

## **PROGRESSION TO FURTHER EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT**

### **CEIAG Briefing**

The careers, education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) support offered to our students is based around their ambitions for the future and how they can use their qualifications to support this.

Admission requirements vary from college to college – the requirements for both Bilborough College and High Pavement are particularly stringent and can leave a student without the opportunity to study their chosen subject at a higher level if appropriate grades aren't achieved.

All students should be aware that the entry requirements are *minimum* requirements and they may not be offered a place on a course if there is competition from students with higher qualifications for a place.

Students beginning Level 1 and Level 2 study in September 2016 will be able to study a range of specialist vocational qualifications in subjects such as drama, hospitality and childcare. These vocational qualifications provide an excellent pathway to further study and are equal in value to a GCSE unless stated otherwise.

**Please note: Due to the changes in GCSEs, the following progression advice is based on information available to us at the time of writing this document (see notes overleaf).**

### **Progression to 'A' Levels & considering university**

- To study 'A' levels at sixth form college, students are required to have a minimum of five A\*-C passes at GCSE to enable them to study three 'AS' levels; six GCSE passes will enable them to study four 'AS' levels.
  - Bilborough College insist that English and Maths must be 2 of the 5 GCSE subjects.
- Students need a minimum of a 'B' grade in Maths to study 'A' level maths or science subjects.
- Students need a minimum of a 'B' grade in English to study 'A' level English.
- A vocational qualification is a GCSE-equivalent pass (unless stated otherwise) if the qualification is achieved at either Merit or Distinction (a Pass mark is not enough).
- A student can only use one vocational qualification (Merit or Distinction) in their application; hence, they will need a further four GCSEs to meet the minimum entry requirements.
- Many colleges now require English, Maths and Science at GCSE as a minimum for 'A' level study.
- The quality of the application form and the student's interests/volunteering are very important.

#### **Sciences:**

- Students wishing to study medical sciences at university will need a minimum of 5 GCSEs at A\* - C.
- A level 2 Award in Health & Social Care (BTEC) will not enable students to study an 'A' level in physics, chemistry or biology (dentistry & medical sciences require a range of science based GCSEs)

Please note: entry requirements for colleges and universities change each year and this information is currently correct but we would recommend that students ensure that their subjects enable progression to Higher Education when making 'A' Level choices. We also advise you that the minimum entry requirements to college are subject to change with significant increases in recent years.

Students wishing to progress to university should carefully consider taking French or, where English is a second language, applying to take a GCSE qualification in their first language.

## **PROGRESSION TO FURTHER EDUCATION, HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT**

### **Progression to Apprenticeships and vocational courses**

Requirements for apprenticeships vary depending upon the employer. To be clear, many nationally recognised and employer led programmes require a pass at GCSE English, Maths and Science (or BTEC equivalent). An apprenticeship for an employer such as Rolls Royce may also require 'A' level or equivalent qualifications. Apprenticeships should not be viewed as a low-skill alternative.

Many colleges are prepared to recruit students to apprenticeships without the key qualifications but then require that these exams are passed during the apprenticeship programme.

Yes, it is possible for a low-achieving student to obtain an apprenticeship but, all apprentices need to complete a Level 2 in Literacy and Numeracy.

Apprenticeships can also be offered to students leaving year 12 or 13; where there is a higher skills entry level, these often offer higher salaries and more rapid career progression.

### **Changes to GCSEs:**

You may have heard that GCSEs are changing. Education reforms are affecting the grading for GCSEs (apart from IGCSEs which will remain on A-G grading) so will affect the current year 8s as they will be the first year group to have all their subjects on the new grading.

The main features of the new GCSEs are:

- A new grading scale of 9 to 1 will be used, with 9 being the top grade.
- Assessment will be mainly by exam, with other types of assessment used only where they are needed to test essential skills.
- There will be new content which has been developed by government and the exam boards.
- Exams can only be split into 'foundation tier' and 'higher tier' if one exam paper does not give all students the opportunity to show their knowledge and abilities.
- Resit opportunities will only be available each November in English language and maths.

As the changes take effect, employers and educators will amend the entry requirements for courses accordingly. We do not anticipate that this will cause undue problems for our students although it is important to note the importance of achieving 'pass' grades in English and mathematics. If they are not achieved by the end of year 11, there will be a requirement for students to continue to study these subjects until an appropriate grade which proves competency is achieved.

**Alison Bingham**  
**Director of Business & Enterprise**

Revised: March 2016