



A GUIDE TO SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

Nov.2024

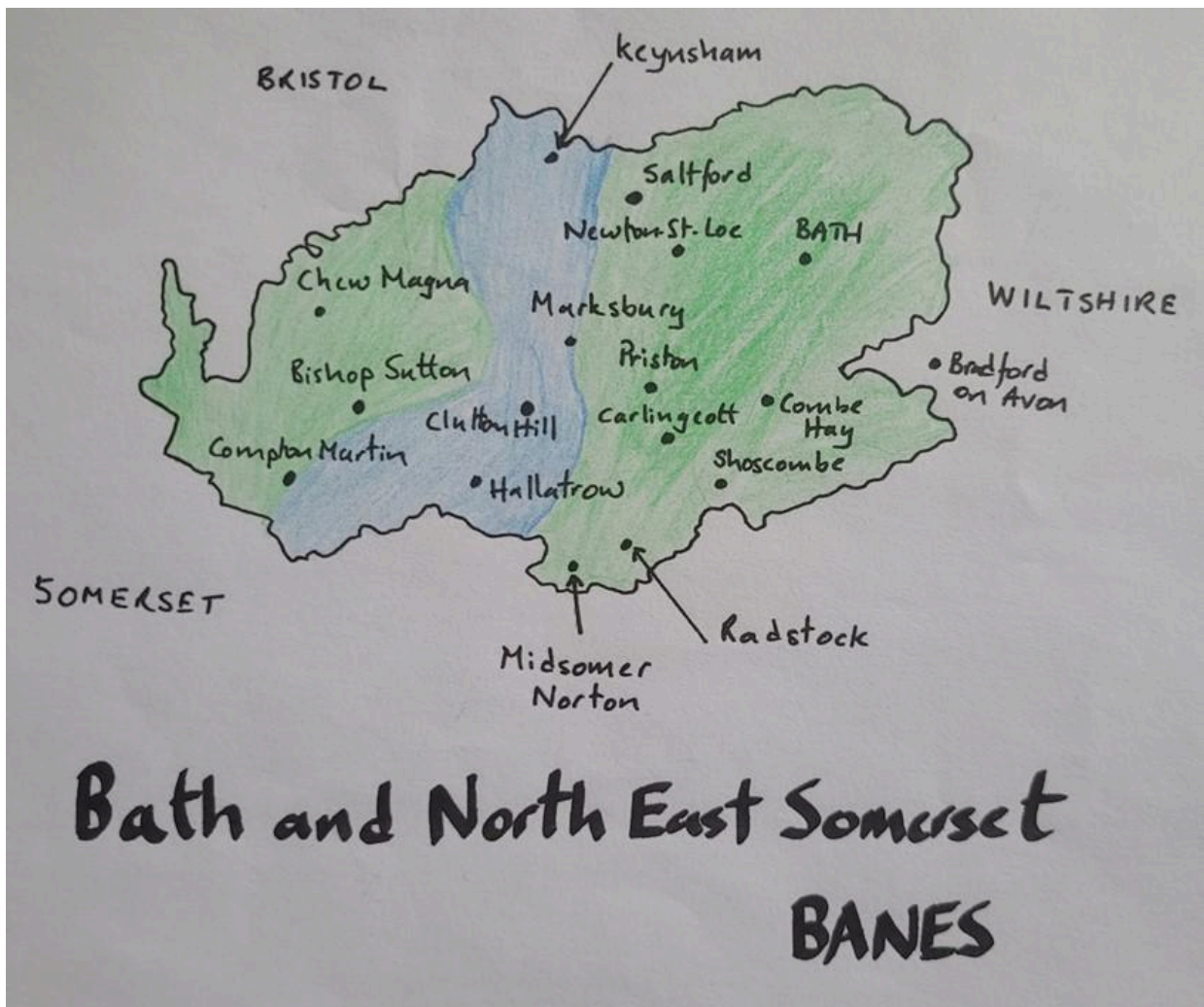
Secondary Schools in Bath

- **Beechen Cliff School**
Boys only aged 11 to 16 years, girls and boys aged 17 and 18.
Kipling Avenue, Bath BA2 4RE. Tel 01225 480466
- **Hayesfield Girls' School**
Girls only aged 11 to 16 years, girls and boys aged 17 and 18.
Upper Oldfield Park, Bath BA2 3LA. Tel 01225 426151
- **Oldfield School**
Boys and girls aged 11 to 18 years.
Kelston Road, Bath BA1 9AB. Tel 01225 432582
- **Ralph Allen School**
Boys and girls aged 11 to 18 years.
Claverton Down, Combe Down, Bath BA2 7AD. Tel 01225 832936
- **St Gregory's Catholic School**
Boys and girls aged 11 to 18 years, Catholic faith school, open to all.
Combe Hay Lane, Odd Down, Bath BA2 8PA. Tel 01225 832873
- **St Mark's C of E School**
Boys and girls aged 11 to 16 years.

Baytree Road, Bath BA1 6ND. Tel 01225 312661

Secondary Schools outside Bath

- **Broadlands Academy**
Boys and girls aged 11 to 16 years.
St Francis Road, Keynsham, BS31 2DY. Tel 01179 864791
- **Chew Valley School**
Boys and girls aged 11 to 18 years.
Chew Magna, BS40 8QB. Tel 01275 332272
- **IKB Academy**
Boys and girls aged 14 to 19 years.
68 Bath Road, BS31 1SP. Tel 0117 916 1025
- **Norton Hill School**
Boys and girls 11 to 18 years.
Charlton Road, Midsomer Norton, Radstock, BA3 4AD. Tel 01761 412136
- **Somerset Studio School**
Boys and girls aged 14 to 19 years.
Knobsbury Lane, Radstock, BA3 3NU. Tel 01761 438557
- **Somervale Secondary School**
Boys and girls aged 11 to 18 years.
Redfield Road, Midsomer Norton, Radstock, BA3 2JD. Tel 01761 414276
- **Wellsway School**
Boys and girls 11 to 18 years.
Chandag School, Keynsham, BS31 1PH. Tel 0117 986 4751
- **Writhlington School**
Boys and girls 11 to 18 years.
Knobsbury Road, Writhlington, Radstock, BA3 3NQ. Tel 01761 433581



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WELCOME

Welcome!

In England every child has the right to education. Education is **compulsory**. Families can be fined if children are not educated. The government provides schools for **free**. Children aged 5 to 16 can choose local state-funded schools without paying. It is **free**.

This booklet has practical information about schools for children aged 11,12,13,14,15 and 16 at local **secondary schools**. The schools are free and you have the right to apply to them.

Children must pass **GCSE exams** or similar to qualify for education aged 17 and 18. Children and families can choose free education. But the children *must* pass the exams to study the course they have chosen. If children aged 17 or 18 are not in education, they can be in work with training.

In Bath and North East Somerset we have different sorts of state funded schools to choose from:

- **Local Authority** Schools – like Oldfield School in Bath. These are funded by local government.
- **Academies** and **Free Schools** – like Norton Hill in Midsomer Norton. This is funded by central government and part of a Trust which includes St Mark's in Bath.
- **Single sex schools** – Hayesfield Girls' School in Bath is for girls only from 11 to 16 years of age. Beechen Cliff, in Bath is boys only from 11 to 16 years of age. Both Hayesfield and Beechen Cliff have boys and girls taught together aged 17 and 18 in their Sixth Forms.
- **Faith schools** – like St Gregory's which is a Catholic school in Bath. This school admits students who are Catholic and also students who are not Catholic.

You can choose to pay to send your child to **independent school**. There are several local independent schools.

For an 11 year old you can choose a **day school** like King Edward's School in Bath which costs £18,324 per child per year. You can choose a **boarding school** like Downside in Stratton-on-the-Fosse where children live at school in term time. This costs £32,970 per child per year.

You can also choose to teach your child at home. This is called **home schooling**. You must provide the same standard of education provided in local schools. Inspectors have the right to visit and check home schooling as well as local schools.

HOW TO FIND A SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD

Bath and North East Somerset Council has a legal duty to find a school for your child. There is a list of all the local free state schools at the front of this booklet. You can find out more about local schools in many ways:

- School websites – all schools have a website with lots of information.
- Ofsted reports – all state-funded schools are checked by **Ofsted** inspectors who write reports. This should be on the school website.
- Performance tables – show how school exam results compare. You can look at these <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/>.
- Talk to other parents.
- Think about what is important for your child, e.g. sport, art, music, science, learning needs?
- Think about what is important for your family, e.g. is the school easy to walk to?
- Make a list of questions, e.g. can your child take GCSE or A level in their home language? How does the school help students with minimal English?
- Visit the school. Every school has an Open Morning or Open Evening each year. Most secondary schools hold these Open Evenings in September for children aged 11-15.
- If you are looking for a place for 16, 17 or 18 year-old students try local schools with **Sixth Forms**. They have A level and BTEC courses that lead to jobs and university. Open Evenings are in November.

Bath College has lots of courses up to and including degrees. They have Open Days all through the year. The Bath College website has more details. Try this page:

<https://www.bathcollege.ac.uk/international-students> .

The College courses can cost money but there is some funding available. Do ask 01225 328720 or email info@bathcollege.ac.uk

HOW TO APPLY FOR A PLACE IN A FREE STATE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Children in Year 6 at a local primary school will get a special letter in September of Year 6. This tells all families how to apply for a secondary school place in Year 7. *You must apply by the deadline 31st October.* You will be offered a school place in March to start in September at a local secondary school.

Children not in Year 6 or who miss the deadline of 31st October apply separately. This process can take several weeks, sometimes longer. You should start as soon as possible:

1. **Apply to as many schools as possible.** The school website will have details and you can phone them for more help. Visit the schools if you can.
2. When you apply to a school, they must reply in 10 school days.
3. **If there is a place in a school** that you like, you can reply to take it. The school will then want to talk more with you. They may be able to help with starting, e.g. uniform, books and details of their homework online system.
4. You can apply for benefit-related **free school meals** once you have a school place. The school might help with this – or the School Meals Team on 01225 394317. The easiest way to apply is <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

5. **Appeal instantly if your child is rejected.** If you are told that there is no place or that your child is on a waiting list, do not wait. Appeals can take weeks or longer. Waiting could take even longer.

You will probably need help to write your appeal to ensure it includes all the right points to be successful.

If your child is a refugee, or has special medical or educational needs, they have specific rights to be considered. The Local Authority also have a legal duty to all children to make sure they have a school. This support starts once you have appealed.

While you are waiting it is *really important* that your child learns as much English as possible. There is little help for children with limited English once they have a place.

WHEN DO CHILDREN START SCHOOL? WHEN DOES SCHOOL END?

In England children start secondary school in the September *after* their 11th birthday.

Primary and Secondary schools start the school year in early September. The school year ends in late July. Each school year has six **terms** that last 6 to 8 weeks.

Each school day starts about 8.30am and finishes after 3pm. Every school has **breaks** between lessons. Every school has **lunchtime**. Students stay at school all day.

Young people *can* stop going to school on the last Friday of June *if* they will be 16 by the end of August. But very few do as it means missing GCSE exams. These GCSE exams are required for jobs or study in England. All young people aged 16, 17 and 18 must be studying or working or training for a job.



Secondary schools have uniform for classroom lessons and separate uniform for sports.

YOU AND YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL. GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

You will be told which school has a place for your child. It is important to get to know the school well. It is also important that the school learns about your child.

At the end of Year 6 in primary school, children spend a day at their chosen secondary school. Schools also have information evenings for Year 6 families. This normally happens in July. If your child is older or starts at a different time you will need the same information. The school will help and you can also see lots on the school website, including:

- What **uniform** to buy – usually specific clothes for classroom lessons and sport. The school website will have a list of what you need. This can be expensive. The shop Scholars, 4 Terrace Walk in Bath BA1 1LN has most uniforms. Oldfield School uniform is ordered direct from a supplier called Price and Buckland which you must contact direct <https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/oldfield> . Beechen Cliff sports kit is only available online <https://www.kukrisports.co.uk/teamshop/beechemcliffschool/shopProductsNg?productGroupId=24924> To save money, ask the school how to buy second-hand school uniform and look on Facebook marketplace.
- The school will provide exercise books and textbooks. You provide pens and pencils.
- When school starts and ends – children who are late too often will have to spend extra time at school in **detention**.
- How children get to school and back home – will your child walk, cycle or take a bus? Your child may qualify for free bus/transport if the school is 3 miles or more from home. You may also get this help if your child's route to school is dangerous, your family is on a low income or your child has a medical issue. For more information contact <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/get-school-transport>
- What happens if a child is ill at school?
- **Attendance**. Children go to school morning and afternoon on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday each school week. If your child is not well or can't go you *must* contact the school to explain why. The school will be in touch if your child misses too much school, usually if they have missed 5% of lessons or more. It is usually not acceptable to take holiday time away from school. Too much time away from school can mean money fines for families.
- **School term dates**. The school will tell you when to start sending your child and when the holidays are.
- **Homework** – work to be done at home and brought to school. Your child will have homework every day. You can see what the work is online, e.g. Google Classroom, Classcharts, Insight, Satchel.1 The school should explain clearly how to find and use this. Your child will need to use a smart phone, tablet or laptop to do homework. They will need to print some homework out. Ask the school how to do this. Homework is important for children to make progress. Children who don't do homework will have to spend extra time at school in detention.
- If your child has English as an additional language (EAL), the school may provide different homework or agree to no homework until the child has acquired more English.

- If your child learns differently to other children they may have Special Educational Needs (SEN). The school can offer extra support if they are aware of the need.
- Rewards – praise and celebration for good work, being helpful or kind, making good progress.
- Discipline and rules – what is allowed, what is not allowed. For example, children must not use bad language or swear at school, fighting and bullying is not allowed. If your child is bullied talk to their tutor immediately. Alcohol and smoking of any kind is not allowed. Children must not have illegal drugs in school or use illegal drugs in school. Children who break rules must spend extra time in detention. This might be after school or even at the weekend. Children who break a lot of rules may be **excluded** and not allowed in school.

If you are not sure about something, you should contact the school. The school website will have contact details.

It is also important that you tell the school about your child and meet some of the staff.

Teachers who will work with your child include:

- **Tutor** – your child will be in a tutor group of 30 children. The tutor is the teacher who takes the register to check who is in school each day. They will see your child every day and get to know them. They are the first person to contact about your child.
- **Head of Year or Head of House** – your child will belong to a larger group of children, a year group or house group. The Head of this group will also be responsible for your child.
- **SENCO** – if your child has minimal English, more than one language, challenges with learning or a medical issue, this teacher is responsible for finding help for them.



The teachers will want to meet your child and learn about them.

The school will ask for information about your family and your child. The information is private and only used to help your child, e.g. contact information in case your child is ill, or if homework is missing, or if you have asked the school for help with something like school uniform. Schools ask for:

- The full name of your child, and when they were born.
- Contact details for you as a parent.
- Medical details – if your child has a condition such as asthma, or is deaf, or has an allergy etc. Do ask if you are not sure what is helpful. It won't affect their lessons but will make them safer at school.
- Consent for trips or school photographs – your permission is needed before your child can go on a school trip or to have a photograph taken.
- Special details (as needed) For example, if you want to withdraw your child from assembly in school or religious education. Talk to the school about your beliefs. You might also want the school to make a note of who is permitted to collect your child.

If any of your details change you must tell the school immediately.

PRACTICAL HELP FROM YOUR SCHOOL

Some families on low incomes can have free school meals. Children who have benefit related **free school meals**. Children who have free lunches at school may also have extra help in school through the **Pupil Premium** Funding programme.

The easiest way to apply for benefit related free school meals in Bath and North East Somerset is via this link <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>. To apply, you will need the following information:

- The date of birth of the parent or guardian of the child.
- The National Insurance (NI) number of the parent/guardian living with the child in the UK. You will get an NI number when you apply for Universal Credit (UC). This can take 5 or 6 weeks.

If you need extra help or things are complicated, phone the Free School Meals team on 01225 394317. Once your child starts school there may be holiday food vouchers. The school can share the link with you to apply. There is also short-term crisis support and advice from the welfare team on 01225 477277. The welfare team could also help with uniform costs.



Schools offer meal choices such as vegetarian, Halal or Kosher. Do say what is needed.

You can also ask for help with the **cost of getting to school**. Can the school help with bus costs? Your child might need to use more than one bus. In villages there is sometimes a special school bus children can use to get to school.



WHAT DOES MY CHILD NEED TO START SECONDARY SCHOOL?

- School uniform – the school website will have details. Some schools have **second-hand** uniform. **Blazers** are expensive, ask if they have second-hand ones.
- A school bag, often a rucksack.
- A pencil case with biros in blue or black, sharp pencils, a rubber and ruler.
- The school will supply exercise books and textbooks.

WHAT HAPPENS AT LUNCHTIME?

Schools have a lunchtime break. Children can take food from home to eat at school. This must not contain nuts because they are very dangerous to some children. Children can buy food at school. Your child will not need to take cash to school for food. They can pay using an account with a card, their name or even their fingerprint. They stay at school for lunch. Ask your school how their system works – and what the food is like.

Some families on low incomes do not have to pay for school meals. You might qualify for **free school meals**. You can ask if your child can have the same food as everyone else for free. Applying can take time – ask for help with the forms. Having free school meals can also mean you get help with food costs for children in the holidays and many other benefits. Schools have free water. Children can refill bottles at breaktime.

HOW DO I KNOW HOW MY CHILD IS DOING?

There are many ways. Some schools send postcards home to praise children, teachers sometimes phone home. All schools also have Parent Evenings. You can book a time online and talk to the teachers. All schools send a written report home each year.



If you book online, the teacher can talk to you from the classroom.

WHAT SECONDARY SCHOOLS TEACH

All children study English, Maths and Science at secondary school. They also have religious education lessons which will include a range of faiths. They also have general lessons about life and issues as they grow up. These general lessons typically cover: how to make good friends and relationships; English law about jobs, work life, alcohol, drugs and sexual relationships; how to stay safe and healthy; how to study well; how to plan for a career.

If your child needs extra help learning English, the school may provide this. Your child may have help in lessons or in small groups out of lesson time.

All lessons are matched to the age and abilities of the children.

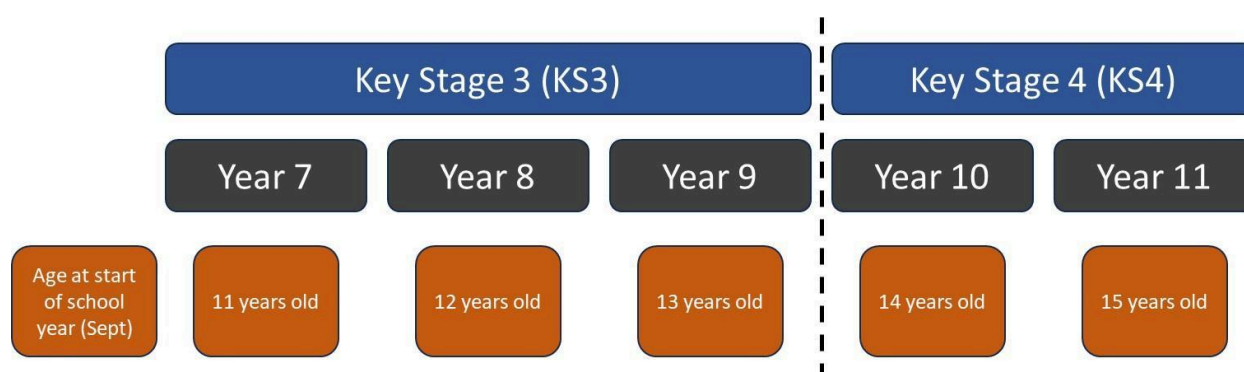


Children study music, drama, computing, science and technology in specialist classrooms.

Families ask

- **Can my child come home for lunch/ buy lunch away from school and go back later ?**
No, children must stay in school until lessons end.
- **Do schools mark GCSE exams ?** No. GCSE exams are marked by examiners who do not know the child or the school.
- **Will I have to buy exercise books or textbooks ?** No, the school will provide these. You must supply pens, pencils.
- **Is there anywhere to pray in school ?** Ask the school to find a quiet place which is suitable for prayer.
- **Are toilets and changing rooms for only girls/boys ?**
Yes.

LESSONS IN SECONDARY SCHOOL



The first 5 years of Secondary school (ages 11-16) are split into 2 Key Stages.

LESSONS AT THE START OF SECONDARY SCHOOL

Year 7, 8 and 9 are for children aged 11 to 13. This stage is called **Key Stage Three (KS3)**. As well as English, Maths and Science lessons children also have lessons:

- PE or games – such as gym, dance, team sports (football, hockey, netball, cricket), athletics
- Drama, Music and Art
- Technology – cooking, woodworking, metalwork, design, textiles
- Computing
- History
- Geography
- Languages – French or Spanish, perhaps other languages

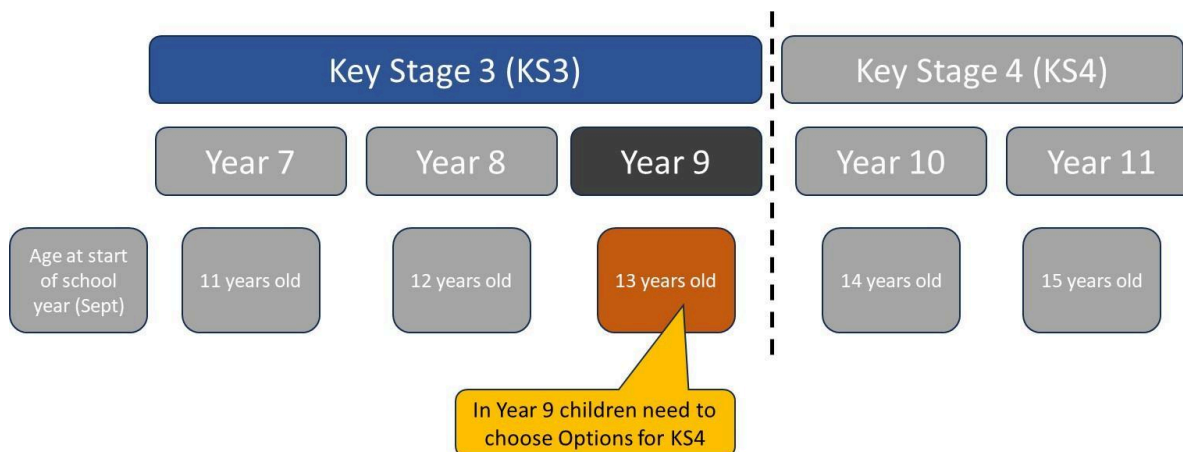
Your child will have lessons in all their subjects with specialist teachers in different rooms. This can take some time to remember. Each subject has different books to write in. The school will provide all writing and reading books for each subject. Secondary schools have specialist teaching spaces, a gym, playing fields, science laboratories, music and drama facilities.

Your child will be set regular homework, extra work to do after school at home. Expect at least one piece per day, often more. Your child will have tests in class such as spellings, vocabulary for French, research to bring to a lesson, reading or work to finish at home.

You can help them settle in:

- Put their **timetable** in the kitchen or hallway – and check they have the right books and equipment.
- Talk to them about their day.
- Check the school website for information, e.g. special days coming up or holidays.
- Your child may write homework into a **planner**. You can also find homework online or via an app- ask how at your school. Your child will need to use a smartphone, tablet or laptop to complete some work. They may need to print it. Check they have done their homework. Help them if needed. If they are still having trouble, let the child's tutor know. You can phone or email the school with a message.

HOW TO CHOOSE OPTIONS FOR GCSE EXAMS LATER IN SECONDARY SCHOOL



Children choose Options in Year 9 that they will study in Years 10 and 11(KS4).

In Year 9 students need to consider **options**: what they will study next in Years 10 and 11. These two years are called **Key Stage Four (KS4)**.

All students must study English, Maths and Science – plus other subjects they select. This process usually starts in November – March in Year 9. Your school will send information home. Your school will have evening meetings for parents. If you need help, make sure your school knows and supports you.

It is *really important* your child selects subjects they enjoy and can do well in. The subjects they study in KS4 lead to GCSE and other public examinations. The subjects they study will decide what choices they have next. Your child must get good grades in these exams to get a job or study further aged 16.

There is no automatic right to free education after the age of 16. Your child will only be able to make strong study choices with good grades. A strong pass is Grade 5 at GCSE.

Bath College offers a wide range of courses including degrees. Aged 16 your child could study electrical installation with 4 GCSEs including grade 3 in Maths, or professional cookery with 4 GCSEs at grade 3 plus grade 4 in English Language and Maths. Your child could study computing with five GCSE subjects at grade 5 including English and Maths. There are courses in Radstock and Bath leading to a range of careers. Check the website for full details to find what is on offer.



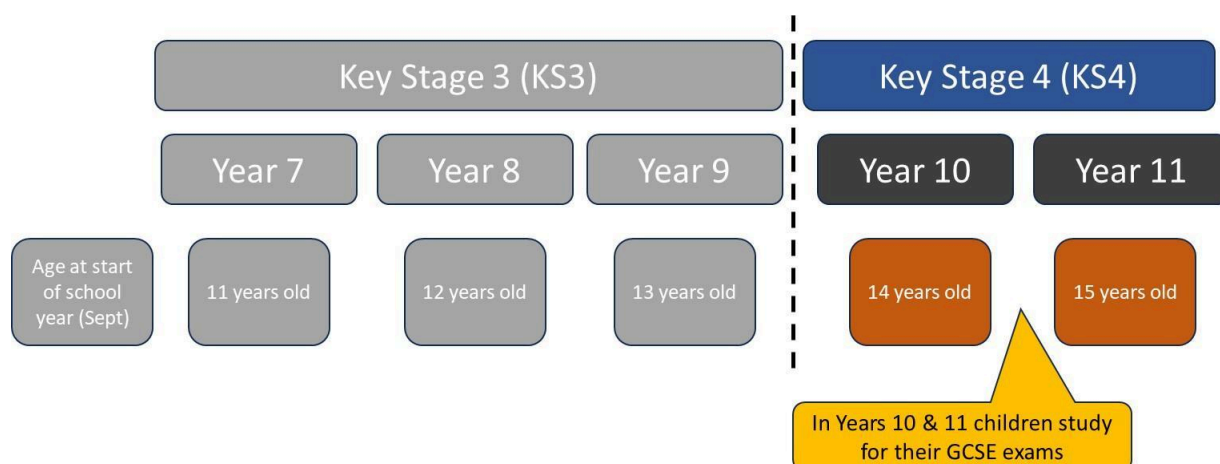
To study A levels, T levels or BTEC in a local **Sixth Form** your child will need to have the grades they demand to study that subject. To be a doctor (medicine) your child would need Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Maths at GCSE plus strong grades in other subjects. This generally allows your child to study for A2 exams. To start training as a doctor your child will need at least 3 very good A2 grades (A*/A), pass other national exams aged 18 and interview tests at university.

Check the school website to see what grades are needed for level 3 courses such as A level, BTEC or T levels. October/November is the best time to see what is needed. For example:

Sixth Form/ School	Minimum requirements – including English Lit/Lang plus Maths grade 4 or 5. You must also have any specific (often higher) entry grades for specific courses.
Beechen Cliff	5 GCSE grade 6
Chew Valley	5 GCSE grade 4
Hayesfield	7 GCSE grade 4
Midsomer Norton	GCSE grade 5 – check website for more details
Oldfield	5 GCSE grade 5
Ralph Allen	5 GCSE grade 5
St Brendan's	5 GCSE grade 5 for A2 etc. 4 GCSE's at grade 3 inc Maths for Level 2 courses
St Greg's	5 GCSE grade 5
Wellsway	No response to enquiries at time of writing. Check website or telephone.
Writhlington	GCSE grade 5 – check website for more details

Your school will let you know what subjects they offer. Your child's teachers will tell you how your child is doing in their classes. Schools can also offer careers advice at this stage. Ask for help where you need it.

LESSONS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS OF SECONDARY SCHOOL (KS4)



In Key Stage 4 children study subjects for their GCSE exams (at the end of Year 11)

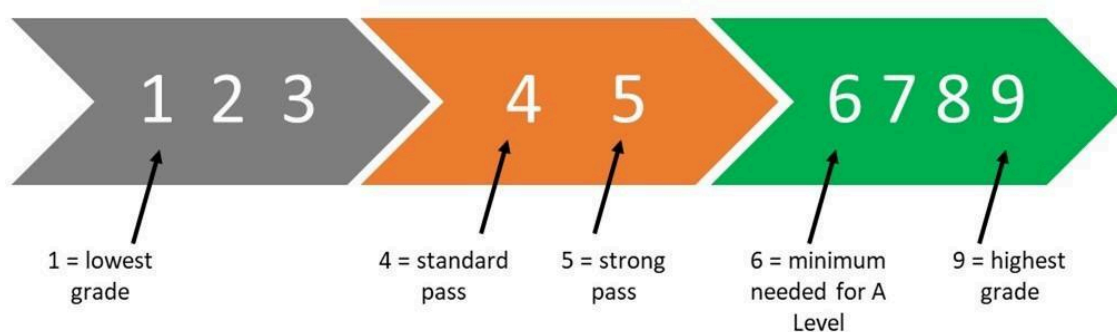
Years 10 and 11 are for children aged 15 to 16. This stage is called **Key Stage Four (KS4)**. All children still have lessons which are not for exams or GCSEs:

- PE or games – such as gym, team sports (football, hockey, netball, cricket), athletics.
- General lessons about life skills, career choices, health, personal safety, sex, drugs, UK law as before.

Examinations start in April of Year 11 and end in late June in Year 11. Children must attend all the exams to get their GCSE qualifications. GCSE qualifications are number grades. Results are in August of Year 11.

The bottom grade is 1, followed by 2,3,4 (a standard pass), 5(a strong pass), 6 (needed for A level entry) and at the top 7,8,9.

GCSE Grades



Your child's teacher can tell you what grade your child is likely to get in the exams.

All children study English, Maths and Science. *At GCSE these involve course choices.* Ask your school.

- English - children study for two GCSEs taught for exam. **English Language** tests reading and writing. Children answer on non-fiction written before 1900. They must compare texts written before 1900 and today. They must complete a range of different writing in a short time.
English Literature tests knowledge of **set books**. Children study a whole Shakespeare play, a novel written before 1900, a play written since 1900 and a group of 18 poems written since 1600. They must analyse the set books, compare writers, use quotes and also answer on a poem they have not seen before the exam.
Q: will your child study for two GCSEs? Is English your child's first language? If English is not a first language how will the school support your child?
- Maths – all children sit some exams with a calculator and others without a calculator. Your child's teacher will recommend either **Foundation GCSE** (for grades 1 to 5) or **Higher GCSE** (for grades 4 to 9). Some schools offer an extra GCSE, Further Maths GCSE. This is for strong mathematicians.
Q: which GCSE Maths is right for your child? Will your child need a calculator – what sort is allowed/needed?
- Science – there are a range of different GCSE courses offered by local schools. Most offer a choice. In **Combined Science (trilogy)** exams are slightly shorter and there is less science to learn. This course gives your child two GCSEs. In **Separate Science** your child studies Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately. The exams are separate for each science and are longer exams. This course gives your child three GCSEs. Some schools offer **Applied Science** which gives your child one GCSE.
Q: which GCSE Science course is right for your child?

Children then choose additional subjects which are usually:

- Drama, Art, Photography
- Music, Dance
- Technology – cooking, woodworking, metalwork, design, textiles
- Computing
- History or Geography
- Languages – French or Spanish. Ask if your child can take GCSE in their first language.
- Religious Education – as a GCSE exam course

Some schools also offer career-based courses such as:

- Construction
- Child Development and care
- Interactive media

- Business studies
- Music Technology

Some of these courses are Level 1 or Level 2 courses. Some are BTEC courses. Ask your school what is included in the courses. Ask how results compare with GCSE. What courses or jobs follow at age 16?

WHAT DOES STUDY LOOK LIKE FOR 15 AND 16 YEAR OLDS IN KEY STAGE 4?



Your child will have lessons in all their subjects at school. Their teachers will set regular homework and mark their books. Your child will learn how to answer exam questions. There will be tests and exam practice in school. Your child's teachers can recommend revision books to buy and ways to revise at home. There is lots of help online. A good way to start is BBC Bitesize which has help for school subjects.

Expect your child to have two hours of homework every evening Monday to Friday.

There will be full size practice exams called **Mocks**. The school will send these results home.

HOW DOES SECONDARY SCHOOL END?



GCSE exams start in April of Year 11 and finish towards the end of June in Year 11. By this time children will already have plans for after secondary school. Some will start a job with training, or an apprenticeship. Others will plan to go on to Sixth Form and A levels or BTEC courses. Some children will plan to go on to Bath College for specific courses.

Secondary school covers very important years in the lives of children. The close is often celebrated in June of Year 11 with a School Prom in formal dress, special events at school and family photographs.

WHAT TO DO ON RESULTS DAY IN AUGUST AFTER GCSE EXAMS

Your school will tell you how to collect results before your child has taken their exams. Usually your child will go to school to collect their results.

If your child has not got the GCSE grades they need for their future the school will have help and advice on the day results are collected. *Even if your child has GCSE grades below 4 there will be courses they can take to progress* – and repeat the GCSE Maths and English at the same time. The exam certificates are vital proof for your child's future. The school will tell you how to collect these, usually around Christmas after summer exams.

Your child may take an **apprenticeship** to progress. Ask about choices with local employers or courses.

MONEY AND YOUR CHILD AFTER AGE 16

If your child is in education, employment or training aged 16, 17 or 18 you can receive Child Benefit for them. If they are not in education, employment or training at these ages you cannot receive Child Benefit for them. For more details

<https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit-16-19>

Aged 16 your child is old enough to leave school and can work up to 40 hours a week. They are protected as children and must have more breaks than workers aged 18+. Pay depends on their age, whether they are an apprentice or have extra duties at work.

The National Minimum Wage for children aged 16 or 17 is £6.40/hour. Apprentices must be paid £6.40/hour up to the age of 19 or in the first year of their apprenticeship. For more details <https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>

THANK YOU 😊



Thank you to everyone who helped us put this secondary school guide together. It is our second guide. Please let us know how to improve it. We would also like to include comments from families and students in the next version.

We hope this is useful and wish you all the very best for your child at their new school.

language@bathwelcomesrefugees.org.uk

Bath College:

Bath Welcomes Refugees:

Free School Meals Service:

Ralph Allen School – teachers:

Tuesday Learning Space – students:

Volunteer Proofreaders:

Help with courses and photos

Proof-reading, photos and cups of tea

Advice and information

Photos and encouragement

Photos, map and welcome handwriting

Checking content and English



Tuesday Learning Space at Manvers Street Baptist Church, Bath, 4pm to 5.30pm.

WHAT WORDS MEAN:

Academy	Central Government funded schools – free to attend.
Applied Science GCSE	GCSE Science exam with less complex science.
Absence	When a child does not attend (go to) school because they are ill.
Apprenticeship	Job training done mostly at work on lower pay
Attendance	The number of days a child attends (goes to) school.
Bath College	A large College for children and adults with a very wide range of courses up to degree level.
Boarding school	Children live at boarding school and only go home for holidays. You must pay for this school.
Blazer	Special school jacket, compulsory uniform.
Breaks	Gaps between lesson time, morning or afternoon.
BTEC	National qualifications focussed on careers.
Child Benefit	Weekly payment to a parent from the government towards costs of raising children https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit
Combined Science (trilogy) GCSE	GCSE Science exam with Biology, Chemistry and Physics combined.
Compulsory	Something you must do, e.g. children must wear school uniform to attend school. Children without school uniform will be sent home.
Day school	Attending school in the day, not living at the school.
EAL	English as an Additional Language – children with English as a second or third or fourth language.
English Language GCSE	GCSE English exams testing reading, writing, speaking and listening in English.
English Literature GCSE	GCSE English exams testing analysis of novels, plays and poetry.
Exam or examinations	Formal tests in school set and marked nationally.
Exam certificates	Proof of your child's grade in national exams. Needed for employers and education courses.
Excluded	Not allowed to come to school.
Faith school	Shares a religious faith, e.g. Catholic.
Free	No payment needed.
Free school meal	Same school meal as other students paid for by the government not families.
GCSE exams	National formal tests for 16 year old children.

Headteacher	Most senior teacher and manager at a school.
Head of Year	Teacher in charge of children the same age, e.g. Head of Year 7, in charge of the youngest.
Head of House	Teacher in charge of children in the same house e.g. Head of Phoenix House.
Home schooling	Educating your child yourself at home.
Independent school	School not controlled by government. These schools charge money to teach children.
Key Stage Four (KS4)	Subjects studied by children aged 14,15 and 16.
Key Stage Three (KS3)	Subjects studied by children aged 11,12 and 13.
Local Authority School	Schools funded by the local authority – free to attend.
Lunchtime	Meal and breaktime in the middle of the day.
Maths GCSE - Foundation	Maths exam with less complex Maths problems.
Maths GCSE - Higher	Maths exam with more complex Maths problems.
OfSTED	Office for Standards in Education. This government department inspects schools and writes reports about them.
Planner	Small diary book given to students to plan their week and work.
Pupil Premium (PP)	Children who have extra support and attention in lessons.
Options	Choices of subjects for KS4 (age 14,15 and 16).
Second hand	Equipment or uniform that is not new, has been owned and used before.
SENCO, SEN	Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator – the teacher leading the team who work with students with learning needs e.g. EAL (English as an Additional Language).
Separate Science GCSE	GCSE course with the largest amount of science to study: Biology, Chemistry, Physics studied separately.
Single sex school	Only boys study at a boys' single sex school. Only girls study at a girls' single sex school.
Sixth Form	Study and exams for students aged 16,17 and 18.
Timetable	Lessons arranged over a week or fortnight.
Tutor	Teacher who takes the register for a group of 30 students, checks attendance, deals with issues.
Uniform	Standard clothing all students must wear for school. Usually includes separate sports clothing.