



What to do if your GCSE results are not what you expected

Shine Careers Advisers have put together this set of tips to help you work out what to do now.

DON'T PANIC. You are not the only person who has to reconsider their options. The government has made a promise that there is a study or training place for you.

The first thing to do is contact the sixth form, college or apprenticeship where you applied to and ask if you will still be accepted.

It is best if you make the telephone call. However, if you feel too shy or embarrassed to do it by yourself you can ask a parent, carer or other adult to make the call. Together you need to work fast to get a place on a course.

If you are not accepted at your first choice then you need to start looking again at the options. If you have to start choosing again then follow these tips to reduce the chances of making a hurried or bad decision.

Your main options are

- Continuing your education at 6th form or college
- Going into training through a vocational study programme (aspire2work), traineeship or apprenticeship

These are your main options

- **Continue studying in the sixth form.** Do you meet the entry requirements for sixth form? Do you enjoy school? Is there a suitable course which will help you eventually move into the career or future course you want to do? Are you prepared to commit to another 1 or 2 years study at school? **ACTION:** Talk to the Head of Sixth Form immediately.
- **Go to college.** Colleges often have hundreds of different types of courses at different levels. Whatever your grades they have a suitable level course. Are you ready for a change? Which course will get you into the career of your choice in the shortest time? **ACTION:** Look on the

college website or <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/find-a-course> or for Leeds <https://www.startinleeds.com/start-to-apply/> for courses. Contact the college as soon as you can.

- **aspire2Work Study Programme.** If you want to improve your Maths and English qualifications while studying for a useful work qualification the Study Programme may be right for you. While on the programme you can get qualifications and work experience to help you get into a job or apprenticeship. **ACTION:** phone for an informal chat 0330 111 0035 or go to <https://www.aspire-igen.com/aspire2work>, and click on **apply now**.
- **Traineeships:** You may feel that you will need more support before you can start an apprenticeship because of your grades or other issues. Traineeships are a programme for young people to provide this support. You can find Traineeship vacancies on the apprenticeships websites <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traineeships-2>
- **Apprenticeships:** You may prefer to start work rather than continue in school or college. That is an option but the difficult part is finding the right apprenticeship. Are you ready to start work? Are you a good timekeeper? Do you know the job you want to do? Do you know what you will do as part of the training? Apprenticeships have guaranteed 'on the job' training to National Vocational Standards and are available in many areas of work. You can look online at www.apprenticeships.org.uk. Some apprenticeships also offer training towards professional qualifications which can lead to a degree. See Find an apprenticeship or how to write a winning application.
- **Full-time employment or volunteering** combined with part-time education or training is another option for some people. Jobs – you can apply for jobs on the <https://www.gov.uk/jobsearch> website and the other jobs websites including those run by your local newspaper. You can also look at big name companies who have their own websites as they often advertise vacancies online rather than in their stores. You can research your job ideas on the Job Profiles section on the National Careers Service website. The information in the job profiles can help you target your CV / application towards specific jobs.

The situation in summer 2020 is still evolving – we are monitoring the impact of the pandemic on recruitment – some employers will still be recruiting but some have put a halt on recruitment for the time being. There will be more people chasing the opportunities that do emerge. Ensure you cover a number of options.

Useful websites and local results day support

General Advice from the government

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/university-traineeship-first-job-what-s-your-post-exam-plan?>

To help you decide on your post 16 options. 0800 100 900

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice>

Local Support

Start In Leeds - <https://www.startinleeds.com/>. This page will be updated with information about any events in Leeds during the summer, including clearing in Leeds at the various colleges city-wide.

Employment Hub Leeds - ring the Leeds Employment Hub helpline (part funded through the European Social Fund) to arrange an appointment with an adviser. Tel: 0113 378 4576

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

Bradford Connexions, www.virtualconnexionsbradford.co.uk/ for young people who are seeking Apprenticeships, Traineeships, other types of training/learning and Further Education.

Connexions Centre, Bolton House, 18 Bolton Rd, Bradford BD1 4DE Phone: 01274 377800

aspire2work. If you want to improve your Maths and English qualifications while studying for a useful work qualification this Study Programme may be right for you. While on the programme you can get qualifications and work experience to help you get into a job or apprenticeship. Lots of courses – from Health to Construction see the website for info. Ring 0330 111 0035, If you can't get through on the telephone go to the website www.aspire-igen.com/aspire2work, and click on **apply now**.

You can find courses in your area www.gov.uk/courses-qualifications or <https://apply.startprofile.com/> and local college websites.
<https://www.leedscitycollege.ac.uk/>, <https://www.lcb.ac.uk/>
<https://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/>, <https://www.shingley.ac.uk/>

See what **apprenticeships and traineeships** are available at www.apprenticeships.org.uk
www.gov.uk: for government advice on Education and Learning including Traineeships.

Remember...

Do your research – you do not have to take the first course offered if it is not what you want. Try another college for vacancies. Always have an alternative course or apprenticeship job in mind. Talk to your family, your school. Contact the helplines mentioned above if you need more information or support – Good luck.