

# GCSE Results Not What You Expected?



If your GCSEs results are lower than you hoped, **don't panic**, whatever your grades, there will be a course for you.

## Vocational Courses

If you were planning to do **A levels**, think about a **vocational course** instead; a Level 3 is equivalent to A levels and can lead to **university** or to a **Higher or Degree Apprenticeship or a Job**.

Vocational courses are practical and based on **coursework** rather than exams and are available in a huge range of subjects including Science, Health & Social Care and Sport. For **Level 3**, you will usually need **grade 4s**, if you got **mainly grade 3**, you could do a **Level 2** course first. If you got **lower grades** you could do a Level 1 course. If **you did not take any exams**, colleges offer Foundation Level courses to get you started.



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## Taster Courses

If you are not sure what you want to study or need to **improve** your confidence, qualifications or skills, colleges offer special courses where you can try different subjects and **prepare** for a higher level course or apprenticeship. Check college websites and ring their helplines for more details.



## Maths and English

If you did not get **grade 4** in either Maths or English language, you will need to **retake** them in the Sixth Form, if they allow you in, or at College. Or you may be able to improve your grades in these subjects by taking qualifications in Literacy and/or numeracy which are more **practical alternatives**.

## Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a job with training where you **work full time**. Part of that, you go to **college**, often **one day** a week, to get the **professional qualifications** you need.



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## To find an apprenticeship:

- Choose “**Find an Apprenticeship**” at [www.getingofar.gov.uk](http://www.getingofar.gov.uk)
- Apply to **training providers** [www.dstpn.co.uk](http://www.dstpn.co.uk)
- Apply to the **apprenticeship** departments of colleges
- Send a CV to companies you are interested in
- Look for **job adverts** in the local papers and on company websites.

## Traineeships

If you are uncertain about what you want to do next or need to improve your grades, think about a **Traineeship**. Available through colleges and Training Providers, traineeships help you **build the skills** you need to start your career. Traineeships last up to **6 months** and include work experience, work preparation training and maths and English help.

## Find out more at

[www.gov.uk/find-traineeship](http://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship) and on college websites.



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**Don't panic** and make a snap decision, **research** any course you are considering **in detail**; think about what it will involve and check it could lead to the career you want by using the **Job Profiles** at:

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>

Schools with a **Sixth Form** will have staff available to advise you on results day, the **22<sup>nd</sup> of August** and probably on the Friday as well. Colleges run **special events** for school leavers, usually starting on results day. **Check websites or ring their helplines.**

If you had applied for a vocational course but didn't get the grades you needed, your college or sixth form will probably automatically put you in for a lower level course, but **check, just in case.**

Bournemouth & Poole College  
[www.thecollege.co.uk](http://www.thecollege.co.uk)  
01202 205205

Brockenhurst College  
[www.brock.ac.uk](http://www.brock.ac.uk)  
01590 625555

Kingston Maurward College  
[www.kmc.ac.uk](http://www.kmc.ac.uk)  
Course Helpline: 01305 215215

Weymouth College  
[www.weymouth.ac.uk](http://www.weymouth.ac.uk)  
01305 761100