

Post 16 Options

Objectives:

Understand the key differences between a typical sixth form and a college

Know what different study programmes look like at college – including T Levels and other pathways

Schools Partnership Team

South Thames College Group



Mainly a vocational provider

Over 5,000 16 – 18 yr old students

Students from across London + Surrey

Student services and enrichment within all sites

Good with Outstanding – Ofsted 2024

9 / 10 students say they like the way they are taught at college

Two sites in Kingston

Lots of work experience opportunities

Uni progression:
 Art and Design / creative arts
 Business + related courses
 Computer Science
 Allied health subjects



Questions to keep in mind:

Careers

- Think about the things you enjoy – what are you good at?
- What careers can you make out of your current interests & hobbies?
- What kinds of companies / people are significant in your areas of interest?

Options and learning

- A Levels? BTECs? T Levels? V Levels?
- Apprenticeships?
- How do you like to learn?

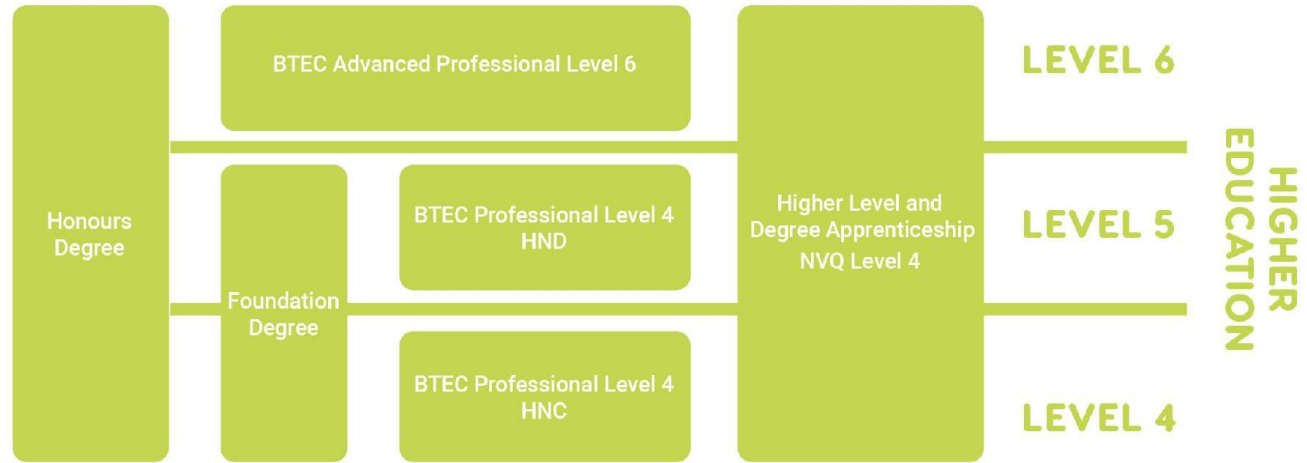
Destinations

- Do you have to university to succeed in your area of interest?
- Which may suit you more: sixth form or college?
- Are there apprenticeships / degree apprenticeships in your areas of interest?

POST GRADUATE LEVEL

Master's Degree (second degrees), PhD, Professional Accreditation,
BTEC Advanced Professional, NVQ Level 5

LEVEL 7 & 8



Vocational pathways + academic pathways

Vocational

- Practical study
- Learn by **doing** and being hands-on
- Learn in **work-like environments**
- Assessed **mainly through coursework** and projects
- Examples: Engineer, Chef, Paramedic, Sports Coach, Fashion Designer

Academic

- Theory-based study
- More **book based**
- Learn in a **classroom environment**
- Assessed **mainly through exams** and some coursework
- Examples: Doctor, Lawyer, Teacher, Computer Scientist

A Levels (L3)

T Levels (L3)

BTECS / vocational pathways (L1 – L3)

V Levels (L3)



How do you choose the right pathway?

Foundation Certificates (L2)

Occupational Certificates (L2)

What are **BTECs**?

Usually the study of one subject

Vocational Qualification – hands on

Assessed through a combination of different ways

Work- / Industry-facing

One Level 3 BTEC (national extended diploma) is the equivalent of 3 A Levels

What are **A Levels**?

Can take multiple A-levels of different subject – not just one subject.

More academically focused – book / theory-based – and a follow-on to GCSEs.

Mainly assessed by exams (some subjects will have coursework)

Classroom based with no need for a Work Placement

What are **T Levels**?

A vocational / technical qualification

Specialist / technical skills and knowledge for a specific occupation

Slightly higher entry requirements than BTECs

A 45-day industry placement with an employer

Assessed by exams

There's more possibly – from 2027 onwards...

What are V Levels?

Level 3 qualifications
One V Level = One A Level

**Accounting / Finance
Digital and Data
Education**

What are Foundation Certificates?

Level 2 qualifications
Designed to be a springboard to Level 3 learning (BTEC / T Level)

**Digital and Data
Education and Early
Years**

What are Occupational Certificates?

Level 2 qualifications
Designed to prepare you for an apprenticeship / full time job in the relevant sector

**Early Years
Hospitality (Food and Drink)
Hospitality (Accommodation)**

T Levels

More technical, geared to the world of work (yet they still carry UCAS points.)

Combine theory with practice:

(80 : 20 classroom : work-based learning split - 45-day work placement)

Typically, available in subject areas such as **early years**, **engineering**, **health** and **computing**.

They are assessed **solely by exams**:

1st year: 2 exams: 1 core exam + 1 employer s
(*essential core knowledge and skills + job specific knowledge /*

2nd year: occupational specialism + work place
(specialist knowledge to assess work-based competencies + e placement)

		Occupational Specialism		
		Distinction	Merit	Pass
Core	A*	Distinction*	Distinction	Distinction
	A	Distinction	Distinction	Merit
	B	Distinction	Merit	Merit
	C	Distinction	Merit	Pass
	D	Merit	Merit	Pass
	E	Merit	Pass	Pass

Options at South Thames Colleges Group – after GCSEs

Vocational Study Programmes – BTECs, etc

Many to choose from!
From Art & Design and Fashion to
Business and Travel & Tourism
as well as
Motor Vehicle, Hairdressing + Barbering
and Beauty, etc

Apprenticeships

A wide range based on our
relationship with employers

T-Levels

Education & Early Years
Accounting
Health
I.T - Digital Software Development + Cyber
Security
Engineering – Manufacturing

Mixed Pathways

A pathway which teams
A-Levels with a BTEC qualification
or
Smaller BTECs together
or
V Levels with...?

A Level +

Architecture Pathway – **BTEC 3D Design** + Maths A Level

Law and Criminology Pathway – **BTEC Applied Law, Criminology** +
A Level in English or Psychology or Sociology

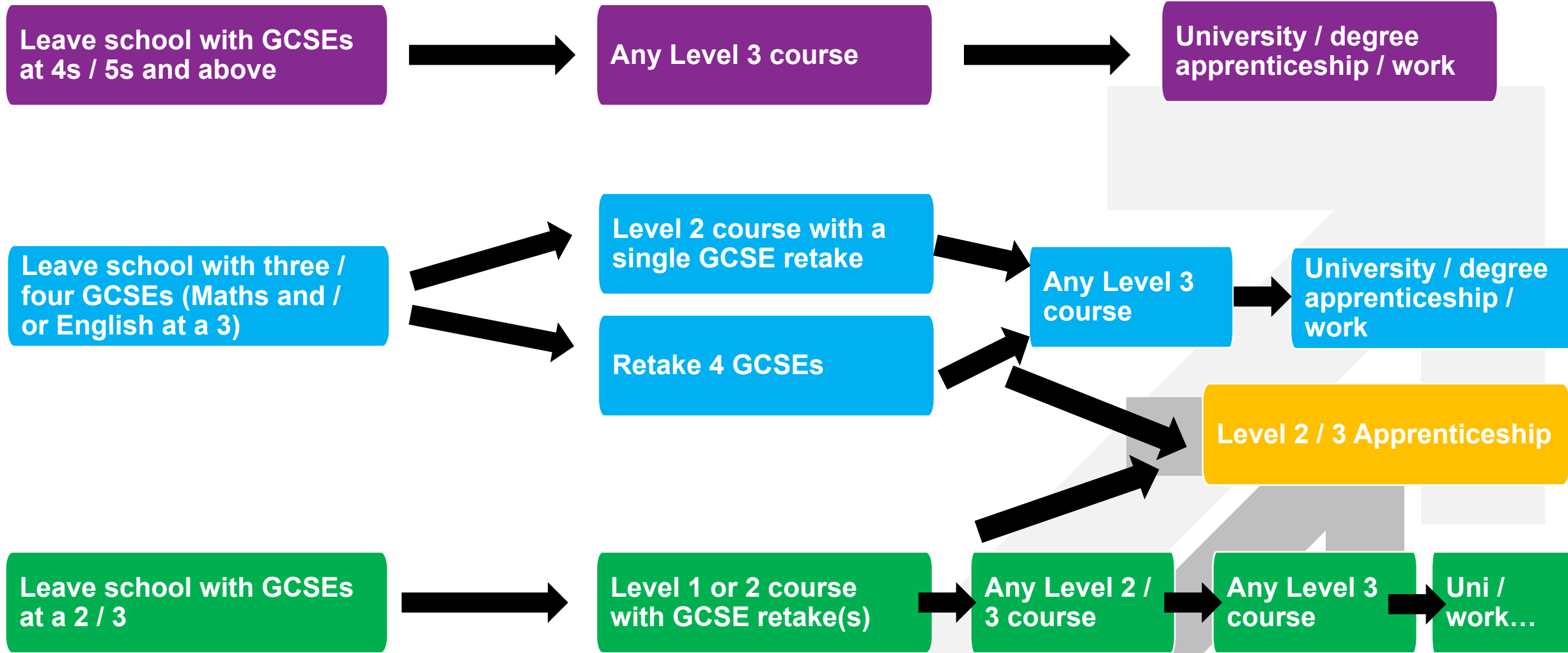
Geography Pathway – **BTEC Travel and Tourism** + Geography A Level

Journalism Pathway – **BTEC Creative Media** + English A Level

Performing Arts Pathway – **BTEC Performing Arts (Drama or Dance)**
+ English A Level

Creative Business Pathway – **any practical creative course**
+ Business A Level

Pathways at college



Uni Destinations (2025 data for Kington College)

Applicants : 624

Offers : 610

Acceptances : 535

Top 5 unis by acceptances:

Kingston
Roehampton
St Mary's
Westminster
Surrey

Top 5 subjects by acceptances:

Design studies
Music
Architecture
Business / Management
Computer Science

The application process

- **Research and apply** – ideally as early as possible (and have options!)
- **Attend** your interview
- **Accept** your conditional offer
- **WORK HARD!**
- **GCSE Results day: act wisely and promptly (and don't go on holiday in late August!)**
- **Attend your enrolment day at college on the date you have been given**

Student support, wellbeing and advice and guidance

- **Every college has a student support and enrichment team**
- **Enrichment varies from sports, yoga, Pilates to careers talks and workshops and inter-college competitions**
- **All students can access mental health support, advice and guidance**
- **Kingston College: largest college site for employability and careers advice**

Student support: learners with additional needs and / or EHCPs

Everything that you would expect at school but:

- **An application still needs to be submitted directly to the college even if the college is stated as the suitable destination through consultation**
- **All students will receive a support interview (led by inclusive learning) along with one for the course itself (led by curriculum staff)**
- **Support / provision / adjustments can be discussed but the final amended ECHP and confirmation of college destination is through the local authority**

What are Apprenticeships?

Apprenticeships are training schemes.

You are employed to work alongside experienced staff to gain job-specific skills whilst you work towards technical qualifications.

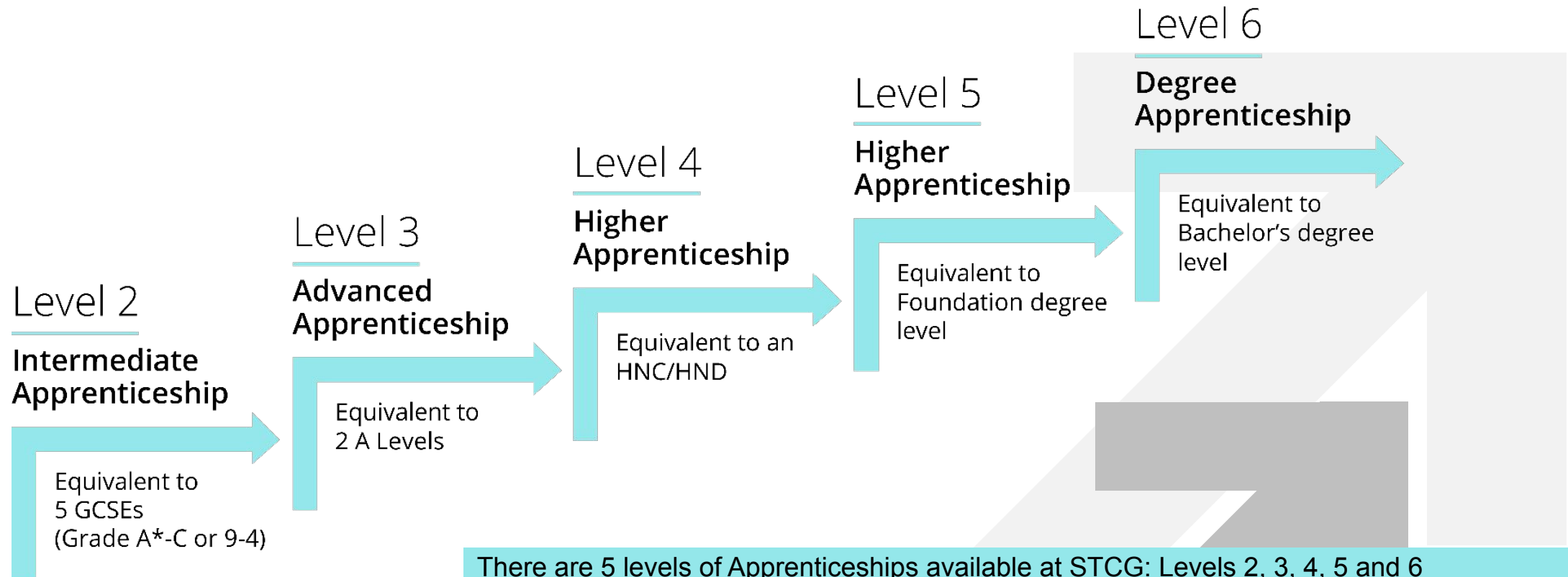
You will gain your technical qualification whilst on day/block release at college.



It is a great way to learn as you will get hands-on experience as well as getting paid.

You will have a contract of employment and will be entitled to the same benefits as other employees including holiday pay!

Apprenticeship levels



There are 5 levels of Apprenticeships available at STCG: Levels 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

stcg.ac.uk/apprenticeships - Full list of course details and current vacancy listing

gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship - Government site for finding Apprenticeships vacancies

Apprenticeship vacancies

Civil Engineering Technician Apprentice

[Share opportunity](#)

Employer description

Sandberg is a privately owned organisation able to provide wholly independent professional and technical services to all concerned with the quality and performance of materials. We have some of the best specialised staff and consultants, whose professional ability and integrity is evident in every aspect of their work.

Main description

Sandberg is a civil engineering consultancy with a particular focus on construction materials. We are currently seeking a Technician to assist our departments in undertaking testing and inspection work. The role would be based in our labs at Clapham and includes some site work in London and the UK.



Location

Sandberg LLP
16 Deer Park Road,
London,
Greater London, United Kingdom.
SW19 3UB

Training delivery site:

South Thames College,
Wandsworth High St, London SW18
2PP

Sandberg is a civil engineering consultancy with a particular focus on construction materials. We are currently seeking a Technician to assist our departments in undertaking testing and inspection work. The role would be based in our labs at Clapham and includes some site work in London and the UK.

The role will be split between site work and work in our offices at Clapham. Your involvement in the first year will be with our Metallurgy and Steelwork Inspection departments, from there you will spend time in each of our other departments including the Construction Materials, Building Inspection and Investigation departments and Geology. In all cases full training will be given and the level of involvement in the different areas will grow as training and competence develops. In addition to building on general laboratory techniques, you will learn to perform specific tests along with sample preparation techniques, mechanical testing and measurement of properties. Additionally, there will be site based work where you will develop inspection techniques, gain experience in further testing types as well as the practicalities of site testing and taking site notes.

Lab Based

Preparation of samples from bulk materials to sample ready for testing

Undertaking testing such as strength, compression

Use of general workshop machines including saws, drills, coring rigs and liners

Assisting with project investigations

Site Based

Load testing especially on barriers (making sure barriers are safe)

South Thames College,
Wandsworth High St, London SW18
2PP

i At a Glance

Salary:

£ 19750 per year

Working week:

Monday - Thursday (8am - 4pm),
Friday (8am - 3:30pm) Each day 30
minute unpaid lunch break

Duration:

36 Months

Possible start date:

01/09/2026

Application close date:

04/06/2026

Apprenticeship standard:

Civil engineering technician (Level
3)

Entry requirements

You will be hands-on and willing to learn. A lot of what we do means getting your hands dirty, often literally. You will likely have an interest in engineering and materials. As you develop you will be dealing with Sandberg clients and must therefore be presentable, personable, a good communicator and have a good command of English, both written and spoken. You will have a good level of competence in the use of Microsoft Windows, Outlook, Word and Excel. We will support you throughout to develop your skills and knowledge. It would be of significant benefit to have or be working towards a full UK driving license.

- You will hold 5 GCSEs grades 9-5 /A*-B including English and 6/B in Maths
- You will have a good level of competence in the use of Microsoft Windows, Outlook, Word and Excel.
- Experience with or desire to gain experience of mechanical equipment, drilling, machining and welding
- Willing and able to work at height and in confined spaces
- Capable of safely accessing all appropriate areas of a typical construction site (e.g., using ladders)
- A lot of what Sandburg do means getting your hands dirty, often literally.
- You will likely have an interest in engineering and materials.
- As you develop you will be dealing with Sandberg clients and must therefore be presentable, personable, a good communicator and have a good command of English, both written and spoken

Please note the college are aware of the use of AI tools in job applications, please ensure your application is individualised and reflective of you, your skills and passion for the opportunity.

Skills required

- Communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Organisation skills
- Problem solving skills
- Presentation skills
- Administrative skills
- Analytical skills
- Logical
- Creative
- Team working
- Non judgemental

What Next?

Think about child's **interests, hobbies** and current **skills**

Think about what **type of learner** they are: **Vocational, Academic** or **both**?

Go to Open Events and ask questions about **progression, support, retention of students**

Support their choices based on what is **best for them**

Apply for at least **three courses and settings**