

Beyond The Rowans



Post 16 options guide 2026



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A - Levels

Why study A-levels?

A-Levels are the main qualifications you need to get into university in the UK, and they're recognised around the world. The grades you get turn into UCAS points, which universities use to decide if they'll offer you a place. If you want to study a competitive course or go into jobs like medicine or law, A-Levels are usually required. A-Levels let you focus on just 3–4 you really enjoy, helping you build strong knowledge, thinking skills, and confidence in those areas.

Where can I take at A-levels?

A-levels can be studied at college or a local sixth form. You need to apply to both and go for an interview to see if they think you will be the right fit for this type of course.

What grades do I need for A-Levels?

You will need 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above

What subjects can I study?

Every college and sixth form offer different subjects, but here is a list of some that are available at Mid-Kent College;

- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- English (Language or Literature)
- Film studies
- History
- Law
- Maths
- Media
- Photography
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Sociology

Mid Kent College

What can I study at Mid Kent College?

There is the opportunity to take A-levels, and Level 1 & Level 2 courses.

Level 1 courses

- Employability, personal and social development
- Animal care
- Bricklaying
- Business
- Caring for Children
- Carpentry
- Cookery
- Creative media
- Uniformed services
- ICT & Esports
- Animal care (LBS)
- Multi trade skills
- Performing Engineering
- Plumbing
- Sport & Active leisure
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Culinary skills
- Music, performing arts and production arts
- Art, design and Media

Level 2 courses

- Accountancy
- Applied Science
- Beauty therapy
- Business enterprise
- Child care
- Cookery
- Early Years Practitioners
- Electrical Installation
- Esports
- Hair and Make up
- Hair dressing
- Information Technology
- Sport
- Skills for business
- Health and Social care
- Animal care
- Uniformed services
- Performance engineer
- Plumbing
- Culinary skills
- Art, design and Media

What grades do I need?

For a Level 1 - 4 GCSEs at grade 2 or higher

For Level 2 - 4 GCSEs at grade 3 or higher

T levels/L3 courses - 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or higher



MidKent College

Nacro

Why study at Nacro?

Nacro is a training provider, rather than a further education provider. This means the courses they offer are based on hands on experience.

Get Set Courses at Nacro

- Business - Level 1 & 2
- Care - Level 1
- Childcare Level 1 & 2
- Construction Level 1 & 2
- Get set for Work - Level 1
- Hair and Beauty - Level 1 & 2

What do I need to study here?

GCSE/Functional Skills English and maths are only required if you haven't already gained a level 4 or above.



Vocational Subject + *English and/or Maths + Work Placement + Employability + Enrichment

What do Get Set courses offer?

- Gain industry-specific skills through hands on vocational courses in areas like construction, healthcare, animal care, sport and more.
- Improve English, maths* and digital literacy to strengthen a student's foundations for work and life.
- Participate in a range of work experience and employment related encounters to gain insights into the industries and careers paths that are of interest to them.
- Develop a full range of essential skills supported by our Skills Builder partnership including communication, problem solving, teamworking, interview practice and CV writing.
- Participate in a range of activities, opportunities, team collaboration challenges and educational site visits that enable personal development through real experiences.
- Learn financial and human skills through our partnerships with MyBank and our localised tutorial programme.

Hadlow College - Maidstone

Why study at Hadlow College?

Hadlow College is a part of North Kent College and is based in Maidstone. Choosing Hadlow will give you lots of agricultural based hands on experience

Courses at Hadlow

- Agriculture - Level 1-3
- Agricultural Engineering - Level 2
- Carpentry and Joinery - Level 1 & 2
- Equine Management - Level 2
- Fisheries - Level 3
- Floristry - Level 2
- Horticulture - Level 1-3
- Land based Studies - Equine - Level 1
- Motor Vehicle Diploma
- Motor Vehicle Maintenance Diploma - Level 1
- Motor Vehicle Maintenance and repair - Level 2
- Vehicle Technology (Motor Sports) - Level 1 & 2
- Motorcycle (industry and Maintenance - Level 2 & 3



What do I need to study here?

Level 1 - GCSEs grades 1-2 or E to G or equivalent, including Foundation Awards and Entry Level qualifications.

Level 2 - Minimum of 4 GCSEs grade 3 (previously D) or above including maths and English and relevant subject qualification or minimum of a full Level 1 course in chosen subject at Merit or above and English and maths at Level 1.

Level 3 - Minimum of 5 GCSEs grade 4 (previously C) or above including maths and English and relevant subject qualification or minimum of a full Level 2 course in chosen subject at Merit or above and English and maths at Level 2.

Bemix

What do Bemix offer?

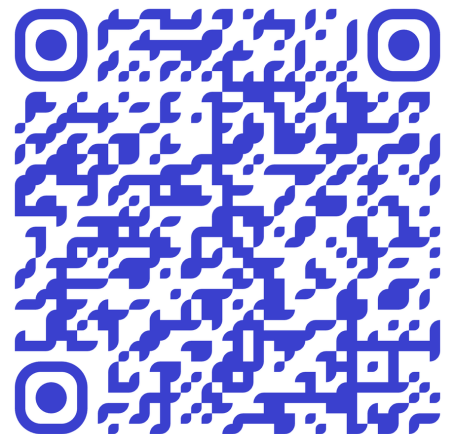
Supported Employment - helps 16-24 year olds with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan to make the journey from education into employment. Young people are supported on their journey every step of the way.

There are 2 types of programmes to support young people with an EHCP into work

- **Preparation for Employment Programme - Preparing you for going into a Supported Internships year.**
- **Supported Internship Programme - Focussed on getting you into a workplace.**



be seen
be heard
belong



Scan the QR code for our prospectus

North Kent College

Why study at North Kent College?

North Kent college has 4 sites - Hadlow in Maidstone, Dartford, Gravessend and Tonbridge. These are all outside of Medway, so travel or residential support might be needed.

College is completely different to school. You get a lot more freedom to make decisions about your own future, which helps you to develop your independence, control your own responsibilities and prepare yourself for the real world.

Level 1 courses

- Art & Design
- Basic Construction Skills
- Beauty
- Bricklaying - L1 & 2
- Carpentry & Joinery L1 & 2
- Catering - Professional Food Service
- Early Years
- Electrical Installation
- Engineering & Manufacturing
- Hairdressing
- Health Care Level 1 & 2
- Motor Vehicle Maintenance
- Painting & decorating
- Plumbing L1 & 2

Level 2 courses

- Actin for Stage and Screen
- Admin for Legal & Professional
- Art/Art, Design and Textiles
- Beauty/Hair & Media Make-up
- Business
- Catering - Advanced professional chef diploma
- Creative Digital Design
- Creative Media
- Dance
- Early Years
- Electrical Installation
- Engineering Technology
- Fashion
- Hairdressing & Barbering
- Information & Creative Technology
- Leading Community Activity
- Motor Vehicle Maintenance & Repair
- Music/Musical Performance/Theatre
- Photography
- Refrigeration & Air conditioning
- Sport
- Technical theatre
- Travel & Tourism

What grades do I need?

For a Level 1 - GCSE grade 3 in Mathematics and English supported by two at grade 2

For Level 2 - GCSE in Maths Grade 4, grade 3 in English Language, Science plus one other at grade 3



<https://www.northkent.ac.uk/>

SALT college

Why study at SALT College?

SALT College is a specialist college for young people with EHCPs. The college creates personalised learning pathways, ensuring tailored academic and pastoral support.

They offer taster sessions, bespoke inductions, and ongoing pastoral care to help learners settle and succeed.

What can you study?

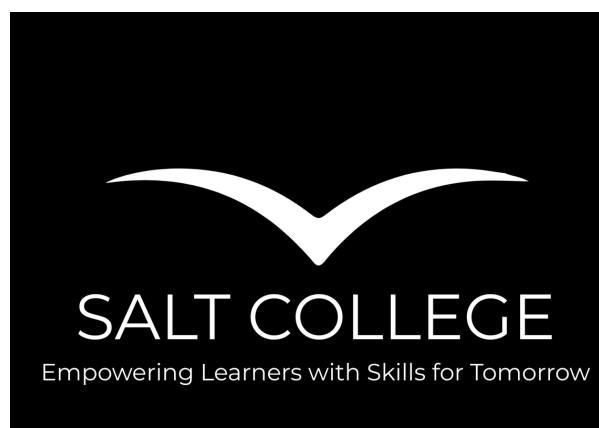
there are different courses in;

- Professional services
- The Construction Industry
- Building Services
- Creative Industries
- Computing, Games Design & Esports
- Hospitality
- Business Enterprise

These courses all help young people get ready for life in work beyond school or college.



Scan the QR code for course details



<https://www.salt-college.co.uk/>

Army

Junior Soldier Training for 16 and 17 year olds is where your Army career begins, with the education, training and support to prepare you for what comes next.

You'll train, live and learn alongside others your age as part of a close-knit team.

Based at the Army Foundation College in Harrogate, there are two intakes each year in March and September. Depending on your chosen role, the course lasts 6 or 12 months.

The Army Foundation College has an Ofsted rating of 'Good.'

What you learn;

- **Military Skills:** Map reading and how to handle a rifle.
- **Fitness:** Daily exercise to make you strong and fast.
- **Education:** Lessons to improve your math and English.
- **Values:** Teamwork, respect, and discipline.



Navy

Navy

You can join the UK Royal Navy at age 16. You will earn a salary while gaining professional qualifications or a degree debt-free.

At 16 you can apply for Ratings (Intermediate & Advanced Apprenticeships)

- **Requirements: No specific qualifications needed, but you must pass aptitude and fitness tests.**
- **Details: You join at 16, and the Navy will automatically enroll you in an apprenticeship. You learn a trade—like engineering, logistics, or warfare—while getting paid.**



Airforce

You can apply for the RAF from age 15 years and 9 months, with training starting at age 16. The RAF offers fully paid apprenticeships and technical roles with no formal qualifications required for many positions. You will earn a salary while completing military and trade training.

Aviator Entrants: You can join the regular RAF as an airman or airwoman immediately after leaving school. You do not need formal GCSEs for many ground roles.

The Training Process

- Phase 1 Training: This is Basic Recruit Training. For most post-16 entrants, this takes place over 10 weeks at RAF Halton. It teaches you military skills, physical fitness, and discipline.**



Soccer Elite

Why study at Soccer Elite Academy?

The Soccer Elite FA Post-16 Education & Football Programme is a full time academic and football course for 16-19 year olds, combining high level professional football coaching with a wide variety of academic and practical subjects / qualifications

Soccer Elite have courses suitable for all learners, with A-Level, NCFE, Maths and English Functional Skills and football coaching courses / qualifications available. These qualifications provide pathways into British universities, American college scholarships and work within SEFA and the wider world.

There are separate courses for boys and girls training. Although, the girls and boys do spend regular time training together.

What do I need to be able to apply?

Students interested in our school sixth form sites must also apply to the school itself.

What do they offer?

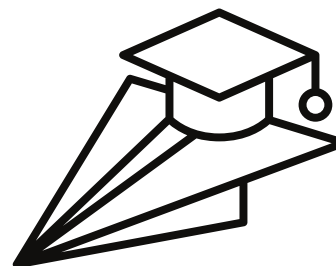
Level 2 & 3 business, sport & coaching courses at Star Meadow Sports Complex, Gillingham

A-Level & BTEC courses at Maplesden Noakes School, Maidstone



Other training options

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- **Appreticeships** - An apprenticeship lets you work for an employer while training to get a recognised qualification.
 - **Part-time study and working/volunteering** - If you prefer not to study full-time, you can work or volunteer for 20 hours or more a week



See Miss Poonian if you are interested in any of these options