**Careers Information**

I would like to introduce myself as the career’s adviser for your child. I work for Positive Steps Career Guidance and Support Services and I am the allocated adviser to St Gabriel’s RC High School. Your child will be offered a full careers guidance appointment where we will discuss the different pathways available to them when they leave St Gabriel’s and their future aspirations.

This may take place in the summer term of year 10 or during year 11. Appointments are informal and students are not expected to come with a clear career plan in mind. Some students do have clear aspirations at this stage but for many it is a longer process. For many students, they will not be seen until after college application deadlines, so I wanted to provide some information so that you can start these discussions at home.

There are four main pathways for Post 16 options. I have listed these below with some key points. Please support your child to explore these further using the college websites and discuss what might be the best pathway for the

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| A Levels | * 3 or 4 subjects * Exam-based qualification * Requires a minimum of 5 GCSE’s grade 4 and above including English and Maths (some colleges/subjects have additional requirements) * Allows entry to higher education and employment opportunities |
| Vocational Courses | * 1 subject (however, some colleges now offer a mixed pathway where you can study a vocational subject alongside A Level subjects) * Coursework/assignment-based qualification * A Level 3 programme would require 4 GCSE’s grade 4 and above including English and Maths * Lower levels offered if do not meet entry requirements for the Level 3 * Allows entry to higher education and employment opportunities |
| T Levels | * 1 subject * Coursework and exam based with 45 days of work experience. * 5 GCSE’s grade 4 and above including English and Maths, some also require Science. * Allows entry to higher education and employment opportunities |
| Apprenticeships | * Work based training * 80% at work, 20% at college/training provider * Grade requirements set by employer – English and Maths often needed * Will receive an apprentice wage * Progression would be mainly employment |

During the rest of the school year, I am available for questions from you and your child via email – [kimberleynelson@positive-steps.org.uk](mailto:kimberleynelson@positive-steps.org.uk) . I will also be available at parents evening if you wish to speak to me.

Kind Regards

*Kim Nelson (Careers Adviser - Positive Steps)*

Here are some things you can do to support your child during Year 11.

**September – December**

* Take your child to open events at college. Your child will have been told these in school and you can look at the college websites for more information.
* Check they have done their applications**.** College applications should ideally be completed by October half term and no later than when they finish for Christmas. We strongly recommend applying to more than one College.

**January – April**

* Most colleges will interview during this time so please ensure your child attends this. After the interview, your child should receive a conditional offer. This means they can start at the college if they meet the entry requirements. The entry requirements can be found on the college websites.
* If you child has not had an interview or an invitation to interview, contact the college and check the application status.

**May – September**

* If your child is interested in an apprenticeship, they can start to search on <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> for vacancies. Your child will need a CV and work experience is useful.

**Summer**

* Before results day – check your child knows how and when to enrol. They will either have been sent this information or it will be on their college portal.
* If your child is not able to pick up their results, let the school know so they can be posted to you.
* Your child must attend enrolment at the specified date/time, If they are unable attend please let college know ASAP to re-arrange.

**September**

* College will **start the first week in September** – Avoid being on holiday at this time, as students who miss the start of the course might be put on a waiting list or not accepted.