

Dear Year 10 Parent/Guardian and student,

As we approach the summer holidays, I wanted to write to encourage you to use the break to research and plan your applications for P16. Applications for colleges open in October. Each year, those students who have done this background research are able to put their choices forward and have this next step under their belt. Those who are still undecided throughout the autumn term can find that the indecision interferes with focusing on their studies.

At Crawshaw, we provide a great deal of advice and guidance in making these choices, but input from home is crucial. Students in Year 10 have been having Careers interviews, and anyone who hasn't had one yet will be seen as a priority in September. There is also free Careers advice available on [Careers advice - job profiles, information and resources | National Careers Service](#) as well as a phone line – well worth a call. The Career Pilot website is also an excellent place to start. [Careerpilot : Plan your future work & study](#) We advise all students to make at least two applications, to ensure that they have room for manoeuvre.

Please also consider using the [Start Profile](#), which all students have access to, in order to explore careers routes and entry requirements for certain jobs. There is also a module on there about Post 18 options. Another route for help is our Careers website, which has a lot of information for parents; it can be found at [Crawshaw Academy - Red Kite Learning Trust - Careers and Progression](#)

The below summary of Post 16 study options cover most of the routes recent students have taken.

Apprenticeship applications will not begin to be advertised until the April of Year 11, and we will be providing more information on these during the year. Even if an apprenticeship is your child's preferred route they must also have a college application completed. Simply wanting an apprenticeship is no guarantee of being taken on for one. There is also evidence that fewer apprenticeships are going to 16-year olds at all, as 18 year olds are taken on in these roles. To begin your research into apprenticeships, please look at the Amazing Apprenticeships website [Amazing Apprenticeships](#), and take a look at what is out there in our local area [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). Apprenticeships are full time jobs with associated training demands, so think carefully about whether your child is ready for this commitment. Intermediate Apprenticeships are level 2 (ie, the same level as GCSEs), and Advanced ones are level 3 (the same as A levels). We find a lot of students who are not successful at securing an apprenticeship at 16 do get one after a year at college honing their skills; employers often want to see that you have some basic knowledge of their industry, and this is best achieved through college.

Resits

If your child needs to resit English and Maths, colleges and apprenticeships will allow for this. That said, an employer may specify that they want English and Maths already secured before they offer an apprenticeship, in which case college is your best bet.

Level 2 and level 3

Level 2 courses are the same level as GCSEs, so if your child does not secure 5 grades at 4 and over, they will often start on a level 2 course. Level 3 are the equivalent of A levels.

Vocational and other qualifications

You can choose just to do a vocational pathway (this would often be the route at Leeds City College or Leeds Building College), and academic one with all A levels, or a mixed one with some BTECs and some A levels.

Crawshaw Post 16

Luminate will take over our Post 16 provision from September 2023. There will be no Post 16 provision at Crawshaw; provision will be through the new Pudsey Sixth Form College as we partner with Luminate. As the building won't be ready for September 2023, the first wave of students at the college will begin their journey at Leeds Sixth Form College being taught with their Pudsey cohort, and will then move across to the new building during the year. More information around this will be coming soon.

Leeds College of Building [Apprenticeships & Courses | Construction & Building & Engineering | LCB](#)

We are the only city in England with a dedicated Building college and recent LMI (Labour market information) is predicting that construction will be a huge employer in our city over the next few years. Some courses, such as the electrical course, fill up very quickly, and every year we have disappointed students who did not heed this advice and left their application too late.

Leeds City College [Full Time or Part Time Education - Leeds City College](#)

This is the place to apply if you want to do vocational courses. You can apply for as many courses as you want, so it is sensible to apply for two or three with different entry requirements to ensure you secure a place.

Notre Dame [Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College \(notredamecoll.ac.uk\)](#)

This long-established college provides a range of Post 16 courses. Applications open in October, and interviews and references will be needed.

Elliot Hudson [Elliott Hudson College](#)

This college was established in 2015, and again, offers a range of different Post 16 courses. Applications open in October, and interviews and references will be needed. Preference is given to applicants from schools within their Trust, so it is important to apply early.

Shipley College [Study at Shipley College, near Keighley, Bingley, Bradford, West Yorkshire](#)

Often overlooked in Pudsey, this small college provides some interesting courses; smaller than the other colleges, it has a reputation for being highly nurturing.

Bradford College [Bradford College - Turn Your Passion Into a Profession](#)

Has a huge range of courses covering everything you could think of.

CAPA College [CAPA College](#)

This is the best performing arts college in our region – a wide range of creative courses for any budding musicians, dancers, or performers.

There are more options out there, some of which are very specialist. Please contact me with any questions.

Mrs Wearing

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