Should I stay or should I go?

Choosing your post-16 options

Year 11 · 2026–27

Richard Hale Sixth Form



Stay or go? Choose on purpose.



Staying

- It’s my school: teachers, friends, systems, transport, facilities
- Trust and confidence: they know me
- RHS offers the courses I want



Going

- I’m ready for a change
- A different environment would suit me better
- RHS doesn’t offer the courses I want

What's on the menu? 🍽️

23 A levels **2** BTECs **1** AAQ in Science

Art	Biology	Business	Chemistry
Computing	Drama	Economics	English
French	Further Maths	Geography	Geology
German	History	Maths	Media
Music	PE	Physics	Politics
Product Design	Psychology	RE	

BTEC Business **BTEC Sport** **AAQ in Applied Science**







A levels vs BTECs



A levels

- Two-year courses, mostly assessed by exams
- Study a subject in depth, or try a new one
- The most common route to university and apprenticeship

VS



BTECs

- Vocational: linked to real career areas
- Units, assignments and practical work, plus some exams
- Hands-on learning; all universities accept them, and apprenticeships

Both are Level 3. Both lead to university, apprenticeships and jobs. Both are a big step up from GCSE.

Three routes. One sixth form.



Academic

A levels

3 A levels (or 4)

Entry

APS 5.0

+ the grade needed for each A level subject



NEW!

Combined

BTEC + A levels

Mix a BTEC with 1 or 2 A levels

Entry

APS 4.5

+ the grade needed for your A level subject(s)



Vocational

BTEC only

A full BTEC programme

Entry

APS 4.0

+ grade 4 in English and Maths

BTECs come in three sizes

Like coffee. Except the large one is worth three A levels.



Extended Certificate

= 1 A level



Diploma

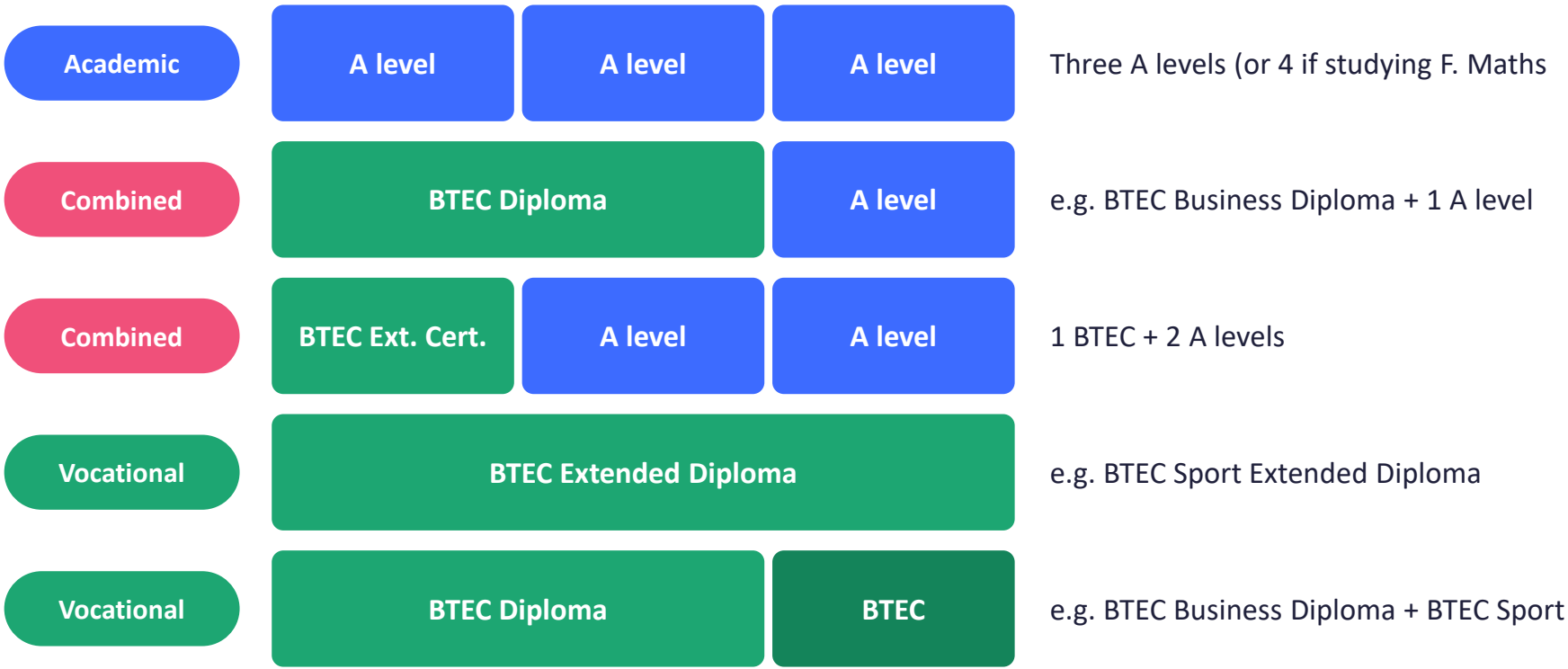
= 2 A levels



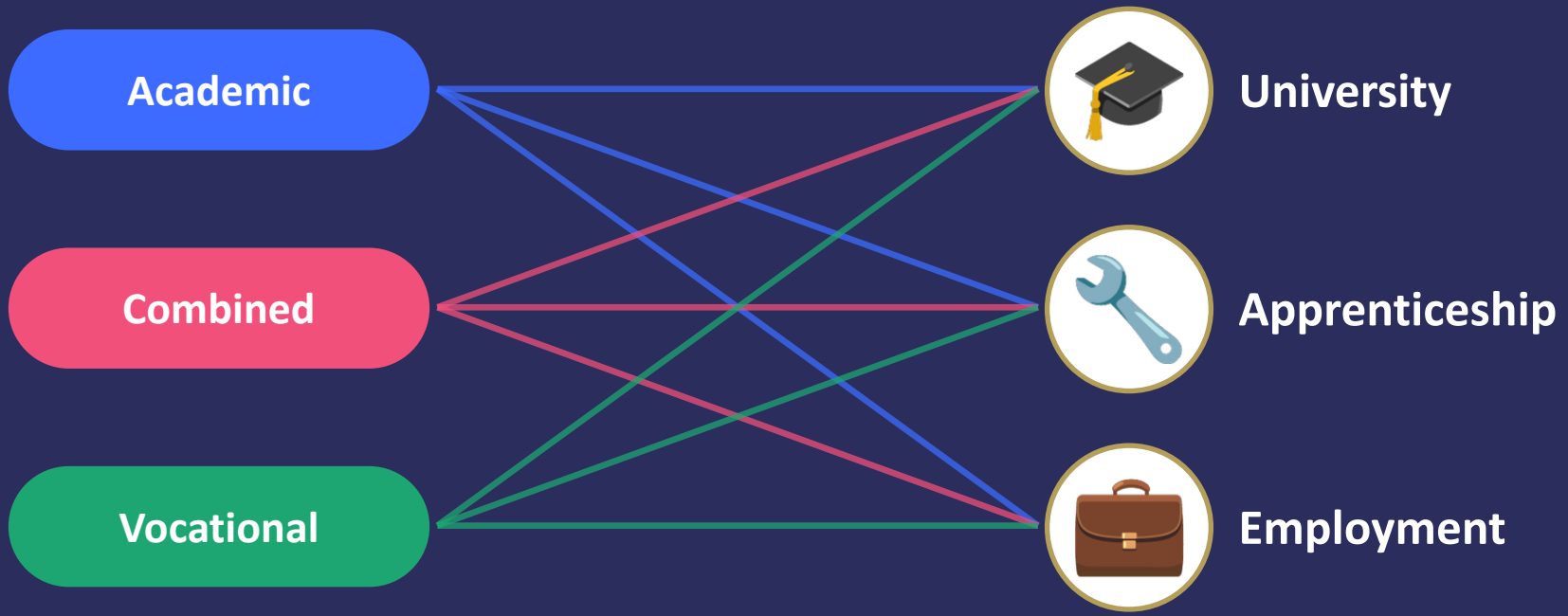
Extended Diploma

= 3 A levels

Build your programme: fill three slots



Every route opens every door



Pick the subjects you're good at and enjoy. The doors stay open.

The golden rule

💪 + 😍 = 🚀

Good at **Enjoy** **Success**



Not because…

👯 ~~your best mate is taking it~~

🍎 ~~you like the teacher~~

😴 ~~someone said it's "easy" (none of them are)~~

Do you have the grades?

For each A level you need…

- **6** in that subject (or a related one)
- **7** in Maths, for A level Maths
- **8** in Maths, for Further Maths

Plus the APS for your route: 5.0, 4.5 or 4.0



Case files: what could they take?

Student A — **APS 5.5**

Maths 5 · English 6/6
Four grade 6s

Student B — **APS 5.25**

Maths 6 · English 5/6
Two grade 6s

Recipes for careers

Some courses need specific ingredients. Check yours.

Medicine / Dentistry

- Chemistry
- Biology

+ one more

Engineering

- Maths
- Physics

Further Maths helps

Vet Science

- Chemistry
- Biology

+ Maths or Physics

Economics

- Maths

Economics helps

Sport Science

- BTEC Sport
- Biology

or PE

Architecture

- Maths or Physics

+ Art / Product Design

Law

- Any 3 strong

no set subjects

Business apprenticeship

- BTEC Business

+ an A level you love

Check NOW, not in Year 13



Every year, some students miss out on applying for the course they want because they didn't check the subject requirements in Year 11.



Facilitating subjects keep the most doors open

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Maths & Further Maths
- English Literature
- History
- Geography
- Languages

Aiming for a top university? Take at least one, ideally two.

Quick-fire questions ⚡

Can I take four?

Universities want your best three grades. We will consider four, e.g. with Further Maths.

Can I start a brand-new subject?

Yes! But we advise only one new subject.

Physics without Maths?

We strongly advise taking Maths with Physics.

Biology?

Take Chemistry too if you want to take science further.

Business + Economics?

Popular, but some universities see it as a narrow mix.

Still not sure?

Ask your teachers, and ask our sixth formers.

Do your research (it takes 10 minutes)



UCAS course search

Look up any degree and its entry requirements



Informed Choices

Which subjects each degree needs



A-level Explorer (Which?)

Where your A level choices could lead



UCAS careers quiz

Find careers that suit your personality



Match A levels to careers

A quiz linking subjects to career ideas



Advice video

Tips for choosing your subjects

Sixth Form Open Evening

Wednesday 11th November · 6.00–8.30pm

Main Hall talks

6.00pm Cowper, Croft, Hale + visiting students

7.00pm Kinman, Page, Wallace + visiting students

Subject talks

Psychology (Main Hall) · Media Studies (Library).
Times on your handout (when you arrive tomorrow).

Visit every subject you're considering, and ask our sixth formers what it's REALLY like.



Ready? Apply!



1 **Do your research**

Check what your future course needs.

2 **Come to Open Evening**

Wednesday 11th November, 6.00–8.30pm.

3 **Apply online**

Use the online application form.

Open the application form →

Deadline: Monday 23rd November