

**A levels, Vocational
Qualifications or an
Apprenticeship?**



Apprenticeships



Kepler
Believe in you

- An apprenticeship gives you hands on experience, a salary and the opportunity to gain qualifications while you work.
- Some apprenticeships can be with high quality, prestigious companies in a wide range of different industries.
- Apprenticeships can also offer the opportunity of a degree such as a BA or a BSc, and, whatever the apprenticeship, you can earn whilst you learn.
- You will gain the kind of skills and experience that employers are looking for straight away.



Kepler
Believe in you

Technical Qualifications

- Technical qualifications are a more practical and ‘hands-on’ option. They provide you with the skills specific to a certain job or industry and can be beneficial if you have a clear idea of what type of career you would like to pursue.
- Conversely, if you are unsure of what you would like to do in the future, the courses can be quite limiting because they are designed to prepare you specifically for one industry.
- When considering applying to university, a technical qualification might leave you with fewer options. Technical qualifications are not always a suitable pathway towards studying for a degree at a Russell Group university. Check entry requirements for individual universities to find out their position.

A levels



Kepier
Believe in you

- Valued by employers **and** universities
- Consider what you enjoy and will be good at. If you enjoy a subject or have an ability in it already, you are more likely to do well.
- Check to see if there are any particular subjects and/or grades you may need. Certain careers, jobs, or further study may require you to choose specific A levels in order to meet entry requirements.
- A levels are good if you don't know what you want to study at university, or if you haven't pinned down your ideal career yet.
- If you are unsure of your career choice or degree choice, then think carefully about your combination of subjects. Consider picking 1 or 2 'facilitating' subjects.
- If you are taking a Science A Level, you should consider whether you need to look at taking another Science or Maths, particularly if you are interested in scientific careers or courses.



What are facilitating subjects?



Kepier
Believe in you

- Maths / Further Maths
- English Literature
- Sciences (Physics, Biology, Chemistry)
- Geography
- History
- Classical and Modern Languages

You don't need to study 3 or 4 facilitating subjects, but some degree courses require 1 or 2. If you don't know what you would like to study at university then it is a good idea to take 1 or 2 facilitating subjects to keep a wide range of degree courses open to you.

Old v New



Kepier
Believe in you

- Previously , AS levels would have been taken in Y12; they were worth 50% of your overall A level qualification.
- But, under the new system being introduced, all A level exams will take place at the end of Year 13, with no marks from AS levels (if you take these) contributing to the overall final grade.
- Across the board, there will also be less coursework and fewer practical assessments under the new system.
- Grades will continue to be awarded on an A*-E scale.
- GCSE results will continue to be **very important** in your Sixth Form and university and employment applications.

General entry requirements for A level Study



Kepier
Believe in you

- Minimum 9-4 (9-5?) grades in 5 subjects, including English and Maths. NOTE 4s (5s?) ARE THE MINIMUM – THEY ARE NOT TARGETS!
- Grade B or Grade 6 in the 3 or 4 subjects you want to study (7/A in some subjects e.g. Maths).
- Look carefully at ‘new’ subjects e.g. Psychology – GCSE Maths/Science?

Academic Performance of local 16-18 Schools/Colleges



Kepier
Believe in you

School/College	Best 3 A levels (2016)	Grades AAB or higher in at least 2 facilitating subjects (2016)
Durham Johnston Sixth Form	B+	37%
St. Aidan's Sixth Form	C+	21%
Park View Sixth Form	C+	18%
St. Robert's Sixth Form	C+	11%
Bede Sixth Form	C	9%
St. Anthony's Sixth Form	C	9%
Durham Sixth Form	B-	8%
New College Durham	D+	5%

Open Evenings



Kepier
Believe in you

- **St Robert's Sixth Form** - Thursday 19th October 2017, 6pm
- **Durham Sixth Form Centre** - Thursday 19th October 2017, 5pm – 8pm
- **Durham High School for Girls** – Saturday 18th November 2017, 10am – 12.30pm
- **Sunderland College – Sixth Form, Bede Campus** - Wednesday 15th November 2017, 4.30pm – 6.30pm
- **Sunderland College – Professional and Technical Qualifications, Bede Campus** - Wednesday 22nd November 2017, 4.30pm – 6.30pm
- **Sunderland College – City Campus** Thursday 23rd November 2017 4.30pm – 6.30pm
- **New College Durham** First Tuesday of every month, 5pm – 7pm from Tuesday 7th November
- **East Durham College – Peterlee Campus (including ED6)** Wednesday 1st November 2017 5pm – 7pm
- **East Durham College – Houghall Campus** Wednesday 15th November 2017 5pm – 7pm
- **Newcastle 6th Form College** Wednesday 1st November 2017 5pm – 7pm

Useful Websites



Kepier
Believe in you

- www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk

Further Education

- www.newcollegedurham.ac.uk
- www.sunderlandcollege.ac.uk
- www.eastdurham.ac.uk
- www.durhamsixthformcentre.org.uk
- www.ncl-coll.ac.uk
- www.gateshead.ac.uk
- www.parkviewonline.org.uk
- www.st-anthonys-academy.com
- www.strobertofnewminster.co.uk

Apprenticeships

- www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship
- www.getingofar.gov.uk/

Careers Advice & Guidance

- www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk
- www.plotr.co.uk

Armed Forces

- www.army.mod.uk
- www.royalnavy.mod.uk
- www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment

University

- www.ucas.com
- <https://university.which.co.uk/>
- www.russellgroup.ac.uk
- www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/
- www.prospects.ac.uk
- www.milkround.com