational Pathway

- L3 qualifications (step up from GCSEs/L2) and require elements of independent study
- Different levels- equivalent to 1/2/3 A-Levels
- Can be take alongside other qualifications (like A-Levels) but can also be done as a stand alone qualification related to a particular industry/sector
- Assignment based (but some courses do have exams)

BTECs/CTECs: Local providers

- The Sixth Form College, Farnborough
- FCOT (Farnborough College of Technology)
- Activate Learning Group (Guildford/Bracknell College campuses specifically)
- Woking College

V-Levels: Vocational Pathway

- **NEW** (due to be rolled out in colleges in stages from Sept 2027 onwards)
- L3 academic qualification (step up from GCSEs/L2) and require a lot of independent study
- Each V-Level is equivalent to one A-Level so can be taken alongside other qualifications as part of a mixed programme
- They will be focused on vocational subjects like childcare, digital etc
- Mix of assessment- examinations and practical assignments
- Common entry criteria- at least 5 GCSE passes at a minimum of a grade 4 or 5 (colleges will have specific entry requirements and will all be different)

V-Levels: Local providers

- This is unknown currently as all providers are reviewing their curriculum to establish their capacity to introduce the new V-Levels (watch this space!)

T-Levels: Technical Pathway

- Relatively new, L3 work related qualifications in specific industry sectors
- In-built work-related placements (each course has a 45-day work experience requirement)
- Assignment based with exams
- Students would study 1 individual T-Level course, related to a particular sector/industry (broadly equivalent to 3 A-Levels)

T-Levels: Local providers

- FCOT (Farnborough College of Technology)
- Brooklands College
- Activate Learning Group (Bracknell/Guildford College campuses specifically)
- UTC Reading
- MIT Skills Ltd

Apprenticeships: Technical Pathway

- First and foremost, this is a job!
- Earn whilst you learn- 80% on the 'job' and 20% on training (e.g. a day a week in college, online learning modules)
- Highly competitive
- Varying levels (L2- straight after GCSEs up to L7 post-grad equivalent)
- No 'set' start date- these will be advertised as the jobs and vacancies become available

Apprenticeships: Local providers

- As this is a job, student apply for vacancies with companies (not through colleges)
 - Exception to this is via the Apprenticeships offered at FCOT (but students still need to source the 'job' bit first and then apply for the 'learning')
- Intakes throughout the academic year (not necessarily September starts)
- Gov.uk website ('find an apprenticeship section')

Ongoing post-16 Progression Support for Y11 students:

- PSHE modules – weekly visit from providers (autumn 1)
- One to one careers appointments continued
- FCOT 'Discovery Days'
- Farnborough 6th Form taster visits

All building on:

- PSHE throughout the school
- Year 10 Work Experience week
- Year 10 'Big Interview'
- Year 9 Enterprise Day
- Assemblies, talks
- Careers in the curriculum



What should we be doing now?

- Book and attend provider open days – a comprehensive list for 2026/27 has been emailed out to all students and parents.
- Look at courses carefully – qualifications can vary between colleges. Assessments vary between courses. Research a programme that works for your child.
- Have options – students **MUST** apply to more than one provider.



Any questions?

Please contact the key staff at the school if you would like any more information or support regarding next steps:

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