

Alternatives to RPS Sixth Form:

College

Going to college is the most common alternative to staying at 6th form. Links to local colleges and courses are below. You will see the subject areas are quite wide, some examples are Childcare, Media, Animal Care, Travel and Tourism, Plumbing, Art, Textiles and Design, Horticulture and Sports Studies.

In most cases you should be looking at Level 3 courses. If your English and Maths GCSE results are lower than expected the college may require recommend a Level 2 qualification instead. They will talk to you about this and it won't really change what you study. There is also the opportunity to re-sit English and/or Maths if necessary.

Studying at college between the ages of 16 to 18 attracts no fee.

Although colleges would like you to apply as early as possible they tend to take students up until courses start in September. Some courses, for example childcare may involve an interview. Other courses for example Art and Design will require a portfolio to be available to view at an interview.

Just because you have an offer from college doesn't mean you have to take it up in September. It is fine for example to apply for 6th form and a college course and see how you feel once you have your results.

Oaklands College (St Albans and Welwyn Garden City)

[Courses in Hertfordshire | Oaklands College](#) – Link to the subject choices page of the Oaklands College website. The relevant section for students leaving RPS after Year 11 is the 'School Leavers' section.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TitHljKzmYg&t=339s> – Information about what to expect at Oaklands College and the admissions process.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLhQAaiJRYJ_wB9luUby5VwY8LCOV9W-5 - Virtual Open Day (presentations about individual subjects and what to expect from a particular course).

West Herts College (Watford / Hemel Hempstead)

[West Herts College](#)

[School Leavers Courses - West Herts College](#)

[West Herts College Prospectus](#)

[West Herts College Virtual Tour](#)

<https://www.westherts.ac.uk/whats-on/news/campus-life/>

[West Herts College - How to apply](#)



Central Bedfordshire College (Luton / Dunstable)

[Central Bedfordshire College](#)

[Central Beds - School Leavers](#)

[Central Beds - Find your course...](#)



Apprenticeships (Earn money working while studying at college for at least one day a week)

The link below takes you to the government apprenticeship webpage. After clicking 'Search' I suggest you start by narrowing your criteria down by selecting 'Advanced Apprenticeships' (most common level for 16 to 18 years olds). If you search within 30 miles you will include London vacancies. You can also add a key word, for example childcare or marketing.

[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Apprenticeships are advertised at all different times of year so it is worth regularly checking for opportunities. You can set up a search alert which will notify you when a possible role is posted. I wouldn't rely entirely on the notification function though because you might miss out on roles with similar names or unusual names which do still fit what you are interested in.

Some local apprenticeships will involve study at Oaklands College and they advertise them on their own website (link below). The link from the Oaklands Website takes you to the government webpage where you apply to the employer so this is really a duplication but can help if you want to stay local. You secure the job with the employer first, the education element at a college will flow from that.

[Apprenticeship Vacancies | Apprenticeships | Oaklands College](#)

Top Tips

Read the course entry requirements carefully to make sure you will meet them and note any deadlines. Check with the college admissions office (always very friendly and helpful) to see if the course ever fills up, if so apply as early as you can.

Apprenticeships are great but you can't guarantee you will be successful in securing one so have a back-up plan just in case you get to summer and haven't secured an apprenticeship. It is perfectly reasonable to apply to college, 6th form and still be looking for apprenticeships in spring / summer.

You need to be in education or training until you are 18. You can't leave school after GCSE's and get a job (unless it involves a recognised structured training programme).

If you are borderline on entry requirements call the college, speak to the employer or our own 6th form team and see if you can be accommodated. Don't assume you won't be accepted, you often find people will try to give you a chance if you approach them in a calm, professional and friendly way with a reasonable case for you accepting you.

Prioritise achieving at least a grade 4 in English and Maths GCSE.

Mr P Cousin – Head of Careers

Further Support

If you have a question or would like to set up a virtual careers appointment please email me at:

p.cousin@roundwoodpark.co.uk

Unifrog

Students already have login details for Unifrog. Here you will find a great range of resources from a personality questionnaire, the results of which suggests careers you might enjoy to insight into industries and job roles.

[Sign In - Unifrog](#)

Apprenticeship Guide - Learn about the vast array of apprenticeships on offer

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

National Careers Service – Skills Assessments, Explore Careers, Search for Courses

[Careers advice - job profiles, information and resources | National Careers Service](#)