

What to do if your GCSE results are not what you expected

Shine Careers Advisers have put together this set of tips to help you work out what to do now.

DON'T PANIC. You are not the only person who has to reconsider their options. The government has made a promise that there is a study or training place for you.

The first thing to do is contact the sixth form, college or apprenticeship where you applied to and ask if you will still be accepted.

It is best if you make the telephone call or go along in person. However, if you feel too shy or embarrassed to do it by yourself you can ask a parent, carer or other adult to make the call or go along with you. Together you need to work fast to get a place on a course.

If you are not accepted at your first choice, then you need to start looking again at the options. If you have to start choosing again then follow these tips to reduce the chances of making a hurried or bad decision.

Your main options are

- Continuing your education at a 6th form or college
- Going into training through a vocational study programme (Aspire2Work), traineeship or apprenticeship

These are your main options

Continue studying in a sixth form. Do you meet the entry requirements for sixth form? Do you enjoy school? Is there a suitable course which will help you eventually move into the career or future course you want to do? Are you prepared to commit to another 1 or 2 years study at school?

- **ACTION:** Talk to the Head of Sixth Form immediately.

Go to college. Colleges often have hundreds of different types of courses at different levels. Whatever your grades they have a suitable level course. Are you ready for a change? Which course will get you into the career of your choice in the shortest time?

- **ACTION:** Look on the college website for courses. Courses can be found on the <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/find-a-course/search>
- Contact the college as soon as you can.

Aspire2Work Study Programme: If you want to improve your Maths and English qualifications while studying for a useful work qualification the Study Programme may be right for you. While on the programme you can get qualifications and work experience to help you get into a job or apprenticeship. Nearest A2W centre is in Leeds.

- **ACTION:** phone for an informal chat 0330 111 0035 or go to <https://youngpeople.theopportunitycentre.com/aspire2work/> and click on **apply now**.

Traineeships: You may feel that you will need more support before you can start an apprenticeship because of your grades or other issues. Traineeships are a new programme for young people to provide this support. You can find Traineeship vacancies on the apprenticeships websites <https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>

Apprenticeships: You may prefer to start work rather than continue in school or college. That is an option, but the difficult part is finding the right apprenticeship. Are you ready to start work? Are you a good timekeeper? Do you know the job you want to do? Do you know what you will do as part of the training? Apprenticeships have guaranteed 'on the job'

training to National Vocational Standards and are available in many areas of work. You can look online at www.apprenticeships.org.uk. Some apprenticeships also offer training towards professional qualifications which can lead to a degree.

Full-time employment or volunteering combined with part-time education or training is another option for some people. **Jobs** – you can apply for jobs on the <https://www.gov.uk/jobsearch> website and the other jobs websites including those run by your local newspaper. You can also look at big name companies who have their own websites as they often advertise vacancies on line rather than in their stores. You can research your job ideas on the Job Profiles section on the National Careers Service website. The information in the job profiles can help you target your CV / application towards specific jobs.

Useful websites and local results day support

General Advice from the government

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/university-traineeship-first-job-what-s-your-post-exam-plan?>

Further Education

Harrogate College

See the website for GCSE results day support and discuss course opportunities.

<http://www.harrogate-college.ac.uk/> Tel - 01423 879466. Post Covid 19 - Harrogate College will be setting up a hotline for results day - details are still to be finalised as we go to press. There is a well staffed webchat option on their website in the meantime.

York College

If interested in staying in FE. A Level and GCSE results days - for help and advice call the York College GCSE helpline on **01904 770100** Or contact them on-line.

Leeds Colleges - <https://employmentskillsleeds.co.uk/education/youngpeople> - this page will be updated with information about any events in Leeds during the summer, including clearing in Leeds at the various colleges city-wide – so you can select from here which college is of interest to you. This website will also cover employment, apprenticeships and traineeships in the area.

You can also find courses in your area www.gov.uk/courses-qualifications as well as local college websites.

Apprenticeships

See what **apprenticeships and traineeships** are available at www.apprenticeships.org.uk www.gov.uk: for government advice on Education and Learning including Traineeships. A number of employers (but not all) have put a delay on recruitment post Covid 19 so if you have an offer of employment/apprenticeship do check the situation directly with them.

Leeds - ring the Leeds Employment Hub helpline (part funded through the European Social Fund) to arrange an appointment with an adviser. Tel: 0113 378 4576 <https://leedsemploymenthub.co.uk/>

Apprenticeships in York - <https://www.york.gov.uk/YorkApprenticeships> Apprenticeship Hub West Offices, Station Rise, York, YO1 6GA Telephone: 01904 553732

Email: york.apprenticeships@york.gov.uk Facebook.com/yorkapprenticeships Twitter.com/yorkapprentices

Careers Guidance – in addition to support from school there is support available: -

National Careers Service – Call 0800 100 900 or [use webchat](#). 8am to 10pm 7 days a week.



Do not forget as a Rossett student you have access to eCLIPS <https://www.eclips-online.co.uk/> Password Rossett.

There are many helpful leaflets – including these that may be the most helpful on results day.

Choices at 16 - <https://www.eclips-online.co.uk/leaflet/1.10>

Choosing Level 3 courses - <https://www.eclips-online.co.uk/leaflet/2.15>

How to find a job - <https://www.eclips-online.co.uk/leaflet/11.10>

Jobs requiring few or no qualifications - <https://www.eclips-online.co.uk/leaflet/1.15>

Apprenticeships and work based learning - <https://www.eclips-online.co.uk/leaflet/11.16>

Coping with interviews - <https://www.eclips-online.co.uk/leaflet/11.13>