

## What's Next?

### 2025 Provision Guide – North Essex

#### Employability & Skills Team

##### **A guide to support a young person's next steps.**

The purpose of this guide is to give you an overview of the options for post-16 provision in your local area. Delivery and availability of the opportunities listed may change.

Many of you will expect to achieve the grades needed and will be staying in your school sixth form, have secured a place at college, or have a start date agreed for an apprenticeship. If you do not have any firm plans in place, then please read on.

#### Planning

When considering your next steps, it can seem confusing as there are so many options to choose from. Whether you are looking at further education, apprenticeships, work or training, we recommend that you research thoroughly.

There are several websites listed in this resource which can help you to explore courses and careers. In addition, it is important to identify existing skills as well as your hobbies and interests to help you when considering your options.

You could also speak with school or college staff, careers advisers and family networks to help you to make a strong choice. Remember to have a backup plan.

#### Still unsure?

Where possible, speak with the Careers Adviser at your school or college for guidance on subject choices and career paths.

**From Monday 7th July:** If you are aged 16–18, do not have access to a school or college Careers Adviser, and do not have a firm plan for September, please get in touch.

**Employability and Skills Team**  
**0800 707 6384**

[KeepInContactTeam@essex.gov.uk](mailto:KeepInContactTeam@essex.gov.uk)

You may receive communications from our Keep In Contact Team, who will update records and offer support from our Employability and Skills Advisers.

Website: <https://youth.essex.gov.uk/young-people/education-employment-and-training-support/>

#### Extension to Child Benefit

If you are a school or college leaver, under 18, unemployed and do not have a course or training programme to start in September 2025, your parent/carer may be entitled to claim Extension to Child Benefit. There is a time limit in which you can register your claim. For more information and to apply for an extension please call:

**HMRC Child Benefit General Enquiries on 0300 200 3100** or visit:

[www.gov.uk/child-benefit-16-19](https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit-16-19)

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## College and Further Education options

If you have not already applied, then we suggest that you make applications quickly as some providers have deadlines early in the academic year. There are broadly two different types of college course:

### Academic Courses (e.g. A Levels/ International Baccalaureate)

Usually involves studying multiple subjects. This may provide increased progression options at the end of the course.

- Assessment is usually weighted towards exams with less emphasis on continuous assessment.
- Entry Criteria: Typically, applicants will be expected to achieve at least five GCSEs at grades 9 to 4. The specific requirements vary across schools and colleges.
- Some schools and Sixth Form Colleges may offer GCSE resit options for young people that have narrowly missed out on GCSE grades.

### Vocational Courses (e.g. BTECs/T Levels/NVQ/CACHE)

Vocational courses are typically designed around a specific industry/ occupation.

Courses usually range from Level 1 and go up to Level 3 and higher.

Vocational courses are an opportunity to specialise early in a subject that interests you.

It often means studying one main subject (some schools and colleges allow you to blend academic and vocational options).

If you have not achieved Grade 4 in GCSE Maths or English, you will be required to complete these qualifications alongside your main course.

## Sixth Form & College options for summer 2025

**For more information about course availability, application procedures, open events and entry requirements, please contact the establishment directly.**

### School Sixth Forms

#### Clacton Coastal Academy

Telephone: 01255 428131

Website:

[www.sites.google.com/a/tinet.org/clacton-coastal-academy/home](http://www.sites.google.com/a/tinet.org/clacton-coastal-academy/home)

#### Clacton County High School Clacton

Telephone: 01255 424266

Website: [www.countyhigh.org.uk](http://www.countyhigh.org.uk)

#### Colchester County High School for Girls

Telephone: 01206 576 973

Website: [www.cchsg.com](http://www.cchsg.com)

#### Colchester Royal Grammar School

Telephone: 01206 509100

Website: [www.crgs.co.uk](http://www.crgs.co.uk)

#### Philip Morant Sixth Form College

Telephone: 01206 545222

Website: [www.pmsc.school](http://www.pmsc.school)

#### Tendring Technology College, Frinton on Sea

Telephone: 01255 672116

Website:

[www.sites.google.com/a/tinet.org/tendring-technology-college/home](http://www.sites.google.com/a/tinet.org/tendring-technology-college/home)

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## Colleges & Sixth Form Colleges

### **Colchester Institute, Colchester and Braintree**

Telephone: 01206 712000

Website: [www.colchester.ac.uk](http://www.colchester.ac.uk)

### **The Colchester Sixth Form College**

Telephone: 01206 500723 / 500700

Website: [www.colchsfc.ac.uk](http://www.colchsfc.ac.uk)

## Other Colleges close to North Essex

### **Chelmsford College**

Telephone: 01245 265611

Website: [www.chelmsford.ac.uk](http://www.chelmsford.ac.uk)

### **Suffolk New College, Ipswich**

Telephone: 01473 382200

Website: [www.suffolk.ac.uk](http://www.suffolk.ac.uk)

### **Suffolk One, Ipswich**

Telephone: 01473 556600

Website: [www.suffolkone.ac.uk](http://www.suffolkone.ac.uk)

### **Suffolk Rural College, Ipswich (formerly Otley College)**

Telephone: 01473 382200

Buses are subsidised for Students coming from the Essex area.

Website: [www.suffolk.ac.uk/course-categories/suffolk-rural](http://www.suffolk.ac.uk/course-categories/suffolk-rural)

### **Writtle College - ARU, near Chelmsford**

Telephone: 01245 424200

Website: [www.aru.ac.uk/writtle-college](http://www.aru.ac.uk/writtle-college)

## Apprenticeships

### **What is an Apprenticeship?**

An apprenticeship gives you the opportunity to gain work experience, a qualification and earn a wage at the same time.

Apprenticeships are available from Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE 9-4) all the way up to Degree level in some occupational areas.

For current information on local vacancies and further support, please visit:

[www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

[www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)

[essexopportunities.co.uk/apprenticeship-hub](http://essexopportunities.co.uk/apprenticeship-hub)

### **Training Providers that frequently deliver apprenticeship opportunities for young people in the local area:**

#### **ACL Essex County Council**

Apprenticeships in Business Administration, Customer service and more.

[www.aclessex.com/apprenticeships/](http://www.aclessex.com/apprenticeships/)

#### **Career Track**

For Career Track opportunities and Tendring District Council apprenticeship vacancies contact Debianné Messenger via email:

[dmessenger@tendringdc.gov.uk](mailto:dmessenger@tendringdc.gov.uk)

#### **Colchester Institute**

[www.colchester.ac.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.colchester.ac.uk/apprenticeships)

#### **Kleek**

Hairdressing and Beauty.

<https://kleekapprenticeships.co.uk/>

#### **Hit Training**

Hospitality, Catering and Retail.

[www.hittraining.co.uk](http://www.hittraining.co.uk)

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## QA Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships in IT Systems and Networking/Software and Website Development, Digital Skills, Business Admin.

[www.qa.com/learners/become-an-apprentice](http://www.qa.com/learners/become-an-apprentice)

## Ixion Holdings

Offers Apprenticeships and Traineeships in: Business, Construction, Customer Service, Digital Media and Marketing.

[www.ixionholdings.com/](http://www.ixionholdings.com/)

## Colleges that offer Apprenticeships

### Chelmsford College

Telephone: 01245 265611

[www.chelmsford.ac.uk](http://www.chelmsford.ac.uk)

### Colchester Institute

Telephone: 01206 712000

[www.colchester.ac.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.colchester.ac.uk/apprenticeships)

### Suffolk New College, Ipswich

Telephone: 01473 382200

[www.suffolk.ac.uk](http://www.suffolk.ac.uk)

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[www.suffolk.ac.uk/course-categories/suffolk-rural](http://www.suffolk.ac.uk/course-categories/suffolk-rural)

### Writtle College - ARU, near Chelmsford

Telephone: 01245 424200

[www.aru.ac.uk/study/college-courses/apprenticeships](http://www.aru.ac.uk/study/college-courses/apprenticeships)

## Foundation Learning Programmes

Foundation Learning providers offer English and Maths qualifications often alongside vocational elements to help improve your skills and get you ready to undertake an apprenticeship opportunity. This option often is usually accepted as approved training.

\*Some Foundation Learning courses may have restrictions due to funding. Check with the provider when making your enquiries.

### Central Training Group

[www.centraltraininggroup.com](http://www.centraltraininggroup.com)

Various study programmes – please see website for current offer.

For more information, please email:

[info@centraltraininggroup.com](mailto:info@centraltraininggroup.com)

or telephone: 0800 783 2901

### Nova Training – Colchester & Clacton

[www.novatrainng.co.uk](http://www.novatrainng.co.uk)

Focussing on improving English and Maths up to level 1, 2 or GCSE if needed, this programme offers 16-18-year olds the opportunity to gain work experience, apprenticeship opportunities and support into employment.

For Colchester Centre email:

Mila Chepyha

[mila.chepyha@novatrainng.co.uk](mailto:mila.chepyha@novatrainng.co.uk)

or telephone 01206 562657

For Clacton Centre email:

Lauren Grimsey

[lauren.grimsey@novatrainng.co.uk](mailto:lauren.grimsey@novatrainng.co.uk)

or telephone: 01255 427785

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## Useful Websites

Below is a list of useful websites ranging from careers advice, skills assessments, finding work to volunteering.

### Careers and Opportunities Research

[www.essexopportunities.co.uk](http://www.essexopportunities.co.uk)  
<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>  
[www.youthemployment.org.uk](http://www.youthemployment.org.uk)  
[www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)  
[www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk)  
<https://careers.startprofile.com>  
[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers)  
<https://animalme.myworldofwork.co.uk>  
<https://naturallytalentedme.co.uk>

### Apprenticeships

[www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)  
[www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)  
[www.aclessex.com/apprentices](http://www.aclessex.com/apprentices)  
[www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk](http://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk)  
[www.amazingapprenticeships.com](http://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)  
[www.talentview.org](http://www.talentview.org)  
[www.essexopportunities.co.uk/apprenticeship-hub](http://www.essexopportunities.co.uk/apprenticeship-hub)

### Jobs

[www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk](http://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/find-a-job](http://www.gov.uk/find-a-job)  
[www.indeed.co.uk](http://www.indeed.co.uk)  
[www.notgoingtouni.co.uk](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk)

### Higher Education

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)  
[www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)

### Volunteering

[www.vinspired.com](http://www.vinspired.com)  
[www.volunteersex.org](http://www.volunteersex.org)  
<https://www.england.nhs.uk/get-involved/get-involved/volunteering/>  
[www.doit.life/volunteer](http://www.doit.life/volunteer)  
<https://youth.essex.gov.uk/young-people/volunteering/>

### Employability and Skills Team

Local provision options, opportunities & support

<https://youth.essex.gov.uk/young-people/education-employment-and-training-support/>

### Raising of the Participation Age

[www.essex.gov.uk/education-and-training-for-young-people](http://www.essex.gov.uk/education-and-training-for-young-people)

## Mental Health Support

**The Southend, Essex and Thurrock Children's and Adolescent Mental Health Services (SET CAMHS)** provides advice and support to children, young people and families who are in need of support with their emotional wellbeing or mental health difficulties. [www.nelft.nhs.uk/set-camhs](http://www.nelft.nhs.uk/set-camhs)

Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm: call **0800 953 0222**

Email: [set-camhs.referrals@nelft.nhs.uk](mailto:set-camhs.referrals@nelft.nhs.uk)

Urgent or out of hours: call **0800 995 1000**

This Guide was produced by the  
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All information was correct as of April 2025.