



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 need 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://youngpeople.theopportunitycentre.com/aspire2work/> and complete the short form if you have a question or click apply, and a Learner Support Officer will be in touch.

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 apprenticeship website <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traineeships--2>

- **Action:** You can find Traineeship vacancies on the apprenticeship website <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/traineeships--2> or go to Qube Learning in Rawson Place, BD1 3QQ

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 [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) Some apprenticeships also offer training towards professional qualifications which can lead to a degree.

Full-time employment or volunteering if over 18 this is another option for some people. Jobs – you can apply for jobs on the <https://www.gov.uk/jobsearch> website and other job websites such as www.indeed.co.uk and those run by your local newspaper or social media. 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 and the section Careers advice has a section on getting a job <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice#getting-a-job>

Volunteering, what is it?

Anyone can volunteer. It can be very rewarding and is a great way to:

- meet new people
- gain new or use existing skills
- get experience
- make a big difference to your community

[Do-it.org](#) is a database of UK volunteering opportunities. You can search more than a million volunteering opportunities by interest, activity or location and then apply online. For volunteer opportunities in Bradford <https://volunteeringbradford.org/>

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

Bradford Employment Hub - ring the Bradford Employment Hub helpline (part funded through the European Social Fund) to arrange an appointment with an adviser. They will help you look and apply for vacancies.

Tel: 0330 111 0035 www.theopportunitycentre.com

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

Aspire2Work. Opportunities in Bradford [Bradford - Opportunities for Young People \(theopportunitycentre.com\)](http://Bradford - Opportunities for Young People (theopportunitycentre.com))

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

<https://www.bradfordcollege.ac.uk/> apply online or come into college on 12th or 13th August, to apply/enrol. You will need to bring ID and any qualifications with you. Call the main College number on 01274 088088 and ask for admissions with any further queries on results day.

<https://www.shingley.ac.uk/> Students **who have not already applied** should contact college on 01274 327281 on results day, they do not need to come into college or apply online.

[Keighley College - Further & Higher Education Opportunities](#) apply on-line or contact Tel: 01535 685000

See what **apprenticeships and traineeships** are available at [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Remember... do your research, contact the helplines above if you need information and Good Luck