

## The world of work

A really important part of thinking about your future is understanding what might be realistic. Some of the most popular jobs careers advisors get asked about (footballer, journalist, forensic psychologist for example) have very few positions available in the UK or they are incredibly competitive. This doesn't mean you won't succeed but it's good to explore beyond the familiar.

Greater Manchester (GM) is home to amazing organisations, exciting businesses, and endless opportunities. This makes it a great place for you to find your career. To find out more about popular sectors in GM, look at [www.gmacs.co.uk/sectors/](http://www.gmacs.co.uk/sectors/)



## Explore Ideas

How many jobs can you think of right now? Most people struggle to think of more than ten but there are thousands of possibilities in the world! That means there are thousands of options for your future which is very exciting but also can feel quite overwhelming. So what can you do? The first thing to do is be as informed as you can be and do some research. There are some good online resources that help you do this:

- [www.gmacs.co.uk](http://www.gmacs.co.uk) - a website designed to help young people in Greater Manchester explore and plan their future career options, including apprenticeships and other post-16 study and training opportunities.
- [www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk) – activities to help you explore choices and pathways.
- [www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com) – lots of videos of people in a range of jobs and shows how school subjects can connect with careers.
- [www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk) – information on nearly 1000 jobs.

Other options to help you look into careers are:

- Work experience - If you have some ideas for your future, and even if you don't have any clear ideas, one of the best things you can do is to gain some work experience. Many schools in Bury offer work experience opportunities
- Speak to your careers adviser – all schools in Bury give students the opportunity to meet with a careers adviser. Speaking to a professional careers advisor can help you make sense of your options and plan for a future that is right for you.

## Your options

You can leave school on the last Friday in June, as long as you'll be 16 by the end of the summer holidays. Once you have left, there are 3 main pathways you can take:

- stay in full-time education
- start an apprenticeship
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, alongside part-time education or training

## Full time education

If you decide to stay in full-time education, you could study subjects, a more practical and knowledge-based course or more technical or vocational studies

Some careers may require specific qualifications, so it's best to research the option you're interested in and where it can lead.

Your full-time education options include:

- A levels which you can do at sixth form college, further education college or a University Technical College
- Vocational Technical Qualifications (VTQ) such as BTEC or Cambridge technical
- T Levels which you can do at further education college



You can look through all of your training options, or get further help and advice on the [Skills for Careers website](#).

If you have not got the results you expected or need, you still have options and there's plenty of support for you. You can get advice and support if you want to [resit an exam](#).

## Starting an apprenticeship

Apprenticeships are real jobs which combine work with training and study. You can apply for an apprenticeship whilst you're still at school. You'll earn a wage, gain a qualification and experience and can put what you learn into practice. In some cases, you may be offered a job at the end of your apprenticeship.

You can [find out more about apprenticeships](#) on the Skills for Careers website.



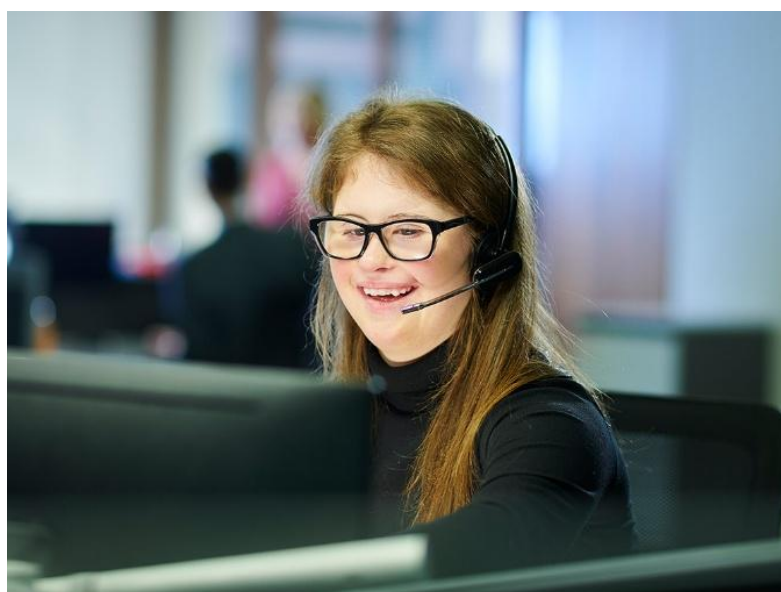
## Combining work and study

Although you must remain in either education or training until you turn 18, this does not mean that you cannot earn a wage or gain work experience at the same time.

There are several options, such as apprenticeships as outlined above, volunteering or working part-time for 20 or more hours per week.

## Training

There are small training providers who offer courses to help you with personal development, job skills, and basic skills. These courses can be taken at any time of the year, unlike most college courses that usually start in September. If you have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), you might consider supported internships.



## Volunteering

Volunteering after leaving school may not be paid work, but can help you to gain valuable skills and experience which will look great on your CV or university application and help you decide if that industry or role is right for you.

There are also some opportunities to earn a qualification whilst volunteering. [Read more about volunteering](#) to see if it's right for you.

## Working part-time

Working part-time alongside study or training can help you to earn money, whilst continuing to work towards your qualifications.

As well as a wage, you'll gain real-life experience of the workplace and can get a feel for whether this type of work would suit you in the future.

## Rethinking your options

If you find yourself in a situation where you need to re-think your options, there's lots of information and support to help you.

Having a backup plan and being open to different routes can be helpful as career plans often have to change.

Talking through your options can be helpful. You should use the support networks you have available to you, these could include:

- your teachers
- your family and friends
- staff in the school, college or organisation where you intend to move
- careers advisers

By speaking to those who can support you, and giving plenty of thought to what you would like to do next, you can consider all of your options and next steps, from retaking exams to changing your plan entirely.

## Qualifications levels

A really important part of understanding what choices are available to you is being familiar with qualification levels. Not knowing what level of qualification you are studying can really impact on your future! To move from Level 2 study (which is GCSE) on to Level 3 you generally need to have passed at least 5 GCSEs including Maths and English Language at grade 4 or more.

Find more info: [www.gmacs.co.uk/education-training](http://www.gmacs.co.uk/education-training)

Qualification/Level	Summary of learning	Examples of Qualification
Entry Level	Basic knowledge and skills	Entry Level 1, 2 and 3 in subjects such as Life skills.
Level 1	Basic knowledge and skills and ability to demonstrate applying the knowledge gained.	GCSE grades 1 - 3, ASDAN Level 1 Certificate, NVQ Level 1
Level 2	GCSE grades 1 - 3, ASDAN Level 1 Certificate, NVQ Level 1	GCSE grades 4 - 9, NVQ Level 2, BTEC Firsts
Level 3	Deeper and higher level understanding and demonstration of skills, knowledge and application of knowledge. Can lead to university, further education and apprenticeships	A Levels and AS Levels, Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, BTEC Subsidiary Diploma, BTEC Diploma, BTEC Extended Diploma, NVQ Level 3, Music grades 6, 7 and 8 in an instrument, T Levels
Level 4-8	Very high level of learning specialising in one subject or vocational area.	Level 4 - 5 = Higher Level Apprenticeships, NVQ Level 6 = Bachelor Degree (3 year university degree) Level 7 = Masters Degree Level 8 = Doctorate

Towards the end of Year 10 your school will start to talk to you about making decisions for what to do after Year 11. You might hear this being called Post 16 decisions (post means after).

Deciding which type of learning environment is right for you depends on what you want to study and what kind of institute appeals to you! For example, if you want to study popular A Levels subjects you will likely be able to do that at most Further Education Colleges and 6th form colleges near to you. If you want to do a specific apprenticeship or study a more unusual course you may only have one choice of place to train or study.

To find out more about the college and providers available in Bury, please see our [Useful Contacts](#) or [Bury's Local Offer](#)

