

What are the choices post-16?

Students are required to continue in formal education or partake in paid or voluntary work with training until the end of the academic year that they turn 18.

Possibilities include:

- full-time study in a school, college or with a training provider
- work or volunteering combined with education or training
- an apprenticeship <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Be-An-Apprentice.aspx>
- a short term employability skills courses such as GAPS or a traineeship

You can find out more about the raising of the participation (RPA) age at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/participation/rpa>

A large number of Melbourn students choose to continue their education at sixth form, including Comberton Sixth Form which, along with Melbourn, is part of the CAM Academy Trust. Others choose to study at another post-16 provider within the Cambridge Area Partnership:

Cambridge Regional College, Cambridge Academy for Science & Technology (CAST), College of West Anglia, Comberton Sixth Form, Cottenham Sixth Form, Ely College Sixth Form, Hills Road Sixth Form, Impington Sixth Form, Long Road Sixth Form, The Oaks (formerly Netherhall Sixth Form), Parkside Sixth Form.

The Application Process

Making an application

All students will be applying online using an online application system called MyChoice@16

The application system will also allow students to research post-16 providers and courses as all of the post-16 providers in the Cambridge Area Partnership are included on the website and so are the details of all the courses they offer.

Pupils will be issued with a username and password. Completing their application will involve filling in their personal information, contact details, work experience and personal statement. Students will then be able to select the post-16 providers and courses they wish to apply for. Students are able to apply to more than one provider but must indicate their order of preference as part of the application.

The deadline for students to have completed their online application the second last week before the Christmas holidays. The applications will then be checked, approved and sent to the chosen post-16 providers at the start of January.

Interviews

Post-16 providers will process the applications and then invite students for a guidance interview. Depending on their interview policy some centres will only interview 1st choice applicants while others will interview all applicants.

The purpose of these interviews is to provide students with advice and guidance to ensure they have selected the right courses.

Offers

Once post-16 centres have conducted all their interviews they will issue offers to the successful students, usually by the Easter holiday. If students receive offers from more than one centre they are able to hold those offers and make a decision once they receive their GCSE results.

Post GCSE Results

Students will receive their GCSE results in August. If they are holding offers they will then need to decide which place they wish to accept. Post-16 centres will hold surgeries and drop-ins for students who need further advice or guidance or who wish to alter their subject choices. Pupils will have to accept their final offer via the mychoice16 website after they receive their results so that the post 16 centre can begin the enrolment process.

Advice and Guidance

Students follow a structured careers programme as part of their personal development (PSHE) and will be receiving detailed advice on how to complete their application form and advice on how to write their personal statement.

Parents and students are encouraged to attend the Post-16 Information evening, usually held late September/early October. There will be a talk from a senior leader, and representatives from all of the Cambridge Area Partnership post-16 providers will also be present to talk to.

During November and December all Year 11 students will have a post-16 guidance interview to help inform their decisions.

If pupils need further advice and guidance about completing their application or making their choices, they can talk to their Tutor, Head of Year or Mr Willder (Assistant Principal). Mr Willder is the senior leader who oversees the Post 16 process.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Can students modify their personal statement on their application form if they are applying to more than one post-16 centre?

A. No, students can only apply using one personal statement. It is absolutely fine for students to be quite general when talking about their subject choices in their personal statements. The guidance interview is when post-16 centres might want to ask why students have chosen particular courses.

Q. How important in the order of preference students put their chosen post-16 centres in when applying?

A. The main reason for asking students to order their preferences is so that centres have some indication of where a student would prefer to study, particularly if a student applies to more than one centre for the same courses. However, the order of preference does not in any way commit a student to studying at a particular centre.

Q. When will students receive offers and how should they respond?

A. Some post-16 centres will send out offers to students shortly after their interview while others will wait until all the interviews are complete before sending out their offers but all students should receive their offers by the Easter holiday. Each centre will explain how they would like students to respond to their offer.

Q. What should students do after they receive their GCSE results?

A. students should follow the instructions given to them by each post-16 centre, but pupils must accept their final choice by logging in to the mychoice@16 website. All post-16 centres will be open for students who need advice or guidance or wish to change their subject choices. Staff from MVC will also be available on results day and in the days following for anyone who needs advice or help finding a post-16 place.

Q. Who can parents or students contact if they need help or have any questions?

A. Form tutor, Head of Year, Assistant principal for transition (Mr Willder) ewillder@melbournvc.org

Q. My child is in Y9/Y10, what can we be doing now?

A. We strongly recommend that pupils and parents begin to engage in possibilities and options for after Y11. Here are some hints and tips which may help this.

- It is ok for pupils not to know what they want to do – this is normal!
- Speak about what pupils enjoy doing – subjects at school? Particular hobbies? What are they good at?
- Think about a future career – what could pupils see themselves doing as a job? What do they like?
- Courses have entry requirements – be realistic about potential GCSE grades and what pupils can access.
- Look at the table below and explore some different courses. Generally pupils can go on to work to earn money and upskill in an area (apprenticeship with 1 day a week in college) or study at college full time (A levels (fully exam based) or other vocational courses (often exam and coursework based)).
- Be wary of stereotypes. For example, did you know pupils can do apprenticeships in business, law, transport and engineering?
- Consider the use of this summer – could pupils get some work experience, a job or volunteer to develop skills that would look good on their application?
- Book on to some open days (start in Sept) – a chance to visit the providers is really key!
- Realise that pupils need a 1st choice pathway and then a 2nd (backup) choice pathway in case entry requirements are not met or pupils have a change of mind.

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