



**Special Educational
Needs & Disabilities**

Post-16 Guide to Provision 2025-26

A guide to support the Careers
Information, Advice and Guidance
process for SEND learners

Impartial advice

Preparation for Adulthood

Community inclusion



Northumberland
County Council

www.northumberlandsend.co.uk

Welcome

Post-16 Guide to Provision:

A guide to support the Careers Information, Advice and Guidance process for SEND residents in Northumberland

What's Next After Leaving School?

Leaving school or college is a major step, especially for young people with special educational needs or a disability (SEND). This guide provides information on the range of offers currently available to Northumberland residents.

This directory is part of the Northumberland County Council's Local Offer:

<https://www.northumberlandsend.co.uk/your-send-local-offer>

Planning Your Future

By developing a shared vision and planning services together, you can improve post-16 options and support whilst raising aspirations.

Preparation for adulthood is guided by four key areas:



Employment:

Finding and keeping a job or preparing for future work.



Independent Living:

Having choice and control over your life and support.



Community Inclusion:

Participating in society and having friends.



Health:

Staying healthy, emotionally and physically.

Section 1:

Understanding Qualifications

The education system groups qualifications into levels to indicate the depth of knowledge and skills required. Continued progression through the levels allows individuals to pursue further education or employment at various stages.

Level	Qualification Type	Examples
Entry Level to Level 2	Basic to Intermediate Skills	Entry Level Certificates, GCSEs (Grades 1-9), Intermediate Apprenticeships, Functional Skills.
Level 3	Higher Academic/Technical	A-levels, T Levels, BTECs, Advanced Apprenticeships. Prepares you for university or skilled employment.
Levels 4 and 5	Higher Education (Non-Degree)	Certificate of Higher Education (Cert HE), Higher National Certificate (HNC), Foundation Degree. Skills for a specific job or career.
Level 6	University Degree	Bachelor's Degree (with or without honours), Degree Apprenticeships. Deep subject knowledge.
Levels 7 and 8	Postgraduate/Expert	Master's Degree, Postgraduate Certificates, Doctorates (PhD).

Skills England's Occupational Maps can help you to find out about the qualification levels you will need for different types of jobs. You can find out more by visiting: <https://occupational-maps.skillsengland.education.gov.uk/>

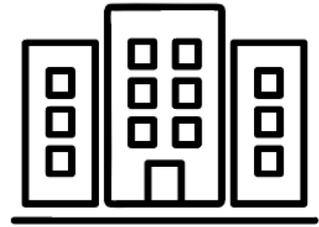
Section 2:

Post-16 Education & Training

Option	Description	Key Features
Full-Time Education	Continuing studies at a school sixth form or college.	Includes A-Levels (Academic), T Levels (Technical) and Vocational Courses (BTECs/NVQs) focusing on job-specific skills.
Apprenticeships	A real job where you work, earn money and gain a qualification.	Typically, four days at work and one day of study. Includes Advanced (L3) and Higher (L4/5) levels.
Foundation Apprenticeships	Designed for young people (ages 16-21, up to 25 with EHCP/Care Leavers).	Focuses on developing core employability skills, confidence and workplace readiness.
Supported Internships	Work-based learning for young people (ages 16-24) with an EHCP.	Includes a structured work placement (6-12 months) and support from a Job Coach.
Study Programmes	A tailored programme that may include a main qualification, work experience and essential English & maths (if needed).	A flexible route to qualifications and work experience.
Bespoke Courses	Custom-built learning programs for young people who find mainstream schooling difficult.	Flexible, caring, and highly personalised teaching methods.

Section 3:

Local Study & Training Directory - Colleges



Northumberland learners are accessing a range of colleges both within Northumberland, and where appropriate out of county. This is often to access vocational courses that complement their aspirations.

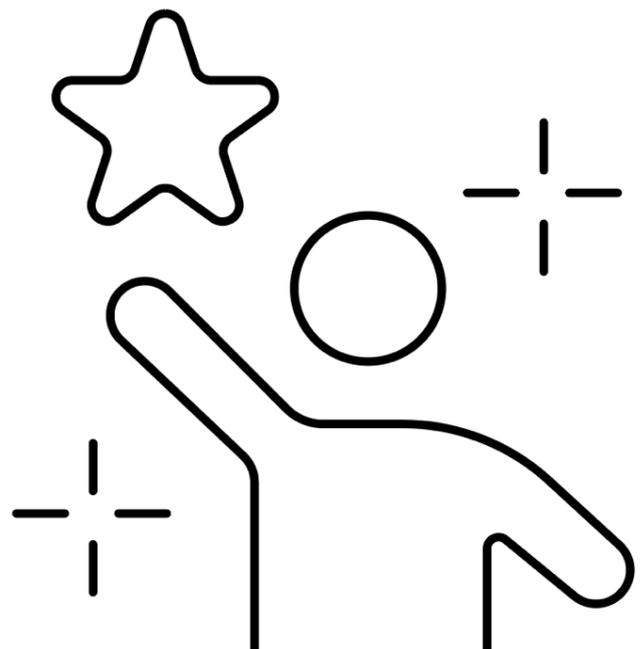
Provider	Area(s)	Website (For Prospectus/Courses)
Northumberland Skills	Alnwick	www.northumberlandskills.co.uk
Northumberland College	Ashington, Berwick, Kirkley Hall	www.northumberland.ac.uk
Newcastle College	Newcastle	www.nclcoll.ac.uk
Gateshead College	Gateshead	www.gateshead.ac.uk
Newcastle Sixth Form College	Newcastle	www.newcastlesixthformcollege.co.uk
Tyne Metropolitan College	North Tyneside	www.tynemet.ac.uk
Azure	Cramlington	www.azure-charitable.co.uk/services/education-training
Dilston College	Corbridge	www.cambianguroup.com/specialist-education/our-colleges/cambian-dilston-college

Training Providers

Northumberland learners occasionally access out of county training providers that meet their specific learning and support needs. These are accessed by consultation with our statutory SEND team.

The individual linked case officer will support further support and guidance to eligibility and suitability.

Provider	Area(s)	Website (For Prospectus/Courses)
Nacro Education	Newcastle	www.nacro.org.uk/nacro-services/nacro-education/nacro-education-newcastle
Barnardo's	North Tyneside	www.barnardos-ets.org.uk/centre/ets-north
Trinity Solutions	Newcastle	www.solutions.tanmat.org/trinity-post-16-solutions-ltd/courses
NYA	North Tyneside	www.northumbriayouthaction.co.uk/



Apprenticeship Providers

Apprenticeship opportunities appear throughout the year and can be found on various local and national platforms. Many will be found through the Education and Learning sections of Gov.uk

Read how apprenticeships work: www.gov.uk/become-apprentice

Latest vacancies can be found at:

www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch

Provider	Area	Focus/Examples of Courses	Website
Northumberland Skills	Northumberland	Supported Education (L1-3), Renewable	www.northumberlandskills.co.uk/apprenticeships
Northumberland County Council	Northumberland	Legal, Horticulture, Adult Social Care, Business Admin	www.northumberland.gov.uk/About/Working-for-Northumberland-County-Council/Apprenticeship
Skills Northeast	Northumberland	Payroll Admin, Accounts Finance Assistant, Construction, Electrician	www.sne.org.uk
The Apprenticeship Guide	National	Searchable directory for all UK apprenticeships	www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk

Supported Internships



A Supported Internship is a structured, work-based study programme for young people aged 16–24 with an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan. It helps interns develop the skills for paid employment by spending a substantial portion of their time in a workplace, guided by a qualified job coach. The ultimate goal is for the intern to secure a sustainable, paid job by the end of the programme.

Northumberland has a range of providers delivering Supported Internships in the County, both internal delivery as well as partnerships with DFN Project Search.

For more information about Supported Internships and partnerships please visit:

www.northumberlandsend.co.uk/supported-internships

www.dfnprojectsearch.org

Provider	Area	Website
Northumberland Skills	Northumberland	www.northumberlandskills.co.uk/local-offer
Northumberland College	Northumberland	www.northumberland.ac.uk/courses/detail/fo-undations-send-specialist-provision-vocational
Azure	Northumberland	www.azure-charitable.co.uk/services/education-training/supported-internships
Choices College	National/ Northumberland	www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/choices-college-supported-internships/students

Northumberland-based Special Schools with Post-16 Provision

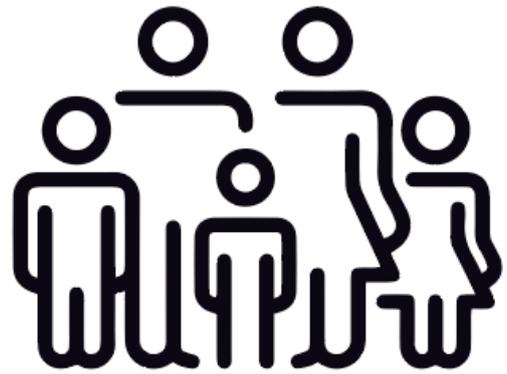
Post-16 education for students with SEND in Northumberland is designed around choice. While several of our excellent SEND schools maintain their own 6th form offers for learners requiring a specialist, familiar setting, the local landscape is enhanced by strong pathways at local colleges, such as Northumberland Skills and Northumberland College.

This ensures that all young people have access to tailored, high-quality provision, whether they require a specialist school environment or a more vocational college route, in their preparation for adulthood.

School	Area	Website
The Grove	Berwick	www.thegrove.northumberland.sch.uk
Hexham Priory School	Hexham	www.hexhamprioryschool.co.uk
Collingwood School	Morpeth	www.collingwoodmediacollege.co.uk
NCEA Castle School	Ashington	www.castle.ncea.org.uk
Cleaswell Hill School	Choppington	www.cleaswellhill.northumberland.sch.uk
Barndale School	Alnwick	www.barndale.uk
Hillcrest School	Cramlington	www.hillcrest.northumberland.sch.uk
GUST Independent	Ashington	www.gustschool.com

Section 4:

Support for Parents & Carers



The move to post-16 affects the whole family.
You are not alone, and specialist support is available.

Source	Focus	Website
Northumberland Parent Carer Forum (PCF)	Offers conferences, family hubs, and works directly with the NHS and NCC.	www.northumberlandsend.co.uk/parent-carer-forum
Northumberland County Council Careers Service	Supporting with Careers Advice and Guidance Interviews.	https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/education-skills/careers-guidance-team
Northumberland County Council Local Offer	The local offer describes the support that is available for children and young people aged 0-25 years with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)	www.northumberlandsend.co.uk/your-send-local-offer
Northumberland Information, Advice and Support Service (NIASS)	Information on SEND law, advice on SEND provision, and support for children and parents/carers.	www.northumberlandiass.org.uk

Source	Focus	Website
NHS	Use your postcode to find local disability information and support services.	www.nhs.uk/service-search/other-health-services/disability-information-and-support
Citizens Advice Northumberland	Offers free, confidential, independent, and impartial advice on issues like housing, welfare benefits, debt, and employment. They have specific services for parents and families	www.citizensadvicenorthumberland.org.uk

Section 5:

Local Jobcentre Plus Directory



For young people aged 16-24 who are claiming benefits, the JobCentre Plus (JCP) provides targeted assistance through its DWP Youth Offer.

This support is delivered via a dedicated Work Coach who provides personalised guidance, skills assessment, and help with CV writing and interview techniques.

The coach can refer the young person to key programmes like Sector-based Work Academy Programmes (SWAPs) for training and a guaranteed job interview, as well as accessing extra help through Youth Hubs for barriers like mental health. The ultimate goal is to connect the young person with appropriate opportunities in education, apprenticeships, or employment.

Area	Office Address	Phone Number
Ashington	Government Buildings, Reiverdale Road, NE63 9YY	0800 169 0190
Bedlington	Longridge House, Front Street West, NE22 5TL	0800 169 0190
Blyth	Bridge House, Percy Street, NE24 2AQ	0800 169 0190
Cramlington	17-19 Dudley Court, NE23 6QW	0800 169 0190
Morpeth	Fountain House, New Market, NE61 1LA	0800 169 0190
Alnwick	Roxburgh House, NE66 1JX	0800 169 0190
Berwick	Norham House, 15 Walkergate, TD15 1DS	0800 169 0190
Hexham	St Andrews House, Haugh Lane, NE46 3NF	0800 169 0190

Section 6:

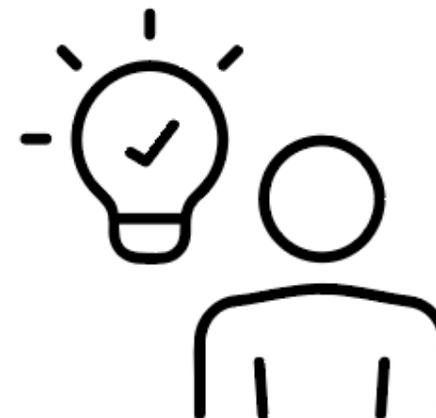
Financial Support for Education

Explore the range of financial support available using links below.

Programme	Focus	Contact Information
16-19 Bursary Fund	Financial help from your school/college to cover costs if you're 16-19 and studying or on an unpaid training program (excluding university).	https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund
Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)	Covers costs associated with University Education due to a mental health issue, long-term sickness, or disability. The allowance does not need to be paid back.	https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa
Education and Skills Funding Agency	Information on how funding is calculated and distributed to institutions that provide young adults with SEND.	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/esfa-update
Care to Learn	National support that helps with childcare costs for young parents (aged under 20) who want to continue their education, including courses at school or college.	https://www.gov.uk/care-to-learn

Section 7:

Provider Offers



Collingwood School and Media Arts College Sixth Form

Collingwood provides a high-quality, person-centred Sixth Form experience, offering a stimulating learning environment with superb pastoral care.

The programme is designed to educate, stimulate, and challenge students, preparing them for college or the world of work through close partnership with families and the local authority.

Courses are for 16-18 year olds.

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
GCSEs (Maths, English, Biology, Art, Computing, Geography)	Grades 9-1 (Purple Pathway)	16-18	Apprenticeships, further education (College Level 3)
Functional Skills - Maths & English	Level 1/2 (Purple Pathway)	16-18	Further creative education, community involvement, or entry-level roles in creative/media sectors.
Entry Level Functional Skills - Maths & English	Entry Level Certificate - Level 1-3 (Green Pathway)	16-18	Apprenticeships, further education (College Level 3)

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
BTEC Creative Media Skills	Level 2 - Certificate/Extended Certificate (Purple Pathway)	16-18	Apprenticeships, further education (College Level 3), or skilled employment in media/creative industries.
BTEC Work Skills	Entry Level 1-3 / Level 1/2 Award, Certificate (Purple Pathway)	16-18	Apprenticeships, further education
NCFE Occupational Studies	Level 1	16-18	Apprenticeships, further education
ASDAN Short Course (Humanities)	Entry Level (Yellow Pathway)	16-18	Progression to Purple Pathway, Foundation Apprenticeships, or entry into supported employment/training.
Arts Award	Discovery & Bronze Award (Yellow Pathway)	16-18	Direct entry into employment, or specialized vocational training courses.
Opportunities outside of the classroom	All pathways	16-18	Work experience (e.g., Humbles Farm, Collingwood Primary classes), Outdoor learning (e.g., Stomping Grounds), Opportunities at The Glasshouse – Music Sparks

Cleaswell Hill School Sixth Form

Cleaswell Hill School, located at The Appleby Centre in Choppington, offers a robust and extensive qualification offer spanning GCSE, Functional Skills, and specialist pre-entry programs tailored for their students' needs.

Courses are for 16-18 Year Olds

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
GCSE (Maths, English, Biology, Art, D&T)	GCSE Grade 9-1	16-18	Further education at Level 3 (A-Levels, BTECs, T Levels) or competitive employment.
Functional Skills Maths / English	Entry Level / Level 1	16-18	Progression to Level 2 vocational courses, apprenticeships, or Level 3 courses.
ELC Step Up to English	Silver / Gold	16-18	Progression to Functional Skills or ELC courses.
Stepping Stones to Functional Skills (Maths/English)	Pre-Entry Level / Entry Level	16-18	Progression to Functional Skills courses.
Essential Digital Skills	Entry Level / Level 1	16-18	Digital roles, further IT qualifications, or modern apprenticeships.

BTEC Performing Arts	Level 1	16-18	Progression to Level 2 Performing Arts courses or creative industries employment.
BTEC Vocational Study	Pre-Entry (L1/2) to Entry Level 3	16-18	Progression to vocationally specific courses or skilled trade employment.
Towards Independence / PSD / Life skills Challenge	Pre-Entry to All Levels	16-18	Increased independence in daily life, community participation, or supported employment.
Duke of Edinburgh	Bronze, Silver & Gold	16-18	Enhanced CV, life skills, community engagement, and transition readiness.
Sports Leader Award	Level 1 Award	16-18	Progression to Level 2 Sports Leader courses or sports industries employment.
Home Cooking Skills	Level 1 Award	16-18	Increased independence in daily living skills.
Equals Moving On	Pre Entry	16-18	Developing lifelong leisure interests and community club membership for an active adult life.

The Grove Special School Post-16 Educational Offer

The Grove Special School in Berwick provides highly tailored courses for learners with SEND aimed at developing social, personal, and independent living skills, with clear pathways for progression into vocational or independent living opportunities.

Courses are for 16-18 year olds.

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
ASDAN Personal and Social Development (PSD)	Entry Level 1 / 2	16-18	Vocational courses, Independent courses, ASDAN PSD Entry Level 3 or Level 1.
ASDAN English / Maths / Science Short Course	Entry Level 3 – Level 1	16-18	Accelerating Progress to GCSE level, Vocational/Independent courses.
ASDAN Vocation Short Course – Sports & Fitness	Entry Level 3 – Level 1	16-18	Additional vocational courses, independent courses.
Focus Independent Travel Training Course	Pre- Entry Level 1	16-18	ASDAN PSD Entry 1 or Entry 2, Vocational courses, Independent courses.
Life skill Challenges	Pre-Entry Level to Level 3	16-18	ASDAN PSD, Vocational/Independent courses, ASDAN Short Courses.

Hexham Priory School Post-16 Educational Offer

Hexham Priory School's Post-16 provision offers a person-centred approach and a flexible curriculum weighted towards Preparation for Adulthood (PfA), ensuring students with diverse needs are ready for life beyond school. The school develops personalised learning pathways through a wide range of units that cover skills like travel training, work experience, and independent living. The curriculum is structured into six main areas, including My Communication, My World & My Community, and My Preparation for Adulthood, while Pre-Formal Pathway students receive highly tailored, sensory and therapeutic timetables.

Courses are for 16-18 Year Olds

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Skills for Further Learning & Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Work experience & careers education · Health & Wellbeing · Independent Living Skills · Travel Training · Literacy, Numeracy & ICT · Optional Units 	Entry Level 1-3 or Pre-Entry	16-18	Progression into supported employment, further vocational training, or increased independence in home/community life.
Personal Development Course (pre-formal pathway)	Pre Entry Level	16-18	Increased independence & community participation; maximising individual potential through multi-disciplinary approach.
Duke of Edinburgh Award	Bronze & Silver	16-18	Enhanced CV, community engagement, and life skills leading to community participation or future employment.

NCEA Castle School Post-16 Educational Offer

Castle School's Post-16 curriculum is designed for learners with severe/complex learning difficulties, promoting their potential through a unique transdisciplinary approach. The curriculum focuses on personalised timetables and building skills for adult life across four pathways.

Courses are for 16-18 Year Olds

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Curriculum Pathways (Pre-Formal / Engagement / Semi-Formal / Formal)	Pre-entry Sensory to Entry Level 3	16-18	Progression to the next academic pathway, or transition to post-school vocational/day service providers.
Literacy & Maths	Pre-entry Sensory to Entry Level 3	16-18	Increased functional independence in home and community settings, including budgeting and time management.
Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) & Independent Living / Good Health / Relationships & Community	ASDAN My Independence & Lifeskills Challenges	16-18	Transition to supported independent living, community participation, or work experience placements.
Creative & Cultural / World Knowledge / Sport & Leisure	ASDAN Lifeskills Challenges	16-18	Developing lifelong leisure interests and community club membership for an active adult life.
Integrated Therapy	N/A (Transdisciplinary Approach)	16-18	Maximizing individual potential through embedded Physiotherapy, SALT, and OT input.

Hillcrest School Post 16 Offer - The Bridge Provision

Hillcrest School's "The Bridge" provision is a post-16 program (Years 11 and 12) located in a self-contained lodge focused on preparing students for adulthood by developing life skills, resilience, confidence, and independence. The curriculum emphasizes vocational and functional skills development.

Courses are for those up to the age of 17 years.

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
AQA Step up to English / Entry Level Maths	Entry Level 1-3 to Level 2	16-17	Direct support for transition into work, college, and independent living.
TQUK English and Maths	Functional Level 1-2	16-17	Level 3 English and Maths
WJEC ICT	Entry Level 1-3	16-17	Supports functionality and work readiness, specifically aligned with academic achievement and functionality drivers.
ASDAN (Personal Development Programme, Lifeskills Challenge)	Bronze, Silver, Gold	16-17	Developing self-assessment and reflection, directly supporting Preparation for Adulthood outcomes (Employment, Independent Living, Community, Good Health).
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award	Bronze, Silver & Gold	16-17	Enhanced skills in volunteering, physical activity, skills, and expedition, supporting social development and aspirational futures.

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Functional Skills Programme (Washing, Ironing, Cooking, Shopping on a budget)	Food Hygiene Award	16-17	Increased functionality and independent living skills in the home and community.
Work Experience (e.g., Homes for Northumberland, Hope Centre, school enterprises)	N/A (Practical Experience)	16-17	Transition to appropriate work placements that reflect individual interests and developing a work ethic.
Homegrown @ Hillcrest (Allotment)	N/A (Practical Skills)	16-17	Supports practical cookery projects and enterprise opportunities (community cafe), enhancing functionality.
Independent Travel	N/A (Skill Development)	16-17	Becoming a confident and independent traveller with supported experience on public transport.

Barndale House School Post-16 Offer

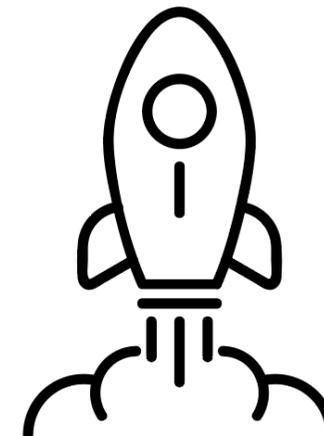
Barndale House School's post-16 curriculum is heavily focused on the Preparation for Adulthood (PfA) agenda, utilizing ASDAN and functional skills to create informed choices and opportunities for life beyond school.

Courses are for 16-18 Year Olds

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
ASDAN Lifeskills Challenges	Bronze, Silver, Gold	16-18	Developing self-assessment and reflection, directly supporting Preparation for Adulthood outcomes (Employment, Independent Living, Community, Good Health).
NCFE Functional Skills (English, Maths, ICT)	Entry Level – Level 3	16-18	Achieving core functional literacy and numeracy skills for independent living and employment.
Skills Builder Programme	N/A	16-18	Building essential skills (teamwork, leadership, problem-solving) required by colleges, universities, and prospective employers.
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award	Bronze, Silver & Gold	16-18	Enhanced skills in volunteering, physical activity, skills, and expedition, supporting social development and aspirational futures.

Section 7:

Further Education & Training Offers



Northumberland Skills – Pathways into Employment

Northumberland Skills provides a staged road map for learners to develop the skills needed for independence and employment. Upon vocational profiling and interview, learners are placed on the appropriate individual pathway, starting from personal progress up to Supported Internships. **Courses are for 16-24 Year Olds**

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Pathway 1: Personal Progress	C&G Entry Level 1	16-24	Progression to Pathway 2 or further education, building new relationships with peers and colleagues.
Pathway 2: Promoting Independence	C&G Entry Level 2	16-24	Progression to Pathway 3, feeling empowered to take an active role in planning for their future.
Pathway 3: Skills for Life and Work	C&G Entry Level 3 Certificate	16-24	Progression to Pre-Internship (3.5), Supported Internship (4), or entry into employment/vocational training.
Pathway 3.5: Pre-Internship	C&G Entry Level 3 Diploma	16-24	Progression to Supported Internship (4) or direct transition into work or vocational training.
Pathway 4: Supported Internship	Project Search Curriculum	16-24	Sustainable paid employment or continuation of training via an apprenticeship with appropriate support.

Vocational and Technical Courses and Apprenticeships from Northumberland Skills

Northumberland Skills offers vocational and technical courses across key sectors, providing practical, career-focused training from Level 1 up to Level 3. **Available for those aged 16 +**

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Construction, Digital, Engineering, Motor Vehicle, Health & Social Care	Level 1	16+	Progression to Level 2 courses in the chosen sector, or an Intermediate Apprenticeship.
Construction, Digital, Engineering, Motor Vehicle, Health & Social Care, Business Administration	Level 2	16+	Progression to Level 3 (Advanced) courses, Intermediate Apprenticeships, or skilled employment.
Engineering, Building Services, Digital Technology, Health & Social Care	Level 3 (Advanced/Technical)	16+	Higher Education (Level 4/5) or a Higher Apprenticeship, or professional employment.
Apprenticeship Course / Pathway	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Construction Trades (e.g., Bricklaying, Carpentry)	Intermediate (L2) to Advanced (L3)	16+	Qualified tradesperson, progression to HNC/HND (L4/L5) or site management roles.
Engineering (Fabrication & Welding, Mechanical Engineering)	Intermediate (L2) to Advanced (L3)	16+	Qualified engineer/technician, progression to Higher Apprenticeship (L4+).
Business Administration	Intermediate (L2) to Advanced (L3)	16+	Progression to specialized business roles, or professional qualifications.
Adult Social Care	Intermediate (L2) to Advanced (L3)	16+	Progression into senior care roles or further qualifications in Health and Social Care.

Northumberland College – Foundations

The Foundations department at Northumberland College offers specialised education at the Kirkley Hall Campus. This includes dedicated pathways focused on preparation for adulthood, alongside access to the college's wide range of mainstream vocational courses between Ashington and Kirkely Hall.

There are many courses **available for 16-24 year old students** and further research is encouraged to match preferred vocational pathway.

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Independence Pathway at Foundations	Entry Level / Foundation Learning	16-24	Development of core independence skills (communication, travel, money management, health) leading to supported employment or further vocational training.
Carousel Program (Taster Projects)	N/A (Taster/Exploratory)	16-24	Informed decision-making on future specialist vocational courses (e.g., Horticulture, Media & Animal Care) and progression to the Supported Internship.
Supported Internships (DFN Project Search/Places Leisure)	Work-Based Study Programme (1 Year)	16-24	Sustainable paid employment with employer partners, or progression to an apprenticeship after gaining 300 hours of external work experience.
Land Based Studies	Level 1-3	16-24	Higher Education courses in Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Management, or relevant industry apprenticeships/employment.
Animal Care	Level 1-3	16-24	Higher Education courses in animal management, or entry-level roles in kennels, pet stores, or the Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens.

Vocational and Technical Courses and Apprenticeships at Northumberland College – Foundations

Northumberland College offers vocational and technical courses across many sectors, providing practical, career-focused training from Level 1 up to Level 3. **Available for those aged 16 +**

Vocational Course / Pathway	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Land-Based (Animal Care, Equine, Horticulture, Floristry)	Level 1-3	16+	Higher Education (L4/5) in Land-Based subjects, or relevant apprenticeships/employment.
Construction & Built Environment (Brickwork, Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical)	Level 1-3	16+	Progression to T Levels, Advanced Apprenticeships, HNC/HND, or skilled employment as a tradesperson.
Engineering & Automotive (Mechanical, Electrical, Welding, Vehicle Repair)	Level 1-3 T Level	16+	Higher Education in Engineering, Advanced Apprenticeships in Manufacturing, or roles as qualified engineers/technicians.
Service Industries (Hair, Barbering, Beauty, Health & Social Care, Childcare)	Level 1-3	16+	Progression to Higher Education, Advanced Apprenticeships, or employment in the chosen care or creative sector.
Business & Digital (Business Admin, IT, Digital Skills)	Level 1-3	16+	Progression to Higher Apprenticeships in IT/Business, or entry into administrative and digital roles.

Apprenticeship Pathway	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Construction (Bricklaying, Carpentry), Motor Vehicle, Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy, Childcare	Intermediate (L2) to Advanced (L3)	16+	Qualified tradesperson, progression to HNC/HND (L4/L5) or site management roles.
Engineering & Manufacturing (e.g., Fabrication, Maintenance)	Intermediate (L2) to Advanced (L3)	16+	Qualified engineer/technician, progression to Higher Apprenticeship (L4+) or degree-level study.
Business Administration, Customer Service, Team Leading	Intermediate (L2) to Advanced (L3)	16+	Progression to management qualifications, Higher Apprenticeships, or specialist business roles.
Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Care	Intermediate (L2) to Advanced (L3)	16+	Specialist employment in land-based sectors, or progression to Foundation/Honours Degrees at Kirkley Hall.

Gateshead College – Project Choice SEND Provision

Gateshead College offers specialist support through its Project Choice and other dedicated pathways, aligning the curriculum with the four Preparing for Adulthood outcomes. Their programs emphasize independence, employability, and real-world skills development.

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Independence Pathway	N/A (1 Year Program)	16-24	Progression to the Discovery or Employment Pathway, or increased independent living.
Discovery Pathway	N/A (1 Year Program)	16-24	Progression to the Employment Pathway (Supported Internship) or further vocational learning.
Employment Pathway	N/A (2 Year Program, EHCP required)	16-24	Supported Internship, paid employment, or Apprenticeship.
Steps to Work	N/A (Preparation Program)	16-24	Supported Internship, Apprenticeship, further education or training, paid employment, or volunteering.
Supported Internships	Work-Based Study Programme (EHCP required)	16-24	Progression into sustainable paid employment, supported by dedicated Job Coaches.
Personal Development Courses	N/A (Enrichment)	16-24	Exploration of hobbies (Arts & Crafts, Cooking, Sports, Music, etc.) and acquisition of new skills.
Vocational Access Courses	Varies (e.g., Customer Service, Health/Social Care, Art/Design, Science)	16-24	Progression onto higher-level vocational courses within Gateshead College or other further education institutions.

Vocational and Technical Courses and Apprenticeships from Gateshead College

Beyond the specialist Project Choice provision, Gateshead College offers an extensive range of full-time vocational and technical qualifications from Level 1 to Level 3, alongside a comprehensive apprenticeship programme. **Available for those aged 16 +**

Vocational Course / Pathway	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Automotive, Construction (Trades & T-Levels), Engineering & Manufacturing	Level 1	16+	Progression to Level 2 courses in the chosen sector, or an Intermediate Apprenticeship.
Business, Catering & Hospitality, Digital (e.g., Cyber, Software), Health & Social Care	Level 2	16+	Progression to Level 3 (Advanced/Technical) courses, Intermediate Apprenticeships, or skilled employment.
T Levels (Construction, Digital, Health, Legal/Finance), Advanced Engineering, Creative Arts, Public Services	Level 3 (Advanced/Technical)	16+	Higher Education (Level 4/5) including Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs), a Higher Apprenticeship, or professional employment.

Apprenticeship Pathway	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Construction Trades (e.g., Bricklaying, Plumbing), Hair & Beauty, Business Admin, Customer Service	Intermediate (L2)	16+	Qualified trade worker, progression to Advanced Apprenticeship or Level 3 vocational qualification.
Automotive Maintenance (Light/Heavy Vehicle), Digital (e.g., IT), Engineering & Fabrication, Health & Social Care	Advanced (L3)	16+	Qualified technician/professional, progression to Higher Apprenticeship (L4+) or degree-level study.
Leadership & Management, Higher Engineering, Finance & Accounting	Higher/Degree (L4+)	16+	University top-up degree, senior management role, or highly specialised employment.

Newcastle College

Newcastle College's dual approach for post-16 courses offers two distinct educational tracks at its Rye Hill Campus: specialist Foundation Learning Pathways and broader vocational courses from Level 1 up to Level 4.

Foundation Learning Pathways are specialist courses designed for students who may not be ready for a full-time vocational course or who need to build their confidence and skills. The programs are ideal for those who need extra support or want to improve their core skills in English and Maths before progressing to higher levels. They concentrate on personal and educational development within a supportive environment.

Broader vocational courses (Levels 1-4)

These qualifications provide practical, career-focused training across numerous subjects, with a direct pathway into a specific sector. Newcastle College offers over 100 courses for 16-18 year olds, covering areas such as art, computing, construction, and health & care.

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Life Skills/Preparing for Adulthood	Pre-Entry to Entry Level 3 (1 Year)	16-24	Developing confidence and independence for progression to Supported Internships or further vocational study.
Vocational Options	Pre-Entry to Entry Level 3 (1 Year)	16-24	Progression towards employment, a Supported Internship, or the Development Vocational Skills course.
Developing Vocational Skills (Gardening, Hospitality, Retail)	Pre-Entry to Entry Level 3 (1 Year)	16-24	Gaining skills and experience to prepare for employment, or progression onto a full-time vocational course (L1/L2).
Supported Internship	N/A (1 Year, EHCP required)	16-24	Paid employment or progression to an apprenticeship after gaining work experience and functional qualifications.
Access To Further Education	Entry Level / Level 1 (1 Year)	16-24	Progression to higher levels of vocational study (Level 1, 2, or 3) within the college.

Level 1 to Level 4 Course Offer

Vocational Course / Pathway	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Art & Design, Caring for Children, Health & Social Care, Introduction to Professional Cookery, etc.	Level 1	16+	Level 2 courses in the chosen sector, or entry-level employment/apprenticeships.
Automotive Maintenance, Electrical Installation, Digital Arts, Plumbing, Applied Science, etc.	Level 2	16+	Level 3 (Advanced) courses, Intermediate Apprenticeships, or skilled employment.
Animation, Business, Engineering, T Levels (e.g., Civil Engineering, Supporting Mental Health), Policing, etc.	Level 3 (Advanced/Technical)	16+	Higher Education (Level 4/5) at university/college, Higher Apprenticeships, or professional employment.
CertHE Applied Science, FdSc Networking, FdA Culinary Art, FdSc Sport Coaching, etc.	Level 4 (Certificates & Foundation Degrees)	16+	Final year of a bachelor's degree (Top-Up, Level 6), or specialization in the field.

Tyne Metropolitan College

Foundation Learning Tyne Metropolitan College (TyneMet) offers a dedicated Foundation Learning department for young people **aged 16 to 24** with special learning needs or difficulties (SEND/LDD).

The programme is designed to provide highly supported, individualised learning at a pace that suits the student, incorporating the Skills Builder Universal Framework to develop essential life and work skills (Listening, Speaking, Problem Solving, Teamwork, etc.).

Courses are for 16-24 Year Olds.

Foundations offer

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Preparing for Independence	Pre-Entry/Entry Maths and English	16-24	Development of skills for independent living, community engagement, and healthy lifestyles.
Preparing for Education	Functional Skills and/or GCSE (depending on prior attainment)	16-24	Progression onto mainstream vocational programmes (particularly in Service Industries).
Preparing for Vocational Studies	Entry 3 (E3) or Level 1 qualifications	16-24	Progression to further education courses at a higher level (Level 2+).
Preparing for Employment	Maths & English, Functional Skills	16-24	Progression directly into sustained, external employment (requires 2 days work placement).

TyneMet offers an extensive range of mainstream vocational and technical courses from Level 1 up to Level 3 (equivalent to A-Levels), covering a wide variety of career sectors. These options provide progression routes for students aiming for skilled employment or higher education.

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Art, Design, & Media, Business, Childcare, Computing & Digital, Hair & Beauty	Level 1	16 +	Progression to Level 2 courses in the chosen sector, or entry-level employment/apprenticeships.
Sport & Fitness, Engineering, Construction (Brickwork, Joinery, Plastering, Plumbing, Electrical)	Level 1	16+	Progression to Level 2 courses in the chosen sector, or entry-level employment/apprenticeships.
Art & Design, Business, Childcare, Computing, Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy, Construction Trades	Level 2	16 +	Level 3 (Advanced) courses, Intermediate Apprenticeships, or skilled employment.
Catering & Hospitality, Health & Social Care, Sport, Travel & Tourism	Level 2	16 +	Level 3 (Advanced) courses, Intermediate Apprenticeships, or skilled employment.
Applied Science, Engineering, Public Services, Computing & Games Development, T Levels (e.g., Education & Childcare)	Level 3 (Advanced/Technical)	16 +	Higher Education (Level 4/5) at university/college, Higher Apprenticeships, or professional employment.

Azure College

Azure College is a specialist post-16 educational program in Cramlington for **young people aged 16-24** with moderate to severe learning difficulties or disabilities. It provides study programmes that focus on preparing students for further education or employment through qualifications in areas like horticulture, hospitality, and employability. New additions to its programme for 2026 are 2 new Entry Level courses.

Curriculum Offer

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Practical Horticulture	Level 1 Award/Certificate	16-24	Related Level 2 qualification, Supported Internship, Apprenticeship, Volunteering, or Employment.
Retail	Level 1 Award/Certificate	16-24	Related Level 2 qualification, Supported Internship, Apprenticeship, Volunteering, or Employment.
Introduction to Hospitality and Catering	Level 1 Award/Certificate	16-24	Related Level 2 qualification, Supported Internship, Apprenticeship, Volunteering, or Employment.
Skills for Employment, Training and Personal Development	Level 1 Award/Certificate	16-24	Improved confidence, self-esteem, independent living, and success in functional skills assessment.
Stepping Stones Plus – SEMH	Level 1 qualification (Skills for Employment, Education and personal Development)	16-24	Progression to higher levels of vocational study (Level 1, 2, or 3)
Introduction to Hospitality & Catering	Entry 3 Award	16-24	Related Level 1 qualification, employment or volunteering
Skills for Employment, training and personal development	Entry 3 Award	16-24	Related Level 1 qualification, employment or volunteering

Dilston College (Cambian) - Specialist Further Education

Dilston College is an independent specialist college providing education and care for students aged 16 to 24 with moderate to severe learning disabilities, Autism, and complex needs. They offer day and up to 52-week residential placements, focusing on holistic development.

Core Curriculum and Vocational Offer

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Personal Progress	Up to Entry Level 1	16-24	Increased independence in daily living, community awareness, and progression to Skills for Independence.
Skills for Independence and Work (SFIW)	Entry Level 2	16-24	Progression to Workskills route or supported living/community involvement.
Workskills	Entry Level 3 and Level 1	16-24	Entry into employment/volunteering, supported living, or further academic study.
Accreditation/Awards	Pre-Entry to Level 2	16-24	Gaining confidence to move into employment, supported living, or further education.
Key Vocational Areas	N/A	16-24	Practical work experience and increased engagement in Animal Care, Horticulture, Catering, etc.

Specialist Support and Therapy

The college provides multidisciplinary support including Speech and Language Therapy (SALT), Occupational Therapy (OT), and Residential Care (supported living) to foster independence and successful transition.

Choices College (NHS England)

Choices College (formerly Project Choice) is a national Specialist Post-16 College providing tailored educational support and a supported internship course for **young adults aged 16-24** with learning difficulties/disabilities and/or Autism who have an EHCP.

They partner with NHS healthcare settings, local organisations, and private businesses to create supported work environments.

Supported Internship Offer

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Supported Internship	NCFE Accredited / Full-Time (1 Year)	16-24	Sustainable paid employment, Apprenticeship, or progression to further education.
Work Placements	N/A (Practical Experience)	16-24	Up to three, 12-week placements tailored to skills and interests, leading to increased vocational knowledge and experience.
Classroom Education	Functional Skills / Employability Skills / Preparation for Adulthood	16-24	Development of functional Maths/English skills, CV writing, interview preparation, and job search readiness.
Work Experience Support (For learners still in school/college)	N/A (Part-time placement)	16-24	Transition support and practical work experience (one half-day per week for six weeks) to prepare for the internship or employment.

Northumbria Youth Action (NYA)

Northumbria Youth Action is dedicated to advancing the education and training of young people under 25, focusing on practical skills and personal development in vocational sectors to prepare them for their careers.

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Vocational Training (Motor Vehicle, Hair and Beauty, Hospitality, Engineering, Construction)	Various	16-24	Progression into Apprenticeships, further vocational training, or immediate employment in specialized sectors.
DVSA-Approved Training	N/A	16-24	Entry into professional motor vehicle roles and progression to higher-level qualifications.
Core Education	N/A	16-24	Gaining real-world work experience and exposure to various industries to inform career choices.
Work Experience	N/A (Hands-on Placement)	16-24	Transition support and practical work experience (one half-day per week for six weeks) to prepare for the internship or employment.

Barnardo's ETS North

Barnardo's Employment, Training and Skills (ETS) North provides quality accredited vocational programs and apprenticeships tailored to support **young people (aged 14-29)** in developing employment skills, literacy, and numeracy. They work in partnership with local and national employers to offer hands-on experience and progression opportunities.

Vocational and Core Skills Offer

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Vocational Programmes (Hairdressing, Beauty Therapy, Painting & Decorating, Multi Skills Construction, Retail, Business Administration, Health & Social Care)	Various	16-29	Progression into Apprenticeships, further vocational training, or immediate employment in specialized sectors.
Apprenticeships (Supply Chain Warehousing Operative, Business Admin, Health & Social Care, Beauty Therapy, etc.)	Various	16-29	Entry into professional motor vehicle roles and progression to higher-level qualifications.
Work Experience	N/A (Hands-on Placement)	16-29	Transition support and practical work experience (one half-day per week for six weeks) to prepare for the internship or employment.

Trinity Post 16 Solutions Ltd

Trinity Post 16 Solutions Ltd offers bespoke study programmes and supported internships designed for **young people aged 19-25** with additional support needs, with EHCP outcomes at the heart of the curriculum.

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Engagement (12-14 week re-engagement programme for learners with an EHCP. Elements include Maths & English and vocational tasters)	Engagement (12-14 week re-engagement programme for learners with an EHCP. Elements include Maths & English and vocational tasters)	19-25	Progression into Apprenticeships, further vocational training, or immediate employment in specialized sectors.
Supported Internships	Supported Internships	19-25	Paid employment or progression to an apprenticeship after gaining work experience and functional qualifications.
Prepare for Adulthood (Social & community activity, preparation for work, independent living and living a healthy lifestyle)	Prepare for Adulthood (Social & community activity, preparation for work, independent living and living a healthy lifestyle)	19-25	Gaining real-world work experience and exposure to various industries to inform career choices.
Enable (6 week course supporting recovery and mental health awareness)	Enable (6 week course supporting recovery and mental health awareness)	19-25	Transition support and practical work experience (one half-day per week for six weeks) to prepare for the internship or employment.

Trinity also offers a further range of vocational and technical courses from Level 1 up to Level 3 (equivalent to A-Levels), covering a wide variety of career sectors. These options provide progression routes for students aiming for skilled employment or higher education.

NACRO Education

Nacro Education Newcastle provides vocational training and qualifications for 16–18-year-olds who have faced disadvantage or interruptions in traditional schooling.

The centre offers small classes, personalised support, and hands-on learning in areas like construction and motor vehicles, aiming to help young people progress into further education or work.

Course / Qualification	Level	Age	Potential Progression
Animal Care	Levels 1-2	16-18	Progression into Apprenticeships, further vocational training, or employment
Childcare	Level 1	16-18	Level 2 Childcare, paid employment or progression to an apprenticeship after gaining work experience and functional qualifications.
Construction	Level 1	16-18	Level 2 Construction, paid employment or progression to an apprenticeship after gaining work experience and functional qualifications.
Get set for work (for those still deciding upon their career goals)	Level 1	16-18	This course supports progression to other vocational courses or employment.
Life Skills (for those who want to improve their communication, problem-solving, numeracy, and practical life skills to support personal growth and future opportunities)	Level 1	16-18	This course supports progression to other vocational courses or employment.
Supported Internship (in partnership with Homegroup) for EHCP only.	NA	16-18	Paid employment or progression to an apprenticeship after gaining work experience and functional qualifications.