

WHICH PATHWAY IS RIGHT FOR YOU?



- A Levels
- The International Baccalaureate (IB)
- T Levels
- BTEC/vocational qualifications
- Apprenticeships

Why study A Levels?

Progression to A Level study is often the natural and obvious next step for your 6th form education, after successful completion of your GCSEs. A Levels are subject-based qualifications that can lead to university, further study, training or employment.

REASONS TO STUDY A LEVELS?

- 1. A Levels subjects are exciting and varied.** At BTC, there are nearly 30 different A Level subjects to choose from. Some of these will be familiar, Art & Design, Computer Science, Biology, French, Geography and Physics – but college may be the first opportunity you've had to explore subjects like Criminology, Psychology, Law, Politics, Sociology or Fashion & Textiles! You should choose subjects that fit well together and are accepted for your preferred university course, but our team can help you decide what works best for you and your career goals.
- 2. A Level students get great results.** In 2022, 72% of A Level subjects achieved a 100% pass rate and 58% of students achieved at least 1 high grade. Year on year, our students consistently achieve results that they can be proud of.
- 3. A Levels are great if you prefer class-based learning.** Most GCSEs are academic subjects that are taught in a classroom environment, so if you thrived at school and achieved great results, it may be a sign that this setting suits you. A Levels are also often classroom, studio or lab-based, but you will also be encouraged to do your own research and study outside of lessons.
- 4. A Levels lead to Higher Education.** A Levels accrue UCAS points and help you meet the entry requirements for university. A Levels are a traditional route to Higher Education and previous BTC students have gained places at Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College London, Bristol, Birmingham, Exeter, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, and many other Russell Group universities.
- 5. A Level students aim for Oxbridge.** If you aspire to a place at a top university, BTC's Honours Academy can help you work towards your goal. The Honours Academy prepares you for the competitive applications process, providing everything from master classes to mock interviews, visiting experts to alumni Q&As. If you dream of Oxbridge or a medical career, there are specific pathways and support available.
- 6. A Levels are widely recognised by universities and employers.** A Levels are established and well-respected qualifications, recognised and valued by universities and employers as a sign of academic ability and intellectual achievement.
- 7. A Level students get one-to-one support.** You will have weekly sessions with a personal tutor and be part of a tutor group. Your tutor will help you set personal development targets and support you throughout your time at College. Our Wellbeing team also offer a safe space to talk and be listened to as part of our suite of support services.

- 8. A Level students go on trips.** As part of your A Level study, you may have the opportunity to go on field trips to get first-hand experience of the topic you're learning about. For example, Sociology students have visited HMP Bristol, Law students the Houses of Parliament, and students learning languages have been to France, Italy and the Czech Republic.
- 9. A Level enrichment gives you the edge.** As well as the extracurricular activities like Team BTC, BTC Active and the Academies, you can join clubs and activities such as creative writing, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, debating, Model United Nations, Chemistry Olympiad and the Extended Project Qualification, a standalone course that looks great on your CV and prepares you for uni. You might even want to start a club of your own!
- 10. A Level students receive iPads.** As part of BTC's digital transformation project, every A Level student receives an iPad to use for their studies. The tech makes it easier for you to complete research and wider reading, access multimedia resources and communication tools, and collaborate with your classmates on shared projects and revision materials.



To find out more,
scan the QR code.



Why study the International Baccalaureate?

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is an internationally recognised alternative to A Levels. It is designed for high achievers and is highly regarded by prestigious universities and top employers worldwide. BTC is the only college in Somerset to offer the IB.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT THE IB?

- 1. The IB can be a step towards Oxbridge.** The International Baccalaureate is an established qualification that is accepted and valued by Russell Group universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. If you're academically able and intellectually curious, it will help you develop the skills needed to thrive at top institutions like these.
- 2. The IB is an internationally recognised alternative to A Levels.** Like A Levels, the IB is a Level 3 programme. It also offers you a breadth of academic subjects and enrichment so you get a well-rounded experience.
- 3. IB students achieve excellent results.** Our International Baccalaureate students consistently achieve results above the global average. Over the past five years, on average, BTC students' results have been more than 2.5 points higher, peaking at 5.4 above the global figure in 2020 despite the effect of the global pandemic.
- 4. IB students learn in small, supportive groups.** When asked about what helped them succeed, former IB students highlight the small class sizes, strong working relationships with staff and the supportive environment at BTC.
- 5. IB students receive iPads to support their learning.** As part of BTC's digital transformation project, every student studying the International Baccalaureate receives an iPad. The tech enables you to develop academic independence, complete research and wider reading, and collaborate with your classmates.
- 6. IB students have dedicated facilities.** The IB is studied at our Taunton campus. Alongside new developments for T Level and BTEC/vocational courses, spaces have been created specifically for IB students, including a common room area.
- 7. IB students get support from the Honours Academy.** The Honours Academy is an enrichment option that supports your progression to top universities. Honours Academy offers master classes, practice interviews and other activities that stretch and challenge – and look great on your university application and CV. If you aspire to Oxbridge or a career in medicine, there is specialist support to help you.
- 8. IB students benefit from great partnerships.** The IB team at BTC is working closely with other institutions to give you additional opportunities to grow and succeed, including the universities of Exeter and Bath, the University Centre Somerset (UCS) and Midwestern State University in Texas.

- 9. IB students are driven and academically curious.** The IB encourages you to think critically and solve complex problems, drive your own learning, and become more culturally aware. It helps you understand what it means to be the kind of independent inquirer sought by top universities and employers.
- 10. IB students' progress to prestigious degrees and institutions.** Our IB students gain sought-after places at top Higher Education providers. Recent students have been accepted by universities including Cardiff, Plymouth, Exeter and Manchester to study subjects including Genetics, Biomedical Science, Medicine, English Language & Linguistics, and Cognitive Neuroscience & Psychology.



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Why study T Levels?

Equivalent to three A Levels, T Levels are two-year technical courses that are transforming education in the UK. They are ideal if you are aiming to get a professional, skilled job or want to progress to university. You will spend 80% of your time in the classroom and 20% in your industry placement.

T Levels are made up of core skills, occupational knowledge, an employer set project and placement.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT T LEVELS?

- 1. T Level students can progress to university.** T Levels are a more hands-on option than A Levels and the International Baccalaureate, but are still Level 3 qualifications, are recognised by universities and have the same credibility. This means that if you have a T Level, you can still apply for a university course or a degree Apprenticeship, such as those available at the University Centre Somerset.
- 2. T Levels are designed by employers.** T Levels are for young people who want professional, skilled jobs. They have been created in conjunction with employers who know what they want from their future employees, so T Levels will give you a grounding in the knowledge and skills you will need in your chosen career. Completing a work placement also means you will gain employability skills useful in any workplace.
- 3. T Level students use state-of-the-art facilities.** BTC has invested over £3 million in its' Taunton campus so that T Level students have the best facilities available for their in-class training. This includes a new Digital Suite complete with high-spec computers, viewing screen, conference and break-out rooms. A specialist Health (Nursing) and Early Years training facility and

a modernised Industry Skills Centre, all created to help you gain skills and knowledge in industry-standard settings. Our Bridgwater campus offers a dedicated business hub, hair and beauty salons, engineering and automotive workshops to name a few and our Cannington campus a fully functional working farm.

- 4. T Levels are hands on and in class.** T Levels are a great stepping stone from the world of school to the world of work. They combine both in-class learning and work experience. If you choose a T Level, you will spend about 20% of the course in an industry placement, getting practical experience in your chosen profession or business sector. The rest of the time, you'll be in class, gaining the skills and knowledge you'll use in the workplace. It's the best of both worlds!
- 5. T Level students can pick from lots of subjects.** BTC is one of the largest providers of T Levels in Somerset, so there are lots of subjects for you to choose from. They include Construction, Digital, Automotive, Education & Childcare, Health (Nursing), Business Management, Land-based industries, Hair, Beauty and Barbering, Legal Services and Engineering – and more are on their way!

- 6. T Level students receive iPads.** As part of BTC's digital transformation project, every student studying a T Level is given an iPad to support their learning. The tech assists you with your studies, it encourages wider reading and enables you to develop academic independence, complete research and access multimedia.
- 7. T Levels get great feedback.** Our T Level students say they feel inspired and motivated by what they learn both in class and during placements. Employers have praised T Level students for their attitude, knowledge and ability to work well with colleagues. Some have been so impressed by their T Level placement students that they have offered them jobs, Apprenticeships or further training opportunities. T Levels have opened up opportunities for everyone!



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Why study BTEC and vocational courses?

Why not study a subject you are passionate about! BTEC/vocational courses are practical courses that are often linked to career pathways or jobs. They are college-based, but you learn in industry-standard settings such as workshops, salons, studios, stables, gardens.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT BTEC/ VOCATIONAL COURSES?

- 1. BTEC/vocational courses link to careers.** As the name suggests, these courses usually relate to specific 'vocations', i.e. careers or job roles. For example, if you want to fix airplanes, you can take an Aerospace Engineering course, a future chef can study Professional Cookery, a wannabe landscape gardener can do Horticulture, or an aspiring filmmaker can gain the skills they need on a Creative Arts course. Whatever your ambition, there's a course to get you started!
- 2. BTEC/vocational courses are hands on.** Unlike most GCSEs, BTECs/vocational courses are practical and help you learn how to do things. You will spend some time in class exploring theory, but you will also be in workshops, studios, labs or the great outdoors, depending upon the subject you choose. You'll also do work experience, so you can put your new knowledge into practice!
- 3. BTEC/vocational students have lots of choice.** BTC offers one of the widest ranges of BTECs/vocational courses in the area. You can pick from nearly 100 courses in over 20 different sectors. Subjects include Agriculture, Animal & Horse Care, Applied Science, Vehicle Maintenance & Repair, Motorsport, Beauty Therapy, Business Management, Hairdressing, Hospitality, Nuclear (Clean Energy), Computing, Carpentry, Electrical Installation, Painting & Decorating, Art & Design, Media, Commercial Music, Performing Arts & Live Events, Childcare & Education, Health & Social Care, Sport and Uniformed Protective Services, just to name a few!
- 4. BTEC/vocational students can build up their skills.** College may be the first chance you've had to do some of these subjects, but don't worry. BTC will help you begin with a course that suits your current level of knowledge, then work your way up. Some subjects start with Level 1, an introductory level which will give you the core grounding you need to get started. You can study some vocational subjects right up to degree level and beyond at BTC!
- 5. BTEC/vocational students can go to university.** If you achieve good results in a Level 3 BTEC/vocational course, you may be able to apply for a vocational course at university or for a Degree Apprenticeship. Check the entry requirements before choosing what to do after school.
- 6. BTEC/vocational courses include English and maths.** English and maths are essential in all walks of life and careers, especially if you hope to own your own business one day. If needed, you may be able to take English and maths qualifications alongside your main vocational subject.

- 7. BTEC/vocational students use state-of-the-art facilities.** At school, you'll have spent a lot of time in classrooms. If you choose a vocational course, you'll learn in industry-standard settings, designed like real-life workplaces. For example, Agriculture students train at our 200-hectare working farm, Performing Arts students have access to the professional McMillan Theatre, and Hospitality & Professional Cookery students hone their service skills at the Quantock Restaurant, which is open to the public. We have also opened a new Business Hub and an innovative Construction & Civil Engineering building open at our Bridgwater campus, and a Health & Early Years Hub in Taunton.
- 8. BTEC/vocational enrichment gives you the edge.** BTC offers lots of extracurricular clubs and activities called Academies. Many relate to vocational subjects; 999 Academy, Team BTC, Design, Fashion, Media, Music or Performing Arts. They give you even more opportunities to meet industry figures and work on exciting, live projects, experience that will make your CV or uni application stand out.



To find out more, scan the QR code.



Why study Apprenticeships?

If you're keen to get out of the classroom and into the workplace, and want to gain a nationally recognised qualification that will help kickstart your career, then an Apprenticeship could be for you.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BEING AN APPRENTICE?

- 1. Apprenticeships give you lots of choice.** BTC offers over 150 different Apprenticeships in 17 different sectors, relating to 1500 job roles in a wide range of industries. And if you think we only offer subjects like Engineering, Construction and Hair and Beauty, think again! There are Apprenticeships in Computing & Digital, Nuclear (Clean Energy), Agriculture, Fashion & Textiles, Uniformed Protective Services, Food & Drink, Health & Social Care, and more!
- 2. Apprentices get paid.** If you become an apprentice, you will have the same rights as any employee. This means that you should receive employee benefits, such as paid holiday, as well as a government-set apprentices minimum wage. You would also have the same legal rights as other employees.
- 3. Apprentices train with top employers across the UK.** BTC works with fantastic employers of all shapes and sizes across the country. Our apprentices are employed by organisations including EDF, the Ministry of Defence, Environment Agency, Thatchers, Mulberry, the NHS, Yeovil Yeo Valley, Morrisons and Wessex Water.
- 4. Apprentices learn the skills employers want.** Because apprentices train with employers in a relevant industry setting, they gain the skills employers are looking for. This practical training looks great on your CV and prepares you well for a career.
- 5. Apprentices learn in college too.** Apprentices spend most of their time in the workplace but also come to college to gain a nationally-recognised qualification. You might come to College on the same day each week, or come for several days at a time, depending upon what works best for your employer and job role.
- 6. Apprenticeships include English and maths.** English and maths are essential in all walks of life and careers. If you have not already achieved your GCSE English and maths, you may be able to achieve these qualifications alongside your apprenticeship.
- 7. Apprentices are supported and mentored.** If you become an apprentice, you will be supported and mentored by a specialist team. Your assessor will see you regularly in your workplace and you will learn at a pace suited to you.
- 8. Apprenticeships go up to degree level.** BTC offers Apprenticeships at different levels, so you can progress and complete qualifications from Level 2 (Intermediate) right up to Level 6 (Degree Apprenticeships).
- 9. Apprentices train in state-of-the-art facilities.** At BTC, you'll train in our industry-standard settings, designed and equipped like professional, work environments. Depending upon the Apprenticeship you choose, you could find yourself training in a workshop, salon or studio, at our National College for Nuclear (NCfN), our Advanced Engineering Centre, Industry Skills Centre, our 200-hectare working farm, or the Quantock Restaurant to name but a few. You will have the opportunity to learn in facilities that replicate industry standards. We've also opened a new Business Hub and an innovative Construction & Civil Engineering building at our Bridgwater campus and a Health & Early Years Hub in Taunton.
- 10. Apprenticeships lead to increased future earnings.** Apprentices often enjoy marked salary increases when they finish their training. Higher Apprentices (Level 4/5) can see increased earnings of an estimated £150,000 over their lifetime. Apprenticeships also help you climb the ranks in the workplace because people know what you can do, and trust the training you've received.



To find out more, scan the QR code.



To find out which pathway and course is right for you, why not come along to one of our open events.

Open events are a great way to explore your options. You'll have the opportunity to meet our team of experienced staff, ask questions, tour our facilities and experience what it's like to be part of the BTC community.



To register, scan the QR code.

If you know you like to learn by doing things, BTEC/vocational courses or Apprenticeships might be a good choice for you. If you dream of university and are more academic, A Levels, the IB or T Levels may be the Level 3 pathway you wish to follow.

The important place to start is with you!

For more info,
call our Information
& Advice team
on **01278 441234**,
or visit www.btc.ac.uk



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