

# School Leavers Options Guide for Summer 2021 – North Essex

## Employability and Skills Team

**A guide to support a young person's next steps.**

The ongoing Corona Virus epidemic may have left many young people unsure about their next steps, where to go for advice and maybe even unsure about their future career choices. With this in mind, we have produced this guide to support young people. The way that these opportunities are delivered may be subject to change.

Many of you will expect to achieve the grades needed and will be staying in your school sixth form, have secured a place at college, or have a start date agreed for an apprenticeship. If you do not have any firm plans in place then please read on:

## Planning

When considering your next steps, it can seem confusing as there are so many options to choose from. Whether you are looking at further education, apprenticeships, work or training, we recommend that you research thoroughly. There are several websites listed in this resource which can help you to explore courses and careers. In addition, it is important to identify existing skills as well as your hobbies and interests to help you to make a good match. You could also speak with school or college staff, careers advisers and family networks to help you to make a strong choice. Remember to have a backup plan.

## Extension to Child Benefit

If you are a school or college leaver, under 18, unemployed and do not have a course or training programme to start in September 2021, your parent/carer may be entitled to claim Extension to Child Benefit. There is a time limit in which you can register your claim. For more information contact the Employability and Skills Team on **0800 707 6384** to be put in touch with an Adviser in your local area.

## College and Further Education options

If you have not already applied, then we suggest that you make applications quickly. There are broadly two different types of college course:

### Academic Courses (e.g. A levels/ International Baccalaureate)

- Usually involves studying multiple subjects. This may provide increased progression options at the end of the course.
- Assessment is usually weighted towards exams with less emphasis on continuous assessment.
- Entry Criteria: Typically, applicants will be expected to achieve at least five GCSEs at grades 9 to 4. The specific requirements vary across schools and colleges.
- Some schools and Sixth Form Colleges may offer GCSE resit options for young people that have narrowly missed out on GCSE grades.

## Vocational courses (e.g. BTECs/ T Levels/ NVQ/ CACHE)

- Vocational courses are typically designed around a specific industry/ occupation.
- Courses usually range from Level 1 and go up to Level 3 and higher.
- Vocational courses are an opportunity to specialise early in a subject that interests you.
- It often means studying one main subject (some schools and colleges allow you to blend academic and vocational options).
- If you have not achieved Grade 4 in GCSE Maths or English, you will be required to complete these qualifications alongside your main course.

## Sixth Form & College options for summer 2021

For more information about course availability, application procedures, open events and entry requirements, please contact the establishment directly.

### Colchester Institute Colchester and Braintree

Telephone: 01206 712000

Website: [www.colchester.ac.uk](http://www.colchester.ac.uk)

### Colchester Royal Grammar School

Telephone: 01206 509100

Website: [www.crgs.co.uk](http://www.crgs.co.uk)

### Colne Community College

Telephone: 01206 303511

Website: [www.colne.essex.sch.uk](http://www.colne.essex.sch.uk)

### The Colchester Sixth Form College

Telephone: 01206 500743 / 505595

Website: [www.colchsfc.ac.uk](http://www.colchsfc.ac.uk)

### Philip Morant Sixth Form College

Telephone: 01206 545 222

Website: [www.philipmorant.essex.sch.uk](http://www.philipmorant.essex.sch.uk)

### Colchester County High School for Girls

Telephone: 01206 576 973

Website: [www.cchsg.com](http://www.cchsg.com)

### Clacton County High School Clacton

Telephone: 01255 424 266

Website: [www.countyhigh.org.uk](http://www.countyhigh.org.uk)

### Tendring Technology College Frinton on Sea

Telephone: 01255 672116

Website: [www.tendringtechnologycollege.org](http://www.tendringtechnologycollege.org)

### Clacton Coastal Academy

Telephone: 01255 428131

Website: <https://sites.google.com/aetinet.org/clacton-coastal-academy/home>

### The Harwich and Dovercourt Sixth Form College

Telephone: 01255 245460

Website: [www.hdhs.org.uk](http://www.hdhs.org.uk)

### Thurstable College Tiptree

Telephone: 01621 816526

Website: [www.thurstable.essex.sch.uk](http://www.thurstable.essex.sch.uk)

## Other College accessible to North Essex

### Suffolk Rural College (which was Otley College) Ipswich

Telephone: 01473382211

Buses are subsidised for Students coming from the Essex area.

Website: [www.suffolk.ac.uk/course-categories/suffolk-rural](http://www.suffolk.ac.uk/course-categories/suffolk-rural)

### Suffolk New college Ipswich

Telephone: 01473 382200

Website: [www.suffolk.ac.uk](http://www.suffolk.ac.uk)

### Chelmsford College

Telephone: 01245 265611

Website: [www.chelmsford-college.ac.uk](http://www.chelmsford-college.ac.uk)

### Suffolk One Ipswich

Telephone: 01473 556600

Website: [www.suffolkone.org](http://www.suffolkone.org)

### Writtle College Chelmsford

Telephone: 01245 424200

Website: [www.writtle.ac.uk](http://www.writtle.ac.uk)

## Still unsure?

- Where possible, speak with the Careers Adviser at your school or college who will have access to information about subject choices and career paths. Please check websites for contact details.
- **From Monday 28th June:** If you are aged 16–18, do not have access to a school or college Careers Adviser and do not have a firm plan for September, then please call the Employability and Skills Team on **0800 7076384** or email [KeepInContactTeam@essex.gov.uk](mailto:KeepInContactTeam@essex.gov.uk)

## Apprenticeships & Traineeships

Due to the Corona Epidemic, there may be fewer apprenticeships advertised. It is very important for you to have a backup plan. For up to date information about local vacancies, please visit: [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

## What is an Apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship gives you the opportunity to gain work experience, a qualification and earn a wage at the same time. Apprenticeships are available from Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE 9-4) all the way up to Degree level in some occupational areas.

## What are Traineeships?

Traineeships (sometimes referred to as Pre-Apprenticeships) are work experience placements with employers (occasionally paid) lasting from six weeks to six months. With a traineeship, you will gain employability skills, functional skills in English and Maths (if needed) and meaningful work experience. It could lead to an apprenticeship with an employer.

**Training Providers that frequently deliver apprenticeship and/or traineeship opportunities for young people in the local area:**

### ACL Essex County Council

Apprenticeships in Business Administration, Customer service and more  
[www.aclessex.com/apprenticeships-in-essex](http://www.aclessex.com/apprenticeships-in-essex)

### Key Training

Business Administration and Customer Service  
[www.keytraining.co.uk](http://www.keytraining.co.uk)

### Career Track

[www.tendringdc.gov.uk/jobs/career-track-apprenticeships](http://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/jobs/career-track-apprenticeships)

### Colchester Institute

[www.colchester.ac.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.colchester.ac.uk/apprenticeships)

### Easi Hairdressing Academy

[www.easihair.co.uk/](http://www.easihair.co.uk/)

### Hit Training

Hospitality and Catering  
<https://hittraining.co.uk/contact-us>

### TCHC Apprenticeships

<https://www.tchc.net/individual/apprenticeships>

### NOVA Apprenticeships

<http://www.novatrainng.co.uk/apprenticeships>

### QA

Apprenticeships in IT Systems and Networking/ Software and Website Development, Digital Skills, Business Admin  
<https://www.qa.com/learners/become-an-apprentice>

### Multiverse

Business, Accountancy and Tech Apprenticeships in London  
<https://platform.multiverse.io/apprenticeships>

### Ixion Holdings

Offers Apprenticeships and Traineeships in: Business, Construction, Customer Service, Digital Media and Marketing,  
<https://www.ixionholdings.com/>

## Foundation Learning Programmes

**Foundation Learning providers offer English and Maths qualifications often alongside vocational elements to help improve your skills and get you ready to undertake an apprenticeship opportunity. This option often is usually accepted as approved training.**

\*Some Foundation Learning courses may have restrictions due to funding. Check with the provider when making your enquiries.

### Plan B Programme (Via Essex Youth Service)

<https://youth.essex.gov.uk/young-people/plan-b/>

Starts Autumn 2021: This is a 10-week programme includes Maths and English Functional Skills and Level 1 Health and Safety and Level 2 Customer Services.

### TCHC – Positive Directions Programme and GAPS Programme

[www.tchc.net](http://www.tchc.net)

These options are currently being taught online by specialist tutors. Positive Directions is a short course aimed at re-engaging young people aged 16-18 that have been out of education or unemployed for a while. GAPS is a longer term option. Both programmes include functional skills in English and Maths with an opportunity to link into various occupational areas or an apprenticeship.

<https://www.tchc.net/individual/youth-support/gaps>

For more information contact: Deborah Paine  
[deb.paine@tchc.net](mailto:deb.paine@tchc.net)

### WS Training - Next Steps Programme

[www.wstraining.co.uk](http://www.wstraining.co.uk)

Programme based in Colchester at the learning centre in Hawkins Road. Training is aimed at young people aged 16-18 who are not in

education, employment or training. It includes, functional skills qualifications in English and Maths plus, the opportunity to work towards an accredited vocational qualification or an apprenticeship opportunity.

For more information contact: Chloe Barnett  
[CBarnett@wstraining.co.uk](mailto:CBarnett@wstraining.co.uk)

### Nova Training - (Centre in Colchester & Clacton)

All operations are being delivered remotely during the COVID 19 outbreak with a view to offer a blended learning programme once it is appropriate to do so. As well as focussing on improving English and Maths up to level 1, 2 or GCSE if needed, this programme offers 16-18-year olds the opportunity to gain work experience.

For Colchester Centre email:  
[Joanna.runnalls@novatraining.co.uk](mailto:Joanna.runnalls@novatraining.co.uk)  
Or Telephone **01206 562 657**

For Clacton Centre email: Rachel Candler  
[rachel.candler@novatraining.co.uk](mailto:rachel.candler@novatraining.co.uk)  
Or telephone: **01255 427 785**

### ALM Training

[www.almtrainingservices.co.uk](http://www.almtrainingservices.co.uk)

Small groups of students attend 3 days a week in a learning centre based in Colchester. Young people aged 16-18 who are not in employment, education or training can access qualifications in Forklift Truck Operations and gain a Forklift Truck Licence as well undertaking a Level 1 qualification in Warehousing and Storage. Covid learning restrictions may be in place so it is best to check when calling to see how the programme will be delivered.

For more information Call **01375 489738** and ask to speak with Sue Turnbull or Darren Coleman.

Alternatively, email Sue Turnbull  
[sue.turnbull@almtrainingservices.co.uk](mailto:sue.turnbull@almtrainingservices.co.uk)

## Steps to Success (Key Training)

A remote learning opportunity typically lasting 12-26 weeks. It focuses on improving functional skills with basic qualifications in business admin/customer services or recruitment resourcing.

Contact: [Olivia.Park@keytraining.co.uk](mailto:Olivia.Park@keytraining.co.uk)

<https://www.keytraining.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/KeyTraining-Steps-To-Success.pdf>

## Useful Websites

Below is a list of useful websites ranging from careers advice, skills assessments, finding work to volunteering.

**Virtual One Stop Shop** providing young people and adults with information and advice on careers, skills, training, and employment opportunities.

[www.essexopportunities.co.uk](http://www.essexopportunities.co.uk)

**National Careers Service- job profile**

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

**National Careers Service- Skills Assessment**

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/skills-assessment>

**Careers support**

<https://icould.com>

**Youth Employment-help and advice getting a job**

<https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/employment-help-young-people/choices/getting-a-job/>

**Help, support and opportunities for young people finding their first job**

[www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk](http://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk)

**Job search website for the Job Centre Plus**

<https://www.gov.uk/find-a-job>

**Job search engine**

[www.indeed.co.uk](http://www.indeed.co.uk)

**Jobs, training and college options for those that may not go to university**

[www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk)

**Higher Education courses**

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

**Essex Youth Service- Information for young people and details of online activities**

<https://youth.essex.gov.uk/>

**Connects 14- 25-year olds with volunteering opportunities in England**

<https://vinspired.com/>

**Search for volunteering opportunities across Essex**

<https://www.volunteeressex.org/>

**Raising of the Participation Age**

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/education-and-training-for-young-people>

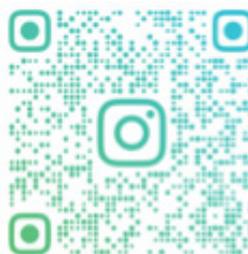
## Mental Health Support

**The Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service (EWMHS)** provides advice and support to children, young people and families who are in need of support with their emotional wellbeing or mental health difficulties. [www.nelft.nhs.uk/services-ewmhs](http://www.nelft.nhs.uk/services-ewmhs)

Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm: call **0300 300 1600**

Email: [nelft-ewmhs.referrals@nhs.net](mailto:nelft-ewmhs.referrals@nhs.net)

Urgent or out of hours: call **0300 555 1200**



This factsheet was produced by the Essex County Council Employability & Skills Team. All Information was correct as of 1st May 2021

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WANT to be...**

**YOUTH  
SERVICE**

  
Essex County Council