

Alternative progression routes

University Technical Colleges (UTCs)

These are secondary schools for young people aged from 14-19 which are sponsored by a university and local employers. They were set up by the government to encourage young people to study technical subjects and sciences, as well as core curriculum subjects such as English and Maths, to give them opportunity to learn skills that employers are looking for.

There are fewer than 50 UTCs in England, and they are very much focused on attracting pupils at the end of key stage 3 who are passionate about Engineering, Science and Technology.

[To find out more, visit the UTC website.](#)

Further Education (FE) Colleges

Pupils can study traditional A levels and vocational qualifications at FE Colleges. Popular courses include BTECs, NVQs, Apprenticeships, Foundation Degrees, Higher National Diploma (HND) and Higher National Certificates (HNC).

Entry requirements will vary dependent on the course. For pupils who didn't perform well at GCSE, many FE colleges offer opportunities for resits or entry level courses to then enable pupils to progress to courses at a higher level.

Again, it depends on what FE colleges there are in your area.