



Making the most of Post 16 Open Evenings 2025-2026

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MAKING THE MOST OF THE 16+ OPEN EVENINGS

This is an exciting but sometimes confusing time, as you will soon be making some very important decisions about your future.

College and 6th Form Open Days/Evenings offer you the chance to visit the centres you are thinking about and talk to staff and students about courses and college/6th form life.

Don't miss this opportunity as it can really help you make a good decision. There will be plenty of people around to talk to you at these events, ready to answer your questions and assist you with any difficulties or special needs you might have.

BEFORE YOU VISIT

ASK YOURSELF THE FOLLOWING

- Am I clear about my strengths /weaknesses, skills and interests, in order to help me explore the different courses which might suit me?
- Which centres offer the courses and subject combinations I am interested in?
- Where is the centre? How would I get there?
- Am I thinking about what's best for me?
- What influence are friends and others having?
- Have I considered all options including Employment and Training?

POST 16 'CHECK OUT'

WHEN YOU VISIT A CENTRE /COLLEGE

- Check out where a course might take you in terms of training, employment or higher education (University entrance)
 - Check out what you need to be accepted onto a particular course.
 - Check out suitable alternatives.
 - Check out costs such as equipment, clothing, field trips, books etc.
 - Check out the 'feel of the place'. Would you fit in and be happy?
 - What does it offer in addition to the course?
 - Check out opportunities to extend yourself with extracurricular activities.
 - Check out transport arrangements.
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The following websites you may find useful

- [Not Going To Uni: Apprenticeships & Work Experience in the UK](#)
- [home - icould](#)
- [CareersBox - YouTube](#)
- [Careers advice - job profiles, information and resources | National Careers Service](#)
- [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Unifrog - The universal destinations platform.](#)



HOW CAN PARENTS HELP YOU?

- Help you decide if full time education, a job or work based training is the best route for you to learn progress.
- Listen to your ideas and concerns.
- Help you explore academic and vocational paths, using all the information available.
- Can support your planning and decision making.
- Help you to get the open evenings.
- Ensure that they know the dates and times of Open Evenings well in advance.

HOWEVER - The final decision must be **YOURS!**

HELP & SUPPORT

Your aim should be to make the best decision for you. Prospectuses, computer programmes such as Kudos and other careers information are available in the Resource Centre to help with Post 16 choices as well as having information online. At all stages there are people to help and support you.

SCHOOL GUIDANCE STAFF

Hannah Turner—Assistant Headteacher

Louise Baker—16+ Administration

Sophie Raven—Business Relationships Co-ordinator

Senior Tutors & Form Tutors

Jenny Warburton — Year 11 Mental Health Support

Other key dates

16+ awareness evening

Monday 29th September

Values and Experience Day

Wednesday 15th October

Year 11 Tutor/Parent academic review

Tuesday 14th October

Year 11 completion of Personal statements draft

Friday 28th November

Year 11 Tutor reference completion

Monday 5th January 2026

Online application form completion

Thursday 8th January 2026

Deadline for school completion and submission of online application

Tuesday 13th January 2026

Students Experiences

(Names withheld)

"I didn't visit any of the centres as I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I drifted onto the same course as a friend, but it really didn't work out and I left after a term. With help from my tutor and Guidance Adviser I looked at all of my options and decided to join a Modern Apprenticeship training scheme in retail. I am much happier now but realise I could have sorted all this out a lot sooner. My advice to Year 11 students would be – think about your options, visit the centres, talk to people and then decide!"

"At the beginning of Year 11 I knew which centre I wanted to go to but my mum insisted I visited them all. I'm really glad I did now because I changed my mind and one year on I am really happy I did."

"Because I am dyslexic I need to think about additional support to help me with my studies. All of the centres I visited were happy to talk this through with me so that I could make the right choice and centre. I am now doing the same thing with Universities."

Applications – This is where you will be able to see the colleges and courses that you have applied for and any messages from them.

You will need to make a new application for each college that you apply to (make sure you put your order of preference. If you apply for both an apprenticeship and a college course make an application for both.

Scroll down and complete all sections for each application form and at the bottom of the page click apply.

Your application is ready when it says Schools Hold next to the application. The school will then send it to the College.

Make sure that you apply to more than 1 college. If you apply for an Apprenticeship make sure you also apply for a college course. This means that if you change your mind or your actual grades in August are different to the predicted ones that are on your college application you have choice when you make your final decision in August.

For college applications apply for more subjects than you will be taking. This gives more flexibility when you discuss options with the colleges. Make sure you are qualified for at least 3 of the courses to meet entry requirements.

Put your colleges in order of preference. e.g. Comberton should offer a meeting for 1st and 2nd choice and 3rd choice for less popular courses choice (if you meet the college requirements). Hills Road should offer a meeting for 1st and 2nd choice (if you meet the college requirements). If you want to apply for a scholarship with Impington International Sixth Form apply on MyChoice

Colleges will invite you to **welcome events** and **guidance meetings**. These are informal conversations often focussing on your course choice and what options you have should you accept a place at their college. Colleges do not hold 'interviews'. The only college that does is Cambridge Maths School.

Respond to invitations and messages as soon as possible.

If the time they have offered you is unsuitable let them know as soon as possible to rearrange. If you do not respond they may think you are no longer interested in a place with them.

If you miss your appointment contact the 6th form/college/apprenticeship provider as soon as possible to reschedule.

Be aware that if you miss appointments you may find that they cannot be rescheduled when everyone else is having theirs and this may delay any college place offers or put you on a waiting list. For some colleges they will only offer a meeting 3 times and then they will assume that you no longer want to apply.

APPRENTICESHIPS

To keep up to date with Apprenticeships in the area log on to

[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)
(www.gov.uk)



Home > Education and learning > Apprenticeships, 14 to 19 education and training for work

Find an apprenticeship

Use this service to search and apply for apprenticeships in England.

During an apprenticeship, you'll:

- work and get paid
- train and gain a qualification

If you are interested in an **apprenticeship** keep your eye open for apprenticeship opportunities in the area. Also you can book a meeting and subscribe to job alerts on the CRC website - [Apprenticeships - Find your perfect role - Cambridge Regional College \(camre.ac.uk\)](#)

There are many large companies in the area who offer apprenticeships for many different positions from practical, office based, HR, engineering, construction, medical. The list is endless.

Some companies that have apprenticeship programmes:

[Practical Apprentices - Anglian Water Careers](#)

[Careers | Jobs | Vacancies - Marshall Group](#)

[About Specsavers apprenticeships - Join Specsavers UK & Ireland](#)

[Early Talent \(astrazeneca.com\)](#)

[John Deere - Apprenticeship Finder](#)

[Apprenticeships | CUH Careers](#)

Visit company websites and see if they have apprenticeship programmes.

REGISTER

your interest with CRC

SUBSCRIBE

to job alerts with CRC

UPDATE

your CV

APPLY

for apprenticeships with employers through their application process (usually on their website) and with CRC through mychoice.

EMPLOYMENT

Once you have an employer, CRC will progress your application. You will need to make sure you have an Apprenticeship employer in place before CRC can offer you a welcome meeting.

Keep your CV up to date so that you are ready to apply for apprenticeships when they come up



TOP TIP

Practice making phone calls with family and friends. This is something that will help you if you need to call the colleges or a prospective apprenticeship job.

If you would like a careers guidance meeting please ask Mrs Baker and she will organise a meeting for you when slots are available.



If you apply to a College that is not on Mychoice please bring in a copy of any applications you make and any offer letters and hand them to Miss Turner or Mrs Baker.

If you are concerned about the cost of travel and resources for sixth form please check the 16 – 18 Discretionary Bursary section on the website of the colleges that you are interested in.

[£1 Bus Fare - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority \(cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk\)](http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk)

[16-19 Bursary Fund - Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

[Bursary Fund | Sixth Form Education | Hills Road Sixth Form College](#)

[Financial Support - Cambridge Regional College \(camre.ac.uk\)](http://camre.ac.uk)

[Long Road Sixth Form College - Financial Support](#)

[Financial Support - Comberton Sixth Form](#)

[Financial help and support \(cwa.ac.uk\)](http://cwa.ac.uk)

[Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology > Sixth Form > 16-19 Bursary](#)

[Ely College | An 11-18 Academy At The Heart Of Its Community - 16 to 19 Tuition Fund](#)



Post 16 Open Evenings:

Open events for 2026 entry			
Provider	Date	Start Time	Finish Time
Comberton Sixth Form Tours in November will be bookable through Comberton Website	Wednesday 25th June	6pm	8.30pm
Cambourne Sixth Form Tours in November will be bookable through Cambourne Website	Thursday 26th June	6pm	8pm
Long Road Sixth Form College Book tickets on website. No Autumn Term events	Wednesday 2nd July Thursday 3rd July	5pm	9pm
Hills Road Sixth Form College Hills Road do not offer Autumn term open events	Saturday 5th July Monday 7th July	10am 5pm	4pm 8pm
Cambridge Maths School <i>119 Mill Road, Cambridge</i>	Thursday 16th October	3.30pm	8pm
Chesterton Sixth Form Here is the link for students to sign up to the event: Sign up: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/chesterton-sixth-form-open-evening-tuesday-21st-October-2025-tickets-1366468527149?aff=oddtcreator	Tuesday 21st October	6pm	8pm
The Oakes No booking required. In addition, smaller tours will be available in November after school, please call 01223 868327 to book.	Tuesday 21st October	6pm	8pm
Cambridge Regional College			
Cambridge Campus			
	Wednesday 22nd October	4.30pm	7pm
Apprenticeship Information Evening	Tuesday 11th November		
	Saturday 15th November	9:30am	12:30pm
	Saturday 24th January 2026	10am	12.30pm
Apprenticeship Jobs & Careers Fair	Tuesday 3rd March 2026	4.pm	6pm
	Thursday 23rd April 2026	4.30pm	7pm
	Tuesday 30th June 2026	4.30pm	7pm
Huntingdon Campus			
	Thursday 16 th October	5pm	7pm
	Saturday 8th November	9:30am	12.30pm
Apprenticeship Information Evening	Thursday 20th November	4pm	6pm
Open Day and Apprenticeships, Jobs & Careers Fair	Thursday 5th March 2026	4.30pm	6pm
Impington International College	Wednesday 22nd October	5pm	7.30pm
Bishop Laney Sixth form	Thursday 23rd October	6pm	8.30pm
Northstowe Sixth Form	Thursday 6th November	5.30pm	8pm
CAST	Thursday 6th November	5pm	7.30pm
College of West Anglia Cambridge (Milton) Campus <i>Pre-booking an arrival time is essential for all open events, so register your interest at cwa.ac.uk/about/open-days</i>	29th November Open Morning	9am	12:30pm