

Onward Transitions Options for after Red Balloon of the Air

There are many different routes that a student could take when you are ready to leave RBAir.

The Post-16 options are:

- **Staying in full-time education:** You could take a range of subjects that lead to qualifications that keep your options open with A-level and Level 3 or Level 2 Applied Diplomas. However there are also courses like BTEC's, vocational courses, and the newer T Levels that allow you to focus on a chosen career area such as construction, healthcare, science, childcare, or digital careers - the list is endless. It is important to add that different careers require different criteria so it is important that you do your research before applying.
- **One Pathway** is what may be called the traditional A-Level pathway at Sixth Form College. Usually you choose 3 A-level subjects and need the requisite 5 plus GCSEs at a certain level. You would then study 5 days a week, for 2 years, there will be regular assessments and potentially also coursework, with final exams being held at the end of the 2 year course.
- Another pathway is to go to **Further Education (FE) college** and start a course in your chosen subject or vocational training route. A course that is primarily preparing you for a career in that subject area. You learn in a more practical way about a specific career area. There are entry level 1 courses, Level 2 courses (which are equivalent to GCSE level) and Level 3 courses (which are equivalent to A-level). It will depend on the depth of the course and the length - it could be 1 or 2 years, as to what qualification you finish with.
- Another option is combining **work and study** - this is great for those that want to gain practical skills, get work experience and a qualification that employers need. These include traineeships and apprenticeships and can also be within a variety of sectors.

- For an **apprenticeship** or on the job training. Usually you start by finding a job and then apply through college for the training to go alongside it. Many colleges have an apprenticeship service to help you through the process. The course needs to be nationally recognised so that you can get a suitable qualification at the end of it. You can find apprenticeships on job platforms or also via the Government's apprenticeship portal. Some apprenticeships mean you go into college one day a week and work with the employer for 4 days a week. Or others can be full time with the employer and your assessor comes regularly to your workplace to check that you are fulfilling your qualification.
- You can of course think about going straight into **employment** and you would usually need to create a CV and apply online with a covering letter. You would then be invited to an interview.
- There are also options to **volunteer** alongside part-time education too.
- There are online study options to do a number of **A-Levels**. This is a course that requires a lot of self motivation and planning of study time. It would probably take about 2 years to complete and a suitable exam centre would have to be found.
- We do have **Step4ward**, Red Balloon of the Air's Post 16, Preparing for Adulthood Programme.

Year 1 consists of:

- ❖ WE²CV which is time spent researching options in the world of work, employability, entrepreneurship, college and vocational.
- ❖ Independent Living Skills,
- ❖ Social Communication and Community
- ❖ It is predominantly a face to face programme with online options to study more GCSEs.

Year 2 consists of:

- ❖ E² which is the Employability and Entrepreneurship Level 2 ASDAN award.
- ❖ Learning for Living (L4L) which is the practical parts of the ASDAN award, including work experience, trips in the local and wider community alongside independent travel training.

- ❖ Continuation of the social communication and community group.

A Level 2 ASDAN qualification is built into the year 2 part of the Step4Ward programme. You need to have completed the year 1 programme in order to move onto the Year 2 modules.

The Pre 16 Options

You might want to consider going back to your previous school or maybe another school in your area.

You could consider staying with Red Balloon of the Air to do your GCSEs. You would have to choose your 3 GCSE options by the end of the Spring term, so you would be ready to start your one year course in the September of that year.