

PATHWAYS

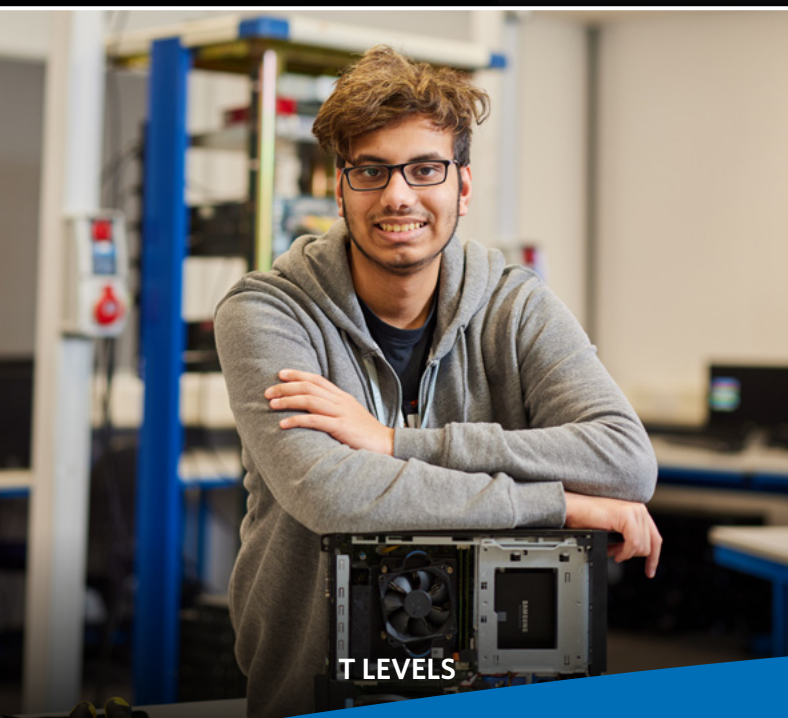
WHICH SHOULD YOU STUDY?



A LEVELS



APPRENTICESHIPS



T LEVELS



TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL

Why study A Levels?

Following GCSEs, A Levels is often the obvious choice for your 6th form education. They are subject-based qualifications that can lead to university, further study, training or employment.

REASONS TO STUDY A LEVELS?

- 1. A Levels subjects are exciting and varied.** At BTC, there are dozens of A Level subjects to choose from. Some of these will be familiar, Art & Design, Computer Science, Biology, French, Geography and Physics - but college may be the first opportunity you've had to explore subjects like Criminology, Psychology, Law, Politics, Sociology or Fashion & Textiles! You should choose subjects that fit well together and are accepted for your preferred university course. Our team can help you decide what works best for you and your career goals.
- 2. A Level students get great results.** In 2024, the College achieved an amazing 100% pass rate across 21 A Level subjects. Subjects such as English Language and Literature and Sociology saw a record number of A* to B grades, with students achieving an overall 5% increase in high grades, in comparison with the previous year.
- 3. A Levels are great if you prefer class-based learning.** Most GCSEs are academic subjects that are taught in a classroom environment, so if you thrived at school and achieved great results, it may be a sign that this setting suits you. A Levels are also often classroom, studio or lab-based, but you will also be encouraged to do your own research and study outside of lessons.
- 4. A Levels lead to Higher Education.** A Levels accrue UCAS points and help you meet the entry requirements for university. They are a traditional route to Higher Education and previous BTC students have gained places at prestigious universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College London, Bristol, Birmingham, Exeter, Cardiff, Durham, Edinburgh, and many other Russell Group universities.
- 5. A Level students aim for Oxbridge.** If you aspire to a place at a top university, BTC's Honours Academy can help you work towards your goal. The Honours Academy prepares you for the competitive applications process, providing everything from master classes to mock interviews, visiting experts to alumni Q&As. If you dream of Oxbridge or a medical career, there are specific pathways and support available.
- 6. A Levels are widely recognised by universities and employers.** A Levels are established and well-respected qualifications, recognised and valued by universities and employers as a sign of academic ability.
- 7. A Level students get one-to-one support.** You will have weekly sessions with a personal tutor and be part of a tutor group. Your tutor will help you set personal development targets and support you throughout your time at college. Our Wellbeing team also offer a range of support services that you can tap into if you need.
- 8. A Level students go on trips.** As part of your A Level study, you may have the opportunity to go on field trips. For example, Sociology students have visited HMP Bristol, Law students the Houses of Parliament, and students learning languages have been to France, Italy and the Czech Republic.

- 9. A Level enrichment gives you the edge.** As well as the extracurricular activities like Team BTC, BTC Active and the Academies, you can join clubs and activities such as creative writing, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, debating, Model United Nations, Chemistry Olympiad and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) a standalone course that looks great on your CV and prepares you for university. You might even want to start a club of your own!
- 10. A Level students receive iPads.** As part of BTC's digital transformation project, every A Level student receives an iPad to use for their studies. The tech makes it easier for you to complete research and wider reading, access multimedia resources and communication tools, and collaborate with your classmates on shared projects and revision materials.



To find out more,
scan the QR code.

82% of students achieved high grades*

Why study T Levels?

Equivalent to three A Levels, T Levels are two-year technical courses that are transforming education in the UK. They are ideal if you are aiming to get a professional, skilled job or want to progress to university. You will spend 80% of your time in the classroom and 20% in your industry placement.

T Levels are made up of core skills, occupational knowledge, an employer set project and placement.

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT T LEVELS?

- 1. T Level students can progress to university.** T Levels are a more hands-on option than A Levels but are still Level 3 qualifications. As such they are recognised by universities and have the same credibility. This means that if you have a T Level, you can apply for a university course or a degree apprenticeship, such as those available at University Centre Somerset.
- 2. T Levels are designed by employers.** T Levels are for young people who want professional, skilled jobs. They have been created in conjunction with employers who know what they want from their future employees, so T Levels will give you a grounding in the knowledge and skills you will need in your chosen career. Completing a work placement also means you will gain employability skills useful in any workplace.
- 3. T Level students use state-of-the-art facilities.** BTC has invested over £3.5 million in its T Level facilities, ensuring that T Level students have the best facilities available for their in-class training. This includes a new Digital Suite complete with high-spec computers, Virtual Reality (VR) headsets, conference and break-out rooms. There is also a specialist Health (Nursing) and Early Years training facility and a modernised Industry Skills Centre and event and content creation suite, all created to help you gain skills and knowledge in industry-standard settings.
- 4. T Levels are hands-on and in-class.** T Levels are a great stepping stone from the world of school to the world of work. They combine both in-class learning and work experience. If you choose a T Level, you will spend about 20% of the course in an industry placement, getting practical experience in your chosen profession or business sector. The rest of the time, you'll be in-class, gaining the skills and knowledge you'll use in the workplace. It's the best of both worlds!
- 5. T Levels get great feedback.** Our T Level students say they feel inspired and motivated by what they learn both in-class and during placements. Employers have praised T Level students for their attitude, knowledge and ability to work well with colleagues. Some have been so impressed by their T Level placement students that they have offered them jobs, apprenticeships or further training opportunities. T Levels have opened up opportunities for everyone!

- 6. T Level students receive iPads.** As part of BTC's digital transformation project, every student studying a T Level is given an iPad to support their learning. The tech assists you with your studies, it encourages wider reading and enables you to develop academic independence, complete research and access multimedia.
- 7. T Level students can pick from lots of subjects.** BTC is one of the largest providers of T Levels in Somerset, so there are lots of subjects for you to choose from. They include Construction, Digital, Automotive, Education and Early Years, Health (Nursing), Business Management, Accounting, Legal Services and Engineering – and more are on their way!

*Equivalent to 3 Bs or above at A Level.



To find out more, scan the QR code.



Why study Technical and Professional courses?

Professional and Technical qualifications are also known as BTEC's or vocational qualifications. They are practical qualifications often linked to career pathways or vocations. They are college-based, but you'll learn in industry standard settings such as workshops, salons, studios, stables, gardens... it all depends on which exciting course you choose to study!

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT TECHNICAL AND PROFESSIONAL COURSES?

- 1. Technical and Professional courses link to careers.**
As the name suggests, these courses usually relate to specific 'vocations', i.e. careers or job roles. For example, a future chef can study Professional Cookery, a wannabe landscape gardener can do Horticulture, or an aspiring filmmaker can gain the skills they need on a Events Production and Media course. Whatever your ambition, there's a course to get you started!
- 2. Technical and Professional courses are hands-on.**
Unlike most GCSEs, Professional and Technical courses are practical and help you learn how to do things. You will spend some time in-class exploring theory, but you will also be in workshops, studios, labs or the great outdoors, depending upon the subject you choose. You'll also do work experience, so you can put your new knowledge into practice!
- 3. Technical and Professional students have lots of choice.** BTC offers one of the widest ranges of Technical and Professional courses in the area. You can pick from nearly 100 courses in over 20 different sectors. Subjects include Agriculture, Animal & Equine, Automotive, Motorsport, Beauty Therapy, Business Management, Hospitality, Nuclear/Clean Energy, Engineering, Computing, Carpentry, Electrical Installation, Painting & Decorating, Art & Design,

Media, Music, Musical Theatre, Early Years & Education, Health & Social Care, Sport and Protective Services... just to name a few!

- 4. Technical and Professional students can build up their skills.** College may be the first chance you've had to do some of these subjects, but don't worry, BTC will help you begin with a course that suits your current level of knowledge, then work your way up. Some subjects start with Level 1, an introductory level which will give you the core grounding you need to get started. Others will be Level 3, the same as A Levels. You can study some vocational subjects right up to degree level and beyond at BTC!
- 5. Technical and Professional students can go to university.** If you achieve good results in a Professional and Technical course, you may be able to apply for a vocational course at university or for a Degree apprenticeship. Check the entry requirements before choosing what to do after school.
- 6. Technical and Professional courses include English and maths.** English and maths are essential in all walks of life and careers, especially if you hope to own your own business one day. If needed, you may be able to take English and maths qualifications alongside your main vocational subject.

- 7. Technical and Professional students use state-of-the-art facilities.** At school, you'll have spent a lot of time in classrooms. If you choose a vocational course, you'll learn in industry-standard settings, designed like real-life workplaces. For example, Agriculture students train at our 200-hectare working farm, Performing Arts students have access to the professional McMillan Theatre, and Hospitality and Professional Cookery students hone their service skills at the Quantock Restaurant, which is open to the public. We have also opened a new Business Hub and an innovative Construction and Civil Engineering building open at our Bridgwater campus, and a Health & Early Years Hub in Taunton.
- 8. Technical and Professional enrichment gives you the edge.** BTC offers lots of extracurricular clubs and activities called Academies. Many relate to vocational subjects; 999 Academy, Team BTC, Design, Fashion, Media, Music or Performing Arts. They give you even more opportunities to meet industry figures and work on exciting, live projects, experience that will make your CV or uni application stand out.



To find out more, scan the QR code.



Why study Apprenticeships?

If you're keen to get out of the classroom and into the workplace, and want to gain a nationally recognised qualification that will help kickstart your career, then an apprenticeship could be for you.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BEING AN APPRENTICE?

- 1. Apprenticeships give you lots of choice.** BTC offers over 100 different apprenticeships across different sectors, relating to 1500 job roles in a wide range of industries. And if you think we only offer subjects like Engineering, Construction and Business, think again! There are Apprenticeships in Computing & Digital, Nuclear/Clean Energy, Agriculture, Fashion & Textiles, Protective Services, Catering & Hospitality, Health & Social Care, and more!
- 2. Apprentices get paid.** If you become an apprentice, you will have the same rights as any employee. This means that you should receive employee benefits, such as paid holiday, as well as a government-set apprentices minimum wage.
- 3. Apprentices train with top employers across the UK.** BTC works with fantastic employers of all shapes and sizes across the country. Our apprentices are employed by organisations including EDF, the Ministry of Defence, Environment Agency, Thatchers, Mulberry, the NHS, Yeovil Yeo Valley and Wessex Water.
- 4. Apprentices learn the skills employers want.** Apprentices train with employers in a relevant industry setting, so they gain the skills employers are looking for. This practical training looks great on your CV and prepares you well for a career.
- 5. Apprentices learn in college, too.** Apprentices spend most of their time in the workplace but also come to college to gain a nationally-recognised qualification. You might come to college on the same day each week, or come for several days at a time, depending upon what works best for your employer and job role.
- 6. Apprenticeships include English and maths.** English and maths are essential in all walks of life and careers, especially if you hope to own your own business one day. If needed, you may be able to take English and maths qualifications alongside your main vocational subject.
- 7. Apprentices are supported and mentored.** If you become an apprentice, you will be supported and mentored by a specialist team. Your assessor will see you regularly in your workplace and you will learn at a pace suited to you.
- 8. Apprenticeships lead to increased future earnings.** Apprentices often enjoy marked salary increases when they finish their training. Higher Apprentices (Level 4/5) can see increased earnings of an estimated £150,000 over their lifetime. Apprenticeships also help you climb the ranks in the workplace because people know what you can do, and trust the training you've received.
- 9. Apprentices train in state-of-the-art facilities.** At BTC, you'll train in our industry-standard settings, designed and equipped like professional work environments. Depending upon the apprenticeship you choose, you could find yourself training in a workshop, salon or studio, at our National College for Nuclear (NCfN), our Advanced Engineering Centre, Industry Skills Centre, our 200-hectare working farm, or the Quantock Restaurant to name but a few. We've also opened a new Business Hub, an innovative Construction & Civil Engineering building, and a Health & Early Years Hub.
- 10. Apprenticeships go up to degree level.** BTC offers Apprenticeships at different levels, so you can progress and complete qualifications from Level 2 (Intermediate) right up to Level 6 (Degree Apprenticeships).



To find out more, scan the QR code.



What our Students say!

MORE CONFIDENT

“I’ve really enjoyed how practical my course was, and how it gave me freedom to create and model garments. I loved completing a childhood nostalgia project and producing marketing material to support it. My strengths are in photography and digital designs, but I really enjoyed learning more about the business side of fashion, and how the industry works – it has really enhanced my portfolio of skills and made me a better team player.”

Abigail Porter | Fashion Business & Retail
Chilton Trinity School



KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

“I want to work in a spray and refinishing shop in the future. It takes a lot of talent and skill to do this, but BTC has guided me and prepared me for how a spray shop works in the real world. I feel more outgoing, confident and creative since my time at BTC, and get the freedom to choose my own projects with support from teachers.”

Andie Perrott | Automotive
Yeovil College



COMMUNITY MINDED

“I’ve been dancing from a very young age, and have been performing almost my whole life. It is such a supportive community here, and I just enjoy coming in every day to see everyone. It’s been such a special course for me because I’ve made so many close friends doing the things I love, and the industry experience of the teachers has been so beneficial.”

Evie King | Musical Theatre
West Somerset College



SCAN ME FOR MORE INFO



EFFECTIVE LEARNER

“I really enjoyed the theory behind my course, how we learned about materials, electronics and maths. It was always interesting and interactive, and I felt engaged. I developed a greater understanding of engineering as a whole. Trips and visits helped to further enhance my understanding. I look forward to putting everything into practice in the workplace.”

Ethan Mudzongo | Engineering
Bishop Fox's School



SAFER, HEALTHIER AND HAPPIER

“I have loved having the opportunity to coach all different ages at different schools. I coached football at Kingsmoor for a couple of months, and even in an international environment during a trip to Florence. This has really helped improve my communication skills and my confidence. The course also includes Level 1 First Aid training, and I enjoy being able to provide kids with exercise and nutrition advice.”

Adam Davies | Sport
The Kings of Wessex Academy



HIGHER ASPIRATIONS

“I really enjoy the fast-paced environment that The Quantock Restaurant provides. Work placement gives you different experiences, and opens up potential job opportunities for the future. Tutors are always supportive in helping you find placements, and it ties in with my ambitions – I want to be a chef, working in a high-pressure, rewarding environment.”

Harry Wilcox | Hospitality
Bishop Fox's School



BETTER COMMUNICATOR

“BTC has provided me with a multitude of opportunities that have ignited my future aspirations. Taking part in the University of Exeter and the Sutton Trust's Pathways to Law programme was a transformative experience, exposing me to the world of barristers and solicitors. This 15-month journey culminated in valuable work experience at a prestigious law firm, expanding my horizons beyond my scientific interests, and developed my interpersonal and communication skills.”

Chloe Whitehead | A Levels
Haygrove School



To find out which pathway and course is right for you, why not come along to one of our Open Events...

Open Events are a great way to explore your options. You'll have the opportunity to meet our team of experienced staff, ask questions, tour our facilities and experience what it's like to be part of the BTC community.

For more info,
call our Information
& Advice team
on **01278 441234**,
or visit www.btc.ac.uk



To register your place, scan the QR code or visit www.btc.ac.uk/events.

If you know you like to learn by doing things, Technical and Professional qualifications or Apprenticeships might be a good choice for you. If you dream of university and are more academic, A Levels or T Levels may be the Level 3 pathway you wish to follow.

The important place to start is with you!

Bridgwater Campus
Bath Road, Bridgwater
Somerset, TA6 4PZ

Taunton Campus
Wellington Road, Taunton
Somerset, TA1 5AX

Cannington Campus
Rodway Farm, Cannington
Somerset, TA5 2LS

01278 441234 | info@btc.ac.uk