

Dear Parent

As your child enters the summer and is preparing for their exams in Year 11, it is the perfect time to start thinking about what they may like to do after completing their studies at school. Your child may have attended a Taster Day with us in July, which would have enabled them to try a few areas that they have an interest in. Hopefully they found a subject they enjoyed, but if not, it's still a really good process in helping them to better understand what they would like to study after school. It seemed the students had a great day and we are looking forward to seeing some familiar faces in the years to come!

Trying to determine the best career path can be a daunting process, but please, rest assured, we have a highly skilled set of professionals on hand to support both you and your child in finding the best route. Moving forward, it is a good idea for your child to identify how they learn best when studying. At Petroc, we have a variety of different courses which foster different learning styles, whether that's a practical, hands-on approach, or a more academic approach. Please find some more information about the different course types below:

A Levels	A Levels are a Level 3 programme, which adopt an academic approach to learning. They can be brilliant to develop a deep understanding of a subject area and provide the resources to progress onto university. Typically three subjects are studied over a two year period and are assessed by examinations.
T Level	T Levels offer an industry work placement for 20% of the week, alongside 80% of students' time being spent in college completing practical and theoretical work. T Levels have been developed alongside employers and offer a fantastic opportunity for workplace experience.
Vocational	Vocational programmes are a blended learning experience, offering both classroom tuition and practical learning with work experience. Courses range from Level 1-3 and are fantastic for a more hands-on approach, being offered in real life work settings. Vocational courses are equivalent to three A Levels and are brilliant for developing employability skills.
Apprenticeship	Apprenticeships are a work-based programme that enters you straight into employment. 80% of time will be spent with the employer and 20% will be spent in college completing the theoretical side of learning. They are a great way to earn as you learn and can provide students with a high level of understanding within their industry.

At Petroc there are a series of course levels running from level 1-6 that students can complete, based on their abilities. Each have different entry requirements and allow for progression onto the next level. Level 3 courses will set you on a path to university, higher apprenticeships or skilled employment. Qualifications include T Levels, A Levels, vocational qualifications, advanced apprenticeships, and Access to Higher Education Diplomas.

As your child transitions into Year 11, they will begin applying for their next steps. It is a good idea for them to start their applications around October/November time, to ensure they receive a space on their chosen course, due to some courses having limited numbers. If your child is unsure which course or college they would like to apply for, they can put an application through for multiple options providing them with time to think over the best option for their future. Petroc's School Liaison Team will also be providing sessions at your child's school, offering advice on how to move forward with their applications and what may be their best study route. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact our team:

Advice & Guidance Team: guidancecentre@petroc.ac.uk
School Liaison Team: schoolliaison@petroc.ac.uk

If your young person needs any Additional Learning Support, the ALS Team at Petroc is on hand to offer the best possible support. Please do get in touch and we will be happy to assist you further.

Best wishes

Heather and Aimee
School Liaison Team