

Parents and carers

Sheffield
Futures 
2020-21

Who is the biggest influence on your son or daughter's career choices?

You!

Research tells us that parents and carers are the most important factor in career decisions. Young people face a challenging year ahead and your support can make a real difference.

How you can help

- Talk to your son or daughter about their ideas.
- Look at all the options with them.
- Visit online open events together in the autumn term.
- Encourage them to aim high and also to make a backup plan.
- Support them with applications. There are currently a number of deadlines at **the end of January 2021**.
- Support them to work for the best grades they can achieve. This will give them more choices.
- Encourage any opportunities to meet employers, such as talks or virtual careers fairs.
- Always use up to date information, especially at present when things can change rapidly.



What's happening 2020-21

- Even in a pandemic, young people still have decisions to make and deadlines to meet. Currently many applications must be made by the end of January so autumn is a time for research.
- Sixth form / college open events are online in the autumn term.
- Broadly speaking, there is a choice of 3 pathways:
 - Academic pathway** – A Levels.
 - Apprenticeship pathway** – paid jobs with training. There are also work based learning programmes that can help with gaining skills and experience.
 - Vocational/technical pathway** – study of a job or work sector.
- A Levels require around 5 GCSE grades 9-4 (9-5 or 9-6 for some subjects). Entry requirements for vocational courses and apprenticeships vary as they can be studied at different levels.
- There is a new qualification: T Levels are equivalent to 3 A Levels and involve study of a work sector with at least 45 days spent in industry. Locally they are available at Barnsley College and, from September 2021, Doncaster College.
- Use: www.sheffieldprogress.co.uk for details of local courses, apprenticeships and work based learning. It is also an online applications system.
- Young people seeking an apprenticeship need good English and maths and will be expected to fit into a workplace quickly.
- For more information, use our **Options 2021** guide.



More about Sheffield Futures



Sheffield Futures is a local charity, supporting young people into further education, work and training. We believe independent careers guidance helps everyone to fulfil their potential and secure a brighter future.

Our careers advisers are professionally qualified and impartial. Our only target is to help your son or daughter choose the route that suits them best.

We are currently working in schools where it is safe to do so and, where that isn't possible, we are offering digital support.

We work with young people from Year 9 upwards. For Year 11, we typically offer one-to-one careers guidance appointments. This includes a written action plan that sums up the discussion and sets out what your son or daughter needs to do next.

Not everyone gets the same start in life so we also offer services such as the award winning Project Apollo to support care leavers, and Door43, which provides open door mental health support to young people.

For details of all our services, check out our website at:
www.sheffieldfutures.org.uk.



Get in touch

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We are based at Star House, 43 Division St, S1 4GE.

Due to the pandemic, our office at Star House is temporarily closed to the public. You can get in touch with your Sheffield Futures careers adviser through your son or daughter's school or by emailing: enquiries@sheffieldfutures.org.uk.

You can also visit our new website:

www.sheffieldfutures.org.uk

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