



Year 11 – Post 16 Choices FAQ for 2026 entry

What happens when I leave Year 11?

You are nearing the end of your Durrington Journey. By law you **must** continue education in some form till you're 18. For most this takes the form of courses at college or a school sixth form. You can also choose to start work by taking on an apprenticeship. You're able to shape the next few years of your life to give you the best chance of success.

If I want to start work when I leave school can I ignore all this and look for an apprenticeship next year?

No. Apprenticeships at 16 are an amazing option, but because you need to find an employer, they are not always easy to secure. Therefore, it's important that you apply to study at college or a school sixth form even if you will be seeking an apprenticeship. If you do start with an employer after you leave school then you will not have to take up your college option. There are lots of college courses that offer practical pathways similar to those offered by apprenticeships and these can be highlighted to you by the DHS careers team. You could still gain an apprenticeship after college as well. In fact, at any point in your life. Visit careers to get support with finding an apprenticeship.

When do I need to apply to a destination by?

Application deadlines vary but you should aim to apply to at least one destination by **1st December 2025**. This ensures you have the best chance of getting onto your courses and will enable you to concentrate on your mock exams so you can get the grades that you need. If you are applying to **BHASVIC** then you absolutely must have your application in by this date to be considered. Their deadlines are strict.

Do I need to apply to more than one destination?

It's not essential but many young people do apply to **at least two** destinations. This can act as a backup or it can give you options if you are not 100% sure right now. If applying to BHASVIC you should **always** have a backup choice.

How do I choose which courses to apply to?

You need to take on the responsibility of considering which course/s would be best for you. Make sure you are fully informed by thinking about who you are, what you want and how you can get it. You should combine this with additional internet-based research and conversations with the destinations and the careers team in school. We also recommend our careers platform **Xello** as well as the college websites.

How will I know which college or sixth form is right for me?

Do your research and most importantly go to visit them at their open events. You can start by talking to them at the Careers Evening event in school on the **25th September 2025**. There is a list of currently published open events in this pack and any new ones will be advertised on the college websites.

How do I apply?

You apply online via the destination websites. Applications will usually open after their open event. You may need to register for an account and it is very important to use an e-mail address that works as that will be the primary form of contact. The application process is very simple. It will take approximately 15 minutes per college and is formed of personal information and your **projected** GCSE grades at the time of application. The DHS careers team can provide help when applying if needed. They can even do your application with you would find this useful.

What if I change my mind after I apply?

It's important to be well informed and apply to courses you feel are right for you, but we can all change our minds and you are not committing to those courses or destinations when you apply. Changes can still be made, and these can be discussed when you go for your interview. If it's a major course change such as wanting to switch from business to aircraft mechanics, then you should contact them to discuss as it may affect the location of your interview.

What if my current projected grades do not meet the entry requirements for the destination or course?

You should use the projected grades from your **more recent** tracking point report on your application. Colleges have entry requirements for a reason. Getting those final grades gives you the best chance of succeeding at the course/s you are applying for. If there is a small shortfall then this can be discussed at interview. You should be ready for it to be raised and you should have a plan in place as to what you are doing to improve your grades. They may offer other courses that will be more suitable. If you start on a lower level, you can always progress.

Do I have to go for an interview? What will they ask me?

You will go for a course guidance meeting at most colleges. This is a relaxed discussion to review the courses you have applied for, check their suitability and discuss any alternatives. This may be a phone call or you may get invited to the college. During this interview or shortly after they will let you know if they are offering you a place to study. **Make sure you leave the meeting knowing what will happen next.**

Should I accept my offer? What happens if I get offers to study from more than one college or sixth form?

You should accept **all** offers that you want to keep as an option. These will usually come to you via email so it's important that you keep a close eye on your inbox. **Accepting an offer is not committing you to study there.** You will enrol at the college of your choice after you get your GCSE results in August 2026. If you want to withdraw an application you should contact the college out of courtesy to let them know. This will also stop further e-mails.

How can I get more help?

It's important that you ask for help when you need it. Visit careers at the end of the art corridor at break times or after school to get support. If you prefer you can also email careers@durring.com though a visit is often easier. The important thing is that you know you are not alone and there is support waiting for you and your family when needed.