



ST LEONARD'S  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
SIXTH FORM



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**St Leonard's Sixth Form** @STLDSixthForm · May 17 ...  
A huge well done to all Y11 and Y13 students who have worked so hard and kept going in this window of Summary Assessments. We are really proud of your effort and resilience. Good luck for this final week! Lots to look forward to for both year groups next week...



**St Leonard's Sixth Form** @STLDSixthForm · Feb 10 ...  
First session of Creativity Day for Y12s has gone really well with ex-students offering excellent ideas about university and apprenticeship choices and routes into future careers. Thanks so much to all ex-students who have supported our students! [#wherewillstleonardstakeyou](#)



**St Leonard's Sixth Form** @STLDSixthForm · Mar 6 ...  
Thanks very much @CAFOD. Delighted to support the fantastic [#WalkForWater](#) campaign. Well done to all students and staff involved! Just off to do today's 10,000 steps in the glorious Durham sunshine...



CAFOD @CAFOD · Mar 6

Shout out to the fantastic St Leonard's Sixth Form @STLDSixthForm who've produced a fun remake of @The\_Proclaimers anthem '500 Miles' to keep them motivated on their [#WalkForWater](#). We love it! ❤️



**Christ Church Access** @ChCh\_Access · Apr 22 ...  
Congratulations to everyone for their fantastic poems and in particular Amy from [@stlcsdurham](#)! [#TowerTurns21](#) [#Ox4NE](#)



**Tower Poetry** @towerpoetry · Apr 21

It's time to reveal the 2021 Tower Poetry winners!

(L-R row 1)

1st - Amy Beverley, Durham

2nd - Victoria Fletcher, London

3rd - Ayra Ahmad, Aberdeen



**St Leonard's Sixth Form** @STLDSixthForm · Dec 1, 2020 ...  
Great evening of cooking. Well done to everyone who took part. Big thank you to Luca for sharing his expertise. [#cookingwithluca](#) [#sixthformcooking](#) [#delicious](#) [#cookingupastorm](#)

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## WELCOME TO ST LEONARD'S SIXTH FORM

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I would like to offer you a warm welcome to St Leonard's Sixth Form and thank you for your interest. We look forward to being able to show you round the Martyrs' Building and giving you a taste of the energy, ambition and friendly atmosphere which exists in the close-knit community of our Sixth Form. I hope this evening will be a chance for you to talk to our staff about the different opportunities students will have in studying A Levels and BTEC subjects and, perhaps even more importantly, a chance to discuss with our current Year 12 and Year 13 students their experiences of being in the Sixth Form.

Bridging the gap between GCSE and the Sixth Form is challenging for students in any year but was particularly difficult this year with Year 11 having had such disrupted GCSE years. We were very proud of the support that we were able to offer both internal and external students through our first Bridging Week in school, which took place in June, and gave students a taster of the subjects they were interested in. The week enabled students to experience lessons in the Sixth Form and ask questions about courses and the different requirements for both A Levels and BTEC. It was also a chance for students to explore the super-curricular opportunities available in different subjects. The response from students to Bridging Week was superb and the very positive feedback from teachers to the pre-course material submitted this September clearly demonstrates that Year 12 are well on the way to making the transition to bridging the gap and becoming independent learners.

Our immediate response to schools being closed has informed and developed our teaching and provision for all students. When Lockdown was announced in March 2020 A Level lessons were delivered 'live' online via MS Teams and both students and staff commented on the success of these lessons. Currently, when there are students who have to self-isolate, we are offering blended learning with lessons being broadcast 'live' to ensure that anybody unable to come to school is not missing out.

We hope that you find the evening useful and informative and that it provides a flavour of the pastoral support we offer to ensure that all students achieve their full potential. For our students, we want their experience of Sixth Form at St Leonard's to be the springboard to future success at university, through an apprenticeship or in the world of work. We are proud of the achievements of our past students and look forward to hearing of all you will come to achieve after your time here.

**Mr Q J Hughes**  
**Head of Sixth Form**

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## SIXTH FORM LIFE

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As Head Girl and Boy it is our pleasure to give you an insight into St Leonard's Sixth Form, a challenging but supportive environment which will help you to achieve your goals no matter what they may be. We have a wide range of A-level and BTEC courses, as well as offering lots of extra-curricular activities, and strive to create a community that looks out for every individual, echoing the strong Catholic ethos of the school.

Our Sixth Form Martyrs' Building gives us a comfortable and safe environment to enable us to succeed in our academic study and also enjoy social activities. In the common room we have a fantastic new café offering barista prepared coffee and delicious food, Our exclusive and well-stocked library provides a quiet and spacious room to work during study periods contributing to the friendly and accepting environment of our Sixth Form.

Outside of lessons we have numerous super-curricular opportunities including societies such as the Medical, Engineering and Green Societies, a debating group and Common Roomers our Sixth Form magazine written by students. We also have a Working Party to develop our Sixth Form which has led the changes for the exciting new Dress Code. What really stands out about the school for us is the support and help that we receive from teachers on a daily basis; there is a huge amount of help offered for university and apprenticeship applications and opportunities to contact them about any worries both in and out of school and unending support with any academic issues.

Inter-house events run throughout the year allowing a bit of banter and friendly competition with a range of activities including dodgeball, quizzes and a bake-off. Contributing to our Catholic ethos we also have numerous opportunities to fundraise for charity such as supporting CAFOD and taking part in the reverse Advent calendar at Christmas for Durham Food Bank.

For us, St Leonard's is not just a Sixth Form but a community of people who want to help each other on the next stage of their academic journey. Whilst being challenged and stretched, you will also receive the best support and care available always finding a friendly face ready to help. Our Sixth Form provides a dedicated pathway that will give you the qualifications but more importantly the confidence, to face life and fulfil your potential.

**Kiera and Dominic, Year 13 2021-2022**

**Head Girl and Head Boy**

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## STUDYING IN THE SIXTH FORM

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Most students at St Leonard's will either study 3 A Level subjects or a BTEC Extended Diploma though there is the opportunity to add a fourth A Level or to combine a BTEC course with one A Level. Details of the entry requirements for these courses can be found on the school website. The best advice to give to all Year 11 students as they consider their choices is to work as hard as they can during this important year to leave lots of options open. The Sixth Form Library is an excellent working environment to help students to develop the independent study skills necessary to excel in the Sixth Form.

The general rule for Sixth Form students is to match every hour of teaching time with an hour of independent study. The work Sixth Form students complete outside of the classroom to secure their understanding of learning in lessons is perhaps the most important factor in students achieving success. Establishing this work ethic from the start, with the knowledge that teachers and departments are there to support and intervene when things get difficult, has helped our students achieve excellent results.

There have been many challenges in trying to support students during a global pandemic but the adaptations we have made at St Leonard's have also provided lots of opportunities to help Sixth Form students in different ways. Alongside the very successful teaching that took place through Teams, the creation of individual 'Teams' for year group, tutor group and individual subjects and classes has enabled teachers to share resources and provided a very easy way for students to make contact with teachers and receive individual support.

We also had fantastic support from ex-students through the year, including a Q and A session as part of a Creativity Day in February which Year 12 students found very helpful. There was also one-on-one online tutoring provided where requested and individual help pairing ex-students with Year 13 students aiming for a similar university or career choice. Another opportunity that emerged because of Lockdown was the number of super-curricular resources that became available free of charge and we were able to direct students to online resources such as Massolit, which the school now has a subscription for.

Finally, alongside the support that is given to students by teachers there is the opportunity for students to receive additional free tutoring from Durham University through Castle Community Action and ZeroGravity, two groups where current Durham University students have been running online subject tutorials and mentoring for students who have requested extra help.

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## STUDENT VOICE

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### **Student feedback from Year 11 Bridging Week, June 2021**

- ‘I enjoyed learning about my new subjects and what is included in the spec I also enjoyed meeting new teachers as they made you feel very welcome.’
- ‘It was very informative as a whole. It made me excited to come in September whilst still making me understand the workload.’
- ‘I found that Sixth Form life is completely different to Year 11, in that breaks are more enjoyable and subjects are more demanding yet more rewarding. The pastoral sessions were informative and subject sessions were enjoyable.’
- ‘I found that the input from Year 13 students was very useful because it explained the process and what actually happens because they went through it themselves.’
- ‘I enjoyed my time during bridging week and I am excited to start Year 12 in September. The week answered a lot of my questions and worries and I feel more confident about sixth form. I enjoyed the subjects I saw and I am interested in them, and excited to do them in Year 12.’

### **Student feedback from the start of Year 12, September 2021**

- ‘I have thoroughly enjoyed my first couple of weeks at St Leonard’s Sixth Form. It was a smooth transition from lower school especially with the bridging week and all of the teachers are very understanding and friendly, as they not only care about our grades but us as individuals.’
- ‘There is an excellent working environment and I love doing subjects that I am passionate about and hope to continue in the future at university and I am thoroughly looking forward to exploring and attending the vast amount of societies and opportunities in the Sixth Form.’
- ‘Since starting Sixth Form I already feel a lot more confident in myself and my ability because of the amazing, friendly environment created by the staff and students which has motivated me even more to put in the effort to achieve.’
- ‘This Sixth Form definitely went above and beyond all my expectations; the support that I have received from staff has been phenomenal. The atmosphere really helps you develop a great work ethic and flourish within your studies. I am excited to continue my education at St Leonard’s Sixth Form, knowing that I made a great choice to help secure my future goals.’

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## WHAT MAKES ST LEONARD’S DIFFERENT?

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St Leonard's is a Catholic School in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle and we strive to provide outstanding holistic education for every student in our Sixth Form, welcoming students of all faiths and none. Our aims at St Leonard's are to:

- **Pursue excellence in all and for all**
- **Take Christ as the model for life**
- **Strive to create community**

These aims encapsulate the experiences and opportunities which we want to give to Sixth Form students in educating and developing the whole person.

- **Pursue excellence in all and for all:** Through stretching and challenging students in every aspect of school life, every student at St Leonard's is encouraged to become the very best that they can be. However, in encouraging students to pursue excellence, we recognise how difficult this can seem at times. Teachers and tutors offer strategies both in lessons and in pastoral time to help students to navigate their way through Sixth Form life and to prepare them to move into the world of work or further study.
- **Take Christ as the model for life:** The Catholic Church teaches that we are 'created to praise, reverence and serve God' and we ask students to put the needs of others above their own and to think carefully about how our actions and attitudes affect the well-being of the whole community that surrounds us. God is not only to be found in our churches and our school chapel. When we work, when we play sport, when we serve others, when we unwind and enjoy ourselves, we are called to dedicate all the activities of our lives to the greater glory of God.
- **Strive to create community:** At the heart of our Sixth Form community are young people who take care of and 'look out' for one another. We are very proud of the many ways our students contribute to the different communities that we are part of: Through raising money for charities both national and local including CAFOD, Macmillan Cancer Support and 'If U Care, Share'; through the key role students play in supporting lower school as a Year 7 tutor group 'Buddy', at homework clubs and in department enrichment activities; through involvement in the local community, for example collecting for Durham Food Bank. Sixth Form students are role-models for the rest of the school and we value their leadership.

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## **SIXTH FORM PRAYER**

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**Grant us a vision, Lord,**



**to reach out beyond ourselves  
to see what we can achieve  
to share our lives with others  
to stretch our capabilities  
to increase our sense of purpose  
to be aware of where we can help  
to be sensitive to your presence  
to give heed to your constant call.**

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## **PROFILE OF A ST LEONARD'S SIXTH FORM STUDENT**

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**By the end of their time in St Leonard's Sixth Form it is hoped that young people are:**

- developing and deepening a relationship with God, and are able to find God in reflection on their own experience.
- happy, friendly, and self-confident, with a sense of humour and an awareness of their gifts and the need to fulfil their potential for good.
- seen to have a generosity of spirit and a readiness to place their talents at the disposal of others, especially those most in need.
- well prepared to take their place in wider society unmotivated by prestige or selfish ambition and aware of how fully they can contribute to the common good.
- ready to ask 'What more can I do, what more can I give?' in every area of life.
- proud of having belonged to a Catholic school community with respect for its values and those who taught them.

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## **SUBJECT OVERVIEW**

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Our Sixth Form offers a wide range of subjects and we are always looking to expand that provision. Following consultations with students, parents and



departments, we will be considering other subjects we may be able to offer in addition to the list overleaf. In the past we have had fixed option blocks, but in order to cater for individual choices, we will be shaping our option blocks around the individual needs of students after the application deadline on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November to enable as many students as possible to study their chosen combination of subjects.

Since the examination governing bodies moved from AS and A2 (where there were examinations in both Year 12 and Year 13) to a linear A Level (where all examinations take place at the end of Year 13) we, like many schools, have advised the majority of students to study 3 A Levels. There are a number of reasons for this, but the demanding workload in the new specifications and the fact that no university will make an offer for more than 3 A Levels are the major factors. There is an exception to this for students who might want to study Further Mathematics alongside Mathematics and Science subjects and also for some students applying to the most competitive universities. There are also some students who find it difficult to decide on 3 A Level subjects and so initially start with 4 for a trial period before deciding which 3 subjects they will continue with into Year 13. In the summer term of Year 12, students are invited to sign up to complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) which is worth half an A Level and is an excellent way for students to develop their independent study skills.

Typically, students will be required to achieve a minimum of a GCSE Grade 6 in each of the subjects they wish to study at A Level, but Grade 5 in some arts and humanities subjects. We set this entry criteria based on previous students' final performance over a number of years to try to ensure that students do not embark on a course to which they are not suited. For BTEC Level 3 students the entry requirement is a minimum of 4 GCSE Grade 4s or BTEC Level 2 equivalents. However, there are students who have met the A Level entry but decide that they are better suited to the modular element of the BTEC course. Any student who does not achieve a Grade 4 for either Maths or English will have the opportunity to study and re-sit alongside their other courses.

It is the quality and dedication of the teaching in St Leonard's Sixth Form which we are most proud of. Together with small class sizes, this facilitates expert individual support for every student to enable each individual to achieve what he or she is capable of.

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## **WHAT IF I HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT MY COURSES?**

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Here is a list of the courses available in our Sixth Form, together with the details of teachers leading the course and the room they will be in for Open Evening. If there are any questions that you are not able to ask during Open Evening, please email [sixthform@st-leonards.durham.sch.uk](mailto:sixthform@st-leonards.durham.sch.uk) and we will direct your query to the relevant Head of Department as listed below.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Head of Department</b>	<b>Room</b>
Fine Art	Mr P Sutcliffe	Art3
Biology	Mr N Robertson / Mrs A Stewart	Lab5
Business Studies	Miss L Maughan / Miss M Cunningham	S7
Chemistry	Mr N Robertson / Dr S Massen	Lab4
Computer Science	Miss L Maughan	S3
Design & Technology (Product Design)	Mr M Dunford	Dt7
Design & Technology (Fashion & Textiles)	Mr M Dunford / Mrs K Watson	Dt3
English Literature	Mrs B Grehan-Bradley	En1
Geography	Mrs V Stone	Hu3
Government & Politics	Mr J Curry	Hu2
History	Mr J Curry	Hu2
Mathematics & Further Mathematics	Mrs C Zigmond	Ma6
Media Studies	Mrs B Grehan-Bradley / Mrs M Jackson	S5
Modern Foreign Languages	Mrs H Munro / Mr M Hodgson	S6
Music	Mr M Grehan-Bradley	Mu1
Physical Education	Mrs P Hockaday	S4
Physics	Mr N Robertson / Mr A Moran	Lab2
Psychology	Mr D Attrill	S2
Religious Studies	Mr N McTernan	S9
Sociology	Mr D Attrill / Mrs S Hunter	S1
BTEC ICT	Miss L Maughan	S3
BTEC Health & Social Care	Mrs N Henderson	S8
BTEC Sport	Mrs P Hockaday	S4

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### **WHERE CAN I GO FOR HELP AND ADVICE?**

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Mr Q Hughes  
Mr M Hughes  
Mrs S Logie

Head of Sixth Form  
Head of Year 12  
Assistant Head of Sixth Form

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## **YEAR 11 INTO YEAR 12 PROGRAMME**

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In order to provide support to Year 11 students and inform them of all of the opportunities available in our Sixth Form there are a number of events that have been organised to engage and involve students and to help the transition into Sixth Form.

### **Open Evening**

- Assembly and Pastoral Time: Where will St Leonard's take you?
  - Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Introduction to Sixth Form Assembly
  - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> October – Tutor time Q+A and support
- Sixth Form Open Evening – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 6pm-8pm
- Deadline for applications – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November
- Tutor Group support during Pastoral Time – January/February
- Tutor Group visits to Sixth Form Common Room – March/April

### **University Preparation**

- Russell Group support sessions – November
- Oxford University Outreach – November
- Oxbridge group support set up on Teams – November

### **Vocational Support**

- Vocational group support set up on Teams– January/February
- Ex-students invited to speak to Year 11 students about their experiences in the first year of their apprenticeships – March/April

### **Enrichment**

- Opportunity to join Sixth Form societies – January/February
- Year 11 students to join Sixth Form Working Party – March
- Year 11 Bridging Week – June/July 2021

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## SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

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There are many opportunities for students at St Leonard's outside the curriculum and below is a list of the ever

### **Academic**

- Durham University Tutoring of Year 12 students – Wednesdays in Sixth Form Library (or on TEAMS) during university term-time
- Oxford University Outreach for Year 13 and Year 12 – November
- Admissions' Test Support – e.g. BMAT for Medicine, HAT for History, LNAT for Law – bespoke support offered by Departments, Oxford University Outreach and Durham University students
- Student-led Societies – e.g. Engineering, Green, Mental Wellbeing, Medical, Debating Societies as well as 'Common Roomers' our Sixth Form magazine
- 'Life Beyond St Leonard's' – online event for Year 12 students and parents

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

- Operation Wallacea
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- John Paul II Award
- Rowing – St Leonard's Boat Club
- Senior Choir and Orchestra
- Sixth Form Netball and Football teams
- Sixth Form Theatre Trips
- Inter-House Events: to be discussed with Sixth Form Working Party

### **Sixth Form Leadership Opportunities**

- Head Girl/Boy and Deputy Head Girl/Boy
- Sixth Form Working Party – meetings every other Thursday lunchtime
- Supporting lower school students – homework clubs, Buddying Year 7 tutor groups, open evenings, mentoring in lessons, leading department enrichment activities
- Leading assemblies – Year 13 leading an Opportunities at St Leonard's assembly for Year 12; Year 12 leading a Sixth Form assembly for Year 11

### **Support of Charities**

- Reverse Advent Calendar – Durham Food Bank – December
- CAFOD Lenten Appeal (Walk for Water) and Summer of Hope Appeal
- Macmillan Cancer Support – Bake Sales – led by Year 12 and 13 students

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## NEXT STEPS

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At St. Leonard's Sixth Form we take great pride in the support we offer to provide a clear pathway for students leaving the school. In the first term of Year 12 students are asked to give an indication of areas of study and work they would like to go in to. This is used to ensure each individual student has considered what is necessary for the course or career they want to pursue. This is followed up with a 'Life Beyond St. Leonard's' evening for students and parents to outline opportunities available to students after leaving school and to introduce the university application process (UCAS); this session ran very successfully online last year and plans are in place to do the same this year.

In Year 12 students have a number of tutor sessions that focus on what they will do after Sixth Form, including sessions where they are paired with their parallel Year 13 tutor group and have the chance to benefit from their experiences of applying to university or for an apprenticeship. In the summer term of Year 12, students have 2 days off timetable to consider the possibilities available to them after leaving school. Labelled 'GRIT' (Get Ready It's Time), speakers from universities, industry and local business provide students with advice and help students begin to prepare themselves for UCAS. For the second time this year these sessions ran successfully on MS Teams with students together in school listening to external speakers. There was again very positive feedback both from students and from the speakers themselves.

Pastoral time in the first term of Year 13 is spent writing Personal Statements and completing UCAS forms, with tutors offering support in every session. Through the drafting of Personal Statements, individual guidance is given to ensure that students are able to create a competitive application and all forms are checked by the Head of Year before being sent off. Support with Admissions' Tests for early entry candidates and mock interviews are also both provided to ensure students are fully prepared.

While the majority of students in our Year 13 cohorts move on to take up university places all over the country, including Oxford, Cambridge and other Russell Group universities, we also have a number students who take up apprenticeship opportunities. The number and type of apprenticeships has increased recently, with many schemes able to offer an undergraduate degree as part of the programme. Support is also provided for students applying for an apprenticeship and we have excellent support from Kathryn Smith, an Apprenticeship Advisor at ASK who has been able to offer information, advice and guidance to students who have expressed an interest in applying for an apprenticeship.

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## ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE 2021

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### Summary of A Level Results

A\*-B                    80.6%  
 A\*-E                    100%

### BTEC Extended Diploma

DDD and above    25%  
 PPP and above    100%

### Examples of Profiles of Students going to University

Student A – Chemistry: Chemistry A\*, French A\*, Maths A\*, Further Maths A\*

Student B – Medicine: Chemistry A\*, Biology A\*, French A\*,

Student C – History: History A\*, English Lit A\*, Religious Studies A\*, EPQ A\*

Student D – Maths and Physics: Maths A\*, Further Maths A\*, Physics A\*

Student E – Business: Business A, Psychology A\*, History A

Student E – Computer Science with AI: BTEC ICT D\*D\*D\*

Student F – Sport: BTEC Sport DDM

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## DESTINATIONS: 2021

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Russell Group Universities	Universities and Higher and Further Education Courses
Queen's University Belfast	Aberystwyth University
University of Birmingham	UWEC Bristol
University of Bristol	Falmouth University
Durham University	Huddersfield University
University of Edinburgh	Lancaster University
University of Glasgow	Loughborough University
University of Leeds	Leeds Beckett University
University of Liverpool	Manchester Metropolitan University
Queen Mary University of London	Northern School of Art
University of Manchester	University of Reading
Newcastle University	University of Sunderland
University of Nottingham	University of St Andrews
Oxford University	Teesside University
University of York	York St John University
	University of Worcester
Apprenticeships and World of Work	
Apprenticeship – Digital Marketing (Building Design North)	
Apprenticeship – Teaching Assistant (Primary Education)	
Apprenticeship – HR and Management (Northumbrian Water)	
Apprenticeship – Retail Management (Marks and Spencer)	
Apprenticeship – Business Support (Durham University)	