

Types of qualification

A-Levels

- A two-year course.
- Exams at the end of those two years.
- The **academic route**.

The entry requirements are **a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4, with a minimum of a grade 6 in the specific subjects chosen. Specific requirements can vary, depending on the college.**

Apprenticeships

- Involve on-the-job experience alongside studying.
- Usually a split of **80% experience and 20% classroom experience**.
- Apprentices **earn a wage** and get sick pay.
- A genuine job - they are employees.

There are several levels of apprenticeships. The most relevant to Year 11 are **Level 2 apprenticeships, which are classed as 'intermediate' and equivalent to 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4. There are also Level 3 apprenticeships, which are equivalent to two A-level passes. Entry requirements depend on the industry, job role and the level of the apprenticeship,**

T-Levels

- A two-year course.
- **Equivalent to three A-levels.**
- A mixture of classroom learning and around 45 days of on-the-job experience.
- Based on the same standards as apprenticeships.

The entry requirements are **GCSE English Language at grade 5, GCSE Maths at grade 5, and 3 other GCSEs at grade 4 and above.**

Vocational Qualification

- **Practical qualifications** that relate to a specific job or career sector.
- Helps to gain the skills needed to start a job, progress in a career, or go on to higher levels of education.
- Usually assessed via coursework or non-exam assessments.
- Level 2 vocational qualifications are the equivalent to GCSEs at grades 9-4.
- Level 3 qualifications are equivalent to A-levels.
- **This is a changing landscape, with some qualifications being phased out in favour of V-levels, which will start in 2027.**

Post-16 Applications

Before you apply...

1. **Start researching your options.** You can do this by using the tools on Unifrog, Googling different post-16 providers, and speaking to members of staff. **Your form tutor, Miss Pitt and Miss Aldridge** will all be able to help you. There is also the Careers Hub in the library to help you research. **Think about what you want to do for a career and see what grades and qualifications are needed.**
2. **Attend open days** to get a feel for each place. Is it somewhere that you can see yourself studying? What are the courses like?
3. **Put lots of effort into writing your personal statement in Personal Development lessons.** Use the lesson content to help you to really sell yourself. You can also speak to the members of staff mentioned if you need further assistance.

Making your application...

- You need to **choose which college(s) and sixth form(s) you want to apply to.**
- You also need to **choose the courses that you want to apply to.**
- After November mocks, you will receive a new set of POGs (Predicted Outcome Grades). **You need to go back and check your applications to see if you are still predicted the grades needed for your chosen course/college.**

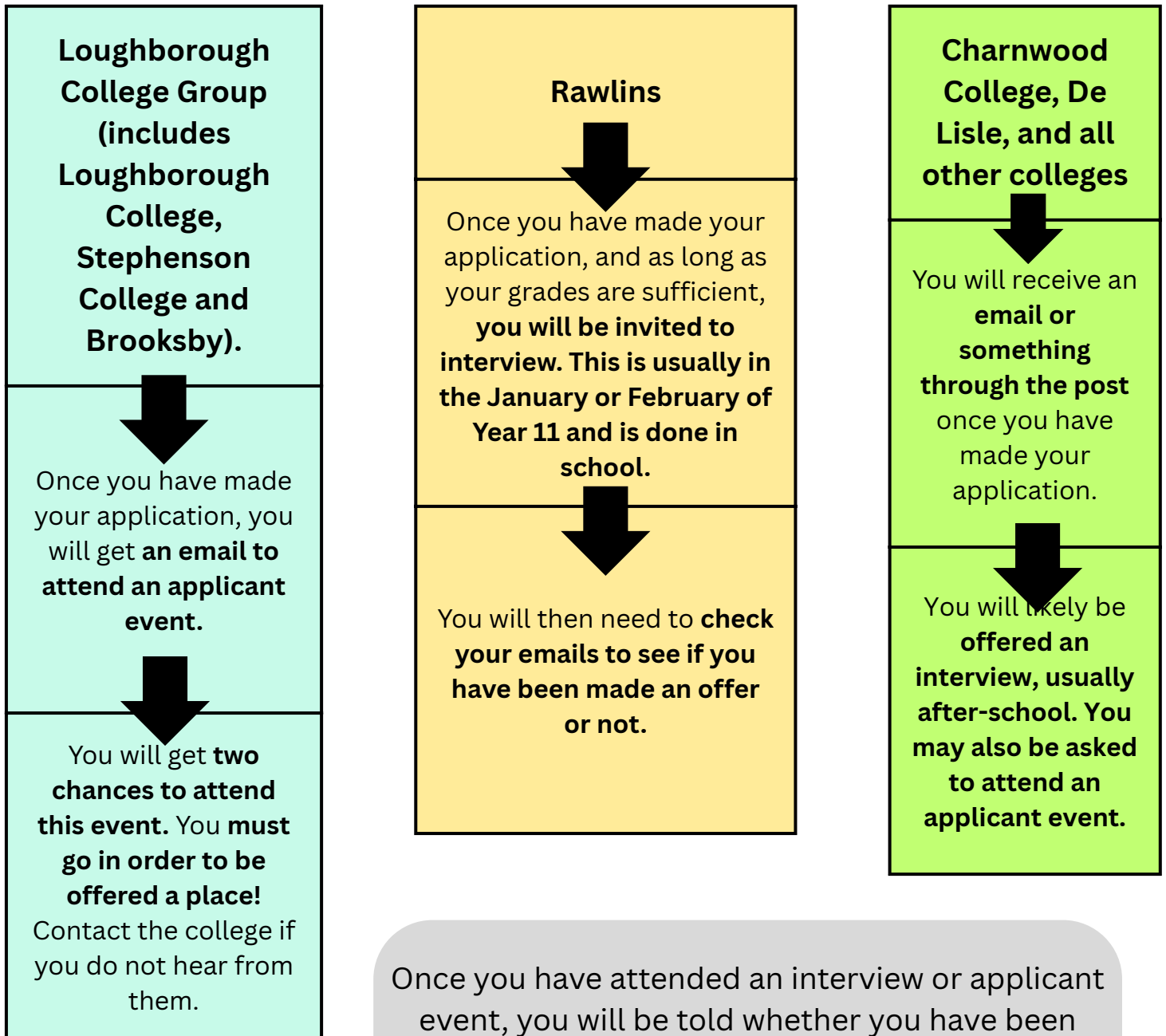
If your grades have changed, and your POGs are now lower than what you need, you **must see Miss Pitt.**

What happens next will depend on **which college you go to.**

As you are Year 11, you will also get the chance to meet with a Careers Advisor. Let your form tutor or Miss Aldridge know if you would like to see the advisor sooner rather than later.

What happens next?

This depends on where you apply!



Once you have attended an interview or applicant event, you will be told whether you have been offered a place. This might be **conditional or unconditional.**

A **conditional** offer is the most common type. You **have been offered a place, but with conditions attached, such as needing certain grades.** You will **not be able to join the course if you do not meet these conditions.**

A **firm offer** is less common. This means that you have been offered a place **without** any conditions. You will not need any specific grades to get on to the course.