

PATHWAYS TO YOUR FUTURE

MAKE
—
HAPPEN

Helping you make
informed choices about
your **education** and **future**.

Make Happen are here to help you make informed decisions about your education and future.

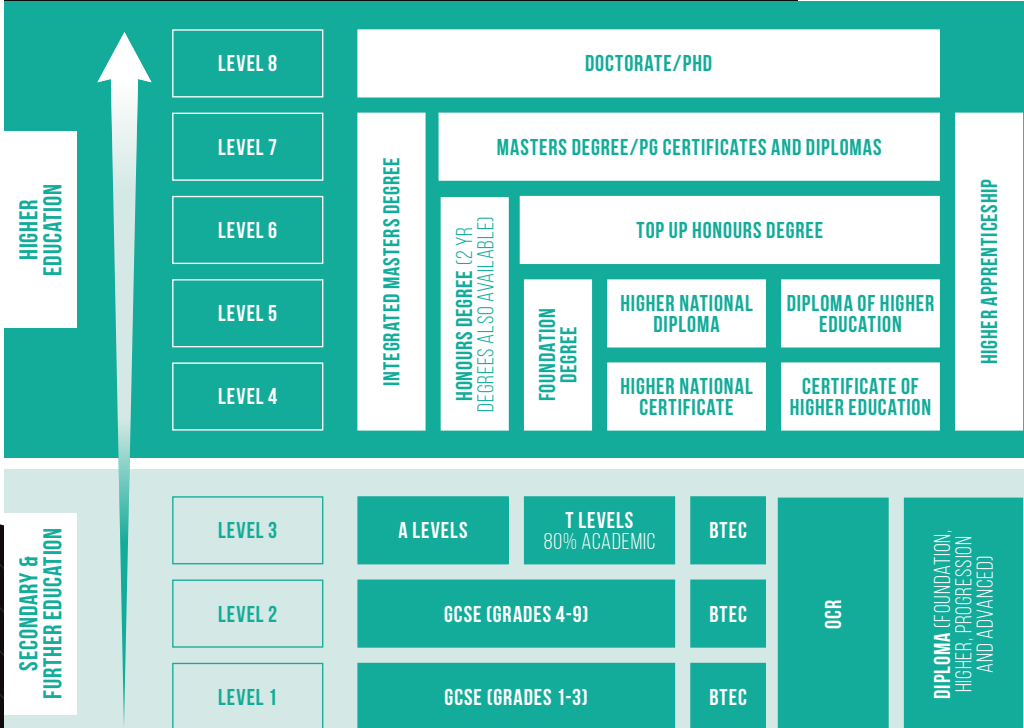
We're a team of Higher Education and Outreach professionals based at university campuses across Essex. We offer activities, advice and information on the benefits and realities of going to university or college to study for a degree or degree apprenticeship.

We're also dedicated to supporting your exploration of the world of work and career progression.



Find out more at www.makehappen.org

QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK





POST-16 OPTIONS

WHAT IS SIXTH FORM?

Sixth Form is where you may go to study A levels, BTECs and/or T levels (Level Three qualifications). Sixth Form study is known as Further Education. A Sixth Form may be an extension to a secondary school or a separate Sixth Form College. A day at Sixth Form is usually structured around a timetable like school, and you may share buildings with students from 11 years old and up.

At Make Happen, we can support you in researching all your available options to consider after finishing your level three qualification.

What can you study at sixth form?

A levels are taught at Sixth Form and you will need to achieve Grade 4s and above at GCSE to get into a Sixth Form. The Sixth Form you choose will be able to tell you about their exact requirements.

You will choose three or four A level subjects you wish to study and/or require for a future pathway. The academic level of learning will be higher than GCSE level, but you will be studying fewer subjects.



DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP	HIGHER APPRENTICESHIP	
	HIGHER APPRENTICESHIP	
	HIGHER APPRENTICESHIP	NVQ LEVEL 5
	HIGHER APPRENTICESHIP	NVQ LEVEL 4

ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIP	NVQ LEVEL 3
INTERMEDIATE APPRENTICESHIP	NVQ LEVEL 2
	NVQ LEVEL 1

WHAT IS COLLEGE?

Colleges offer different levels of qualification, usually from level two upwards to level seven. College study is known as Further Education. In college you will be studying alongside various age groups from 16 years up to and including adult learners and the subjects are usually more practical. The timetable is less rigid than school or Sixth Form and depending on your course, you may have days of the week dedicated to independent working.

At Make Happen we can help you explore your options after Year 11. We will support you with building an action plan for your future and can give guidance on researching your pathway goals including education, training, apprenticeship, and employment.

What can I study at college?

Colleges offer both study programmes and apprenticeship training, and this can also include T levels. A study programme is a full-time course with around 15 hours per week of timetabled classes over three or more days. This can be a mix of academic and practical classes. You will also have the opportunity to join college enrichment programmes to support your learning. Topics range from accounting to interactive media, games design to technical theatre and production arts – the choice is vast!

WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

An **Apprenticeship** is a paid job which combines employment and Level 2 to Level 7 training. Apprenticeships are available in most industries and cover full and part time hours. Pay scales can vary depending on the apprenticeship and the length of the apprenticeship, but they start at minimum wage. At the end of your apprenticeship, you will receive a nationally recognised qualification. Apprenticeships are a great way to discover and build upon your talents. Apprenticeships are open to all age groups (16+). The range of levels of apprenticeships cover Further and Higher Education.

At Make Happen, we can explain the benefits of apprenticeships, support your understanding of the different levels of apprenticeship and help you discover Higher and Degree apprenticeships.

What can I study as an Apprentice?

You can study a wide variety of subjects that link to a number of companies, for example, software development at Amazon or veterinary nursing at Vets4pets. All apprenticeships run for a minimum of 12 months, and you do not need to pay for the qualification. Applying for an apprenticeship is the same as applying for a job – you will need a CV and covering letter and will be asked to attend an interview to see if you are suitable for the role. You will get a workplace mentor and your employer will tell you where and when you will be attending the training part of the apprenticeship (likely to be a local education provider).

WHAT ARE T LEVELS?

T Levels are a two-year academic course with 80% of your time in the classroom and 20% on an industry placement. They are equivalent to three A levels, and they can help you to get into skilled employment, further study, or a Higher Apprenticeship. T levels are for students aged 16 to 19 years old. This qualification encourages dedicated study towards a skilled occupation and lasts for two years. T levels are currently being rolled out by colleges, schools, and independent training providers, and you can find your nearest provider through this website: **Find a T Level** – www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/find

What can I study at T Level?

There are more and more T levels launching each year so the list will continue to grow as more students undertake this type of progression route. You can study design, surveying, and planning for construction through to agriculture, land management and production. T levels are another qualification available during Further Education.



BELIEVE IN YOURSELF AND YOU'LL BE UNSTOPPABLE!

WHAT IS UNIVERSITY?

University is a place in which you study for a degree and undertake academic research. This level of study is called Higher Education. You can live at university whilst attending your course or commute from where you live. Universities offer full time and part time courses, and they also offer different lengths of study. You can also attend university as part of some apprenticeship courses.

At Make Happen, we can help you understand the benefits of going to university and support you in gaining an insight into what student life is like. We have lots of blogs on our website from students just like you who have studied at university and want to share their stories with you. Be sure to check them out!

What can I study at university?

University offers undergraduate courses (before you have a degree), postgraduate courses (if you already have a degree), study abroad programmes, online study courses, apprenticeships and summer schools.

DEGREE BENEFITS OF HIGHER EDUCATION



What is a degree? An academic degree is a qualification that is awarded to a student who has completed a course in Higher Education (i.e., at university or through an apprenticeship course), and the degree qualification can be used in different fields and career settings.

On our Make Happen website, you can find different guides that highlight the benefits of Higher Education. Why go to university or take an apprenticeship course? Check out the guides to find out which pathway is best for you.

Why go to university?

www.makehappen.org/guide/why-go-to-university/

What is an apprenticeship?

www.makehappen.org/guide/what-is-an-apprenticeship/

Take the time to research which Higher Education route would suit you. Use the resources available on our Make Happen website www.makehappen.org.

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

There is another option to studying at university full-time.

Three top benefits of a Degree Apprenticeship are:

WORK – you are employed by a company and gain hands-on experience
EARN – no student finance to worry about, the company will pay you
LEARN – you still study for a degree and get to graduate; 20% of your time is dedicated to completing your degree.

Major companies offer Degree Apprenticeship opportunities including Armed Services, BAE Systems, BBC, BT, GSK, IBM, Jaguar Land Rover Limited, NHS, Police and PWC.

There are plenty more employers who also offer Degree Apprenticeship options across a range of industries and sectors.

Take the time to find out more.

Find an apprenticeship:

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Degree apprenticeships –

Learn more here:

wwwucas.com/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships

STUDY SKILLS

At Make Happen, we deliver many workshops to introduce a variety of revision techniques to help you build on your revision skills.

Have you heard of the 'Memory Palace Technique'? It is also known as the 'Method of Loci' and it is the oldest known memory strategy that uses spatial memory to retain new information. It works by using familiar surroundings i.e., a room you know very well, and links information to key features in the room to make the memory 'weird' or funny which is ultimately more memorable!

Another revision technique that we introduce you to is called 'chunking' which breaks information down into smaller, more familiar (and therefore, more memorable) groups of information.

Mind-mapping is another way to simplify your revision notes. Creating structured diagrams helps to visualise different types of information ready for exam day.

If you think that none of the above techniques could work for you, the 'Cornell Note Taking' method is another revision technique you could try instead. This method allows you to create structured notes by listening more and writing less in class!

Remember – form good habits during your revision period, create a revision plan! Go through past exam papers to understand the format and questions you might be asked, and you can practice time constraints. Health and wellbeing play a vital part in ensuring you can remember as much information as possible. Eat well, drink plenty of water, keep active and get a good night's sleep!

To find out more, head to the Make Happen website and sign up to our Make Happen Academy!

**TODAY IS THE
DAY TO LEARN
SOMETHING NEW!**





SCHOOL

Secondary education is Level 1 and Level 2 education with mandatory subjects resulting in GCSE qualifications.



COLLEGE/SIXTH FORM

College and Sixth Form are known as Further Education. You are able to study from Level 1 to Level 7 at college, and Level 3 (A levels or BTECs) at Sixth Form.



UNIVERSITY

University is known as Higher Education. This leads to Level 7 and Level 8 degree qualifications, including Degree Apprenticeships. Degrees will usually last three to four years.

APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships are a combination of practical training for a job (80%) and studying (20%). Apprenticeships start at Level 1 and can go up to Level 7.

T LEVELS

T levels are a combination of study (80%) and work placement (20%).

DEGREE

Degree levels go from Level 5 to Level 8 degrees.

STEP IN TO
YOUR CAREER

MAKE
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LEVEL 2

LEVEL 3

LEVELS
4 TO 7

LEVEL 8

ACTION PLAN

HOW TO SET AN ACTION PLAN

- Set SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-based)
- Create a list of actions
- Set a timeline
- Designate resources
- Monitor your progress

AS A RESULT I WILL:

- Look at college/sixth form/university Open Days.
- Add dates in my diary.
- Start a CV and cover letter.
- Develop a skills audit.
- Look into work experience opportunities

GOAL →

HOW? (Action steps)	WHEN? (Deadline for completion)	WHO? (Person responsible for actions)	EVIDENCE (How will you know the action step is accomplished)

GLOSSARY

A Level

Level 3 qualification that can be used as an entry requirement for university or a Degree Apprenticeship.

BTEC

Level 3 qualification that can be used as an entry requirement for university or a Degree Apprenticeship.

Campus

The name given to the location of a university. There are campus universities that have everything you need for living, socialising and studying in one place. Or city universities where student facilities are spread out over a much wider area.

Clearing

If you don't make the grades for any of your university offers, you can use Clearing to help you find a place on a different course.

Conditional offer

A conditional offer means you have a place on your chosen course – as long as you meet certain conditions.

Degree Apprenticeship

A type of higher qualification that allows you to work for a company and study for a full university degree at the same time. You earn a wage and do not have to pay for your degree, which is funded by your employer and the government.

Entry requirements

Conditions you need to meet to be considered for a place on a specific course; set by each university, entry requirements will differ depending on where you are applying to.

Gap year

Students can choose to take a gap year before they start university. This is a year out of education, when you may choose to travel, work or volunteer.

Halls of Residence

In the US, this is known as dorms – mainly for first years – and this is a type of accommodation where you live with other students.

Open Day

A day for prospective students to look around a university and get a feel for what it's actually like to go there.

Oxbridge

Oxbridge is a shortened way of referring to both Oxford and Cambridge universities.

Student Finance

A system of loans to help students access university. There are tuition fee loans that cover the cost of the course and maintenance loans that cover living costs. More information is available from www.gov.uk/student-finance

Students' Union

They support students and they put together sports, social events and societies across a range of different interests. Being a member of your Students' Union will get you discounts too.

T Level

Level 3 qualification that can be used as an entry requirement for university or a Degree Apprenticeship.

UCAS

Short for the Universities and Colleges Admissions Services, they handle the application process for UK universities. You can apply for 5 courses through UCAS and their www.ucas.com website is one of the most used in the country.

UCAS Tariff Points

The grade you get in each qualification earns you a certain amount of UCAS points, for example, a course could ask for AAB in A-levels, or it could ask for the equivalent 136 UCAS points.

Unconditional Offer





This means that you definitely have a place at the university no matter what your grades are.

Undergraduate

A student who is taking their first degree.

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www.makehappen.org