

Year 13 Post 18 options other than University

You are nearing the completion of your Level 3 course and a bit undecided about where to go next.

So what are your options?

- University
- Apprenticeship (Level3/4)
- Degree apprenticeship (level 5/6)
- Work based learning
- Gap year
- Employment
- Self employment

The majority of students (around 75% of the UK's population) go to University but what about the other 25%.

Apprenticeships have seen the biggest rise however there are a number of students who would like to go down this route but are unsure where to start looking. This fact sheet is to guide you to the popular sites that employers look to advertise on.

So a bit of background about apprenticeships first – their levels and how they work.

Level 6 = Bachelor Degree	Degree apprenticeship
Level 5 = HNDiploma's /Foundation Degrees	
Level 4 = Higher National Certificates (HNCs)	Higher apprenticeship
Level 3 = Alevels/Btec quals	Advanced apprenticeship
Level 2 = GCSE	Intermediate apprenticeship

Earn while you learn =

80%	on the job training with your employer doing your practical experience.
20%	theory at either a private college/ FE college or University – depending on level of apprenticeship
= 100%	You need both elements to complete your apprenticeship

The main apprenticeship site is that of the government and it is a good site however, it does not list all of the current vacancies. It also does not update as regularly as it could. Over the last few years, there are various sites that have sprung up that more and more employers are advertising through. Be sure to register with all of them as its better to see a vacancy a number of times than not at all.

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk

www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

<https://www.thebigchoice.com/apprenticeships>

www.milkround.com

www.allaboutschoollleavers.co.uk

www.studentladder.co.uk

<https://www.ucas.com/alternatives-to-university>

This list is not exclusive and you will probably find other general websites such as

www.indeed.co.uk

www.reed.co.uk

www.cv-library.co.uk

Each of these websites will allow you to create a CV something that you started in Year 10! Remember a CV is a live document so should be regularly updated with new pieces of work experience or completed courses.

Many students ask me if it is worth doing a personal statement if they not going to university. My advice will be to do it. Writing a personal statement makes you write about yourself something that you do not usually do. It teaches you the art of self-reflecting. You learn how to write in a succinct and concise way. So although you may think it a pointless exercise it is hugely beneficial.

Your ambition maybe to work for a large global company or to work with one of the BIG 4 (The big 4 are the top accountancy firms -Deloitte, EY, KPMG & PwC). The process to go through for getting into these large sought after jobs are much more difficult than when you went to get your part time waiting on job!

Being prepared is the key, knowing what to expect and talking to others who have been through the process can be invaluable.

Most of the larger companies have different stages for you to go through before you actually get to the interview. There can be assessment tests / psychometric tests / telephone interviews / video interviews/ groups activities and then finally a face-to-face interview. You have to pass each stage before moving onto the next so preparing is paramount.

Try the free websites below

<https://practicereasoningtests.com/cognitive-ability-tests/>

<https://practicereasoningtests.com/practice-aptitude-tests>

<https://www.savilleassessment.com/practice-preparation-advice-for-candidates/>

<https://www.practiceaptitudetests.com/>

www.jobmi.com

Barclays Lifeskills is another great website. It can offer you help and support for going to interview, let you experience a virtual interview plus many other useful resources.

<https://barclayslifeskills.com/>