



Eyes on the Prize

Welcome

Eyes on the Prize is for students like you. From your GCSE choices to career ideas; qualifications needed for your future prospects, this event is designed for you and will help you:

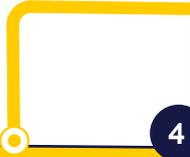
- Understand how GCSE options and the grades you achieve will impact on your future
- Find out more about your future opportunities for study and employment
- Take a virtual tour of our campus

This booklet is for you to use during and after the event. There are lots of useful websites and videos for you to explore. Fill in the text boxes and save yourself a copy, it will help you keep your Eyes on the Prize!

We hope you have a great time, this is your future, so keep your **Eyes on the Prize** !

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Your educational journey

Eyes on the Prize takes you on a journey through education, complete the boxes with the ideas/ answers you get.

YOUR
JOURNEY
STARTS/
STARTED
HERE

Choosing your GCSE options

Having an idea of what you'd like to do in the future can help when choosing your GCSE options, but don't worry if you're not quite sure. The most important thing is not to create barriers; not taking GCSE Art when your career idea is based on art is a great example. There are some subjects that you have to take (Maths, English, Science), but you do have some freedom to make decisions. Don't worry if you don't have all the answers - teachers, careers staff and events like today's will help.

GCSE options: choosing your subjects

Think about what you could study and answer these simple questions:

What subjects am I good at?

What subjects do I enjoy?

What subjects do I need?

Your educational journey (cont.)

Your GCSEs

Take your GCSEs seriously and get the best grades you can. These grades actually matter and will affect your choices throughout your future. A good grade in English and Maths is very important. Whilst studying your GCSEs, think about your plans and remember that better grades can improve your chances. Applying early for sixth form, college, or apprenticeships will help your chances and will give you a goal to achieve.

Post-16 options

Apprenticeships

The option of an apprenticeship will give you the opportunity to work with an employer, earn money and learn by gaining NVQ qualifications, which could lead into degree level study. There are a range of employers in many different job areas offering apprenticeships; examples include hospitality, construction, business administration and engineering.

Find out more at
[gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide](https://www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide)

Further Education college

If you want to continue with study, you have the option to go to a college. Similar to sixth forms, but normally bigger, Further Education (FE) colleges usually offer a wider

range of courses (BTECs, A Levels and NVQ) across a number of levels. Some courses will be practical and include training for particular trades (vocational qualifications), but you might also want to look at courses that offer academic routes.

Sixth Form

If your school has one, you could stay at your school's sixth form. With the right grades you'll have the opportunity to study, among others, A Levels, BTECs or the International Baccalaureate, all in a learning environment that you're used to. Alternatively, you could choose to study at another school's sixth form or at a sixth form college.

Your educational journey (cont.)

Post-16 options - what next?

Write the option that you would like to take; include where you would study it, the subject level and the grades you think you'll need to get onto this course.



Avoid barriers to your future by starting to plan in Year 9 and keep your **Eyes on the Prize**

The prize

University and Higher Education

An option at 18 or older is to study at university and with around 50,000 courses on offer from 300 universities and colleges, there's plenty of choice!

Entry requirements will depend on the course and the university you go to, so find out what grades and subjects you need. Even in Year 8 or 9 you could spend time researching university courses linked to your future career and that can help you make the right choices and keep your **Eyes on the Prize**.

Getting to university

What subject(s) would I like to study at university?

Where would I like to study?

What do I need to get there?

Study with ARU



At ARU we offer undergraduate degrees in lots of different areas. We support people to get into lots of different careers such as Nursing, Law, Biomedical and Policing.

[Click to explore our degrees further.](#)

Chelmsford campus



Our Chelmsford campus has state of the art facilities, why not explore the campus.

[Click to take a virtual tour.](#)

Students' Union

University is not just about studying there are lots of activities to get involved with while you are not in your lessons or studying. Our Students' Union helps students to run clubs and societies, as a student you can get involved in as many or as few as you like.



[Click to see clubs and societies run by our current students.](#)

A-Z of sport



Keeping fit and healthy while at university is important and, like school, you can continue to enjoy your favourite sport. At ARU we play lots of different sports from American Football to Taekwondo.

[Click here for our A-Z Sports.](#)

ARU Accommodation

For many people going to university will be the first time they move out of their family home and live independently. The university will provide accommodation, you might have heard them referred to as 'halls'.

Have a look at what our halls look like at ARU by visiting the link below.

Student Village



We hope you found this information about ARU useful, feel free to keep exploring.

The benefits of university

Course choice

With over 50,000 courses to choose from there's something to suit everyone. Discover our courses at aru.ac.uk/ug

Study

Whatever subject you choose at university you will enjoy studying it further with a mixture of lectures, seminars and independent study that suits you. At ARU students have access to a modern campus, state of the art facilities, a well resourced library and student support.

Clubs and societies

Universities have hundreds of different clubs and societies for you to choose from, so you can keep up with your current hobbies or try something new. Our Student Union supports over 120 different societies, discover more at aru.ac.uk/studentunion

Independence

Lots of students choose to move away from home to experience living somewhere new and different. This helps develop life skills such as cooking, cleaning and managing your own money, but you still have the support of university staff and your new friends. Whether you move away, or stay at home you'll have a great time.

Skills

Studying at university gives you lots of different skills that are useful for work like time management, independent thinking and teamwork. All these skills are liked by employers and will help you get that perfect job.

Money

The average graduate starting salary is £30,000*. Graduates will earn on average about £9,500 a year more than non-graduates**

*Graduate-jobs.com, 2017

**Department for Education, 2017

Useful links

UCAS: www.ucas.com

Prospects: www.prospects.ac.uk

National Careers Service: nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

Apprenticeships: www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

The Sixth Form College, Colchester

The College is a specialist Sixth Form College - and is one of the largest and most successful 16-19 providers of general academic sixth form education in the country. The College's prime aim is to provide broad, high quality academic and general education programmes to our 16-19 year old full time students.

You will hear from a representative of the The Sixth Form College, Colchester but if you would like to explore further, visit www.colchsfc.ac.uk





Essex County Council

Essex County Council

If you live in Essex you're likely to have services provided by Essex County Council. ECC provide county wide services such as Children's social care and taking care of our roads. As well as the looking after you and your community the ECC support people with getting into work, the Entry to Work creates a range of opportunities for people to get into work at the ECC. You will hear from a representative of Essex County Council but if you would like to explore visit [essex.gov.uk](https://www.essex.gov.uk)

[workingforessex.com/working-here/entry-to-work](https://www.workingforessex.com/working-here/entry-to-work)



Degree Apprenticeships

ARU are very proud to be one of the UK's leading providers of degree Apprenticeships. Degree apprenticeships are an alternative work-based route to degree education. They're a collaboration between employers, apprentices and ARU.

You will hear from a representative of Degree Apprenticeships but if you would like to explore further, visit [aru.ac.uk/study/degree-apprenticeships](https://www.aru.ac.uk/study/degree-apprenticeships)



What have you found out today?



My GCSE subjects should be?

What skills and experience will I need?



What grades do I need?

My career aim is...



What post-16 option could I take?