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Headteacher: Dr. A Wood, PhD, NPQH, BSc (Hons)

Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers and Year 11 Pupils,

As pupils begin Year 11, it is important that they start to explore the range of opportunities available to them after completing their GCSEs in summer 2027.

To support pupils and families with this process, we have put together the attached Post-16 Working Calendar, which brings together upcoming open evenings and events from a range of local colleges and sixth-form providers.

The calendar includes opportunities at Ludlow Sixth Form College, Shrewsbury Colleges Group, Hereford Sixth Form College, Walford College, Herefordshire College, Holme Lacy College, Telford College and other local providers. These offer a wide range of pathways, including A Levels, T Levels, vocational and technical qualifications, apprenticeships and specialist land-based courses.

Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of all Post-16 providers or opportunities available. Pupils may wish to consider colleges, sixth forms, training providers and apprenticeship opportunities beyond those included in this calendar. We strongly encourage pupils and families to carry out their own research, taking into account individual interests, preferred courses and career aspirations. We would also welcome additional requests for any further information from additional providers.

We would strongly encourage pupils to attend a number of open events where possible. Visiting different providers is a valuable opportunity to explore courses, speak to staff and current students, understand entry requirements and get a feel for the environment before making decisions about September 2027.

Alongside the calendar, we have included a brief guide explaining the differences between A Levels, T Levels and vocational courses to help pupils begin considering which type of pathway may suit their interests, strengths and future aspirations.

Please be aware that this is a working calendar. Colleges will continue to publish additional open events, taster days, application deadlines, interviews and transition opportunities throughout the academic year. We will continue to share relevant information with pupils as it becomes available, but we would also encourage families to regularly check individual provider websites for the most up-to-date information and booking arrangements.

Our aim is to ensure that every Year 11 pupil has the information, experiences and support needed to make an informed and ambitious choice about their next steps. Over the coming weeks, we will continue to welcome Post-16 providers into school to speak directly with pupils about their courses and opportunities, alongside ensuring that pupils have access to further individual careers guidance appointments to support them in making informed decisions about their next steps.

Kind regards,

Mrs Watson Jones
Assistant Headteacher

This calendar brings together key Post-16 open events and information opportunities that may be useful to pupils considering their next steps after Year 11. It includes local sixth forms, further education colleges, land-based colleges and technical/vocational providers.

Cohort check: The events listed have been selected as appropriate information/open events for school leavers making choices during Year 11 for September 2027 progression.

Understanding Post-16 Routes

There is no single 'best' Post-16 route. The right choice depends on how a pupil prefers to learn, the subjects or career they are interested in, and what they may want to do after age 18.

A Levels

What is it? Usually three subjects studied over two years. A Levels are mainly classroom-based and academic, with assessment often through final examinations, although some subjects include coursework or practical assessment.

Who might it suit? Best suited to pupils who enjoy academic study, want to specialise in a small number of subjects and may be considering university or a career that benefits from academic qualifications.

Examples: Biology, Chemistry, English Literature, History, Mathematics, Psychology and Sociology.

T Levels

What is it? Two-year technical qualifications developed with employers. A T Level is broadly equivalent in size to three A Levels and combines classroom learning with practical/technical study and a substantial industry placement of at least 45 days.

Who might it suit? Best suited to pupils who have an idea of the industry or career area they want to enter and want a mixture of college study and meaningful workplace experience.

Examples: Examples can include Education & Early Years, Health, Digital, Engineering, Construction and Business/Management, depending on the provider.

Vocational / Technical Courses

What is it? Practical, career-focused qualifications such as BTECs and other Level 1, 2 or 3 diplomas/certificates. Learning often includes assignments, projects and practical assessment, although some courses also include exams.

Who might it suit? Best suited to pupils who prefer applied and practical learning or already have an interest in a particular sector. Level 3 vocational qualifications can lead to university, apprenticeships or employment.

Examples: Public Services, Animal Care, Agriculture, Equine, Business, Health & Social Care, Performing Arts, Construction, Motor Vehicle and Hair & Beauty.

Also consider apprenticeships: an apprenticeship is paid employment combined with structured training and study. Apprenticeships are available at different levels and can be an excellent option for pupils who are ready to learn in the workplace.

Post-16 Open Events: Working Calendar

Date	Provider	Event	Time
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Wed 7 Oct 2026	Telford College – Telford 6th	Open Event – A Levels	See booking page
Tue 13 Oct 2026	Ludlow Sixth Form College	Open Event	See booking page
Thu 15 Oct 2026	Shrewsbury College – English Bridge	Open Evening – A Levels & Creative Arts	Book arrival slot
Thu 15 Oct 2026	Shrewsbury College – Welsh Bridge	Open Evening – A Levels: Science, Technology & Social Sciences	Book arrival slot
Sat 17 Oct 2026	Hereford Sixth Form College	Open Event	9:00am–12:00pm
Sat 17 Oct 2026	Walford College	Open Event	See booking page
Tue 20 Oct 2026	Shrewsbury College – English Bridge	Open Evening – A Levels & Creative Arts	Book arrival slot
Tue 20 Oct 2026	Shrewsbury College – Welsh Bridge	Open Evening – A Levels: Science, Technology & Social Sciences	Book arrival slot
Wed 21 Oct 2026	Telford College – Wellington	Open Event – vocational/technical routes	5:00–7:30pm
Thu 22 Oct 2026	Shrewsbury College – London Road	Open Evening – Vocational Courses, T Levels & Apprenticeships	Book arrival slot
Sat 7 Nov 2026	Herefordshire College	Open Event	See booking page
Sat 7 Nov 2026	Holme Lacy College	Open Event – land-based courses	See booking page
Sat 7 Nov 2026	North Shropshire College	Open Event	See booking page
Sat 21 Nov 2026	Telford College – Telford 6th	Open Event	10:00am–1:00pm
Wed 2 Dec 2026	Telford College – Wellington	Open Event	5:00–7:30pm
Wed 13 Jan 2027	Herefordshire College	Open Event	See booking page
Sat 16 Jan 2027	Ludlow Sixth Form College	Open Event	See booking page
Sat 23 Jan 2027	Telford College – Wellington	Open Event	10:00am–1:00pm
Wed 27 Jan 2027	Telford College – Telford 6th	Open Event	5:00–7:30pm
Sat 6 Feb 2027	Walford College	Open Event	See booking page
Wed 10 Feb 2027	North Shropshire College	Open Event	See booking page
Tue 23 Feb 2027	Ludlow Sixth Form College	Open Event	See booking page
Tue 2 Mar 2027	Herefordshire College	Open Event	See booking page
Mon 15 Mar 2027	Telford College – Telford 6th	Open Event	5:00–7:30pm
Sat 17 Apr 2027	Holme Lacy College	Open Event	See booking page
Mon 19 Apr 2027	Telford College – Wellington	Open Event	5:00–7:30pm
Wed 9 Jun 2027	North Shropshire College	Open Event	See booking page
Sat 12 Jun 2027	Walford College	Open Event	See booking page

Calendar checked and updated on 25 September 2026 using providers' current published event information. Where an exact time is not shown, pupils and families should use the provider's booking page for the latest arrival slots. As this is a working calendar, further taster days, spring open events and transition activities are subject to change.

Local Providers to Explore

Ludlow Sixth Form College: A Level-focused sixth form provision.

Shrewsbury Colleges Group: A Levels, creative arts, vocational courses, T Levels and apprenticeships across its campuses.

Hereford Sixth Form College: A Level-focused sixth form provision.

Walford College: Land-based and practical courses, including areas such as agriculture, animal and equine studies.

Herefordshire College: Vocational, technical and apprenticeship routes.

Holme Lacy College: Specialist land-based provision and rural skills.

Telford College / Telford 6th: A Levels alongside a wide range of vocational and technical pathways.

North Shropshire College: Further education and vocational/technical options.

Derwen College: Specialist Post-16/19 provision for young people with special educational needs and disabilities; individual suitability and admissions arrangements should be explored directly.

Before Attending an Open Event

- Check whether the event requires advance booking.
- Look at entry requirements for courses of interest.
- Check transport and travel arrangements from home.
- Prepare questions about subjects, assessment, work placements, enrichment and progression.
- Ask what happens if GCSE results are higher or lower than expected.
- Where appropriate, explore SEND support, bursaries and other financial support.

Please note: This information is intended to support early Post-16 planning and is subject to change. College websites and direct communications from providers should be treated as the final source for event dates, times, course availability and admissions information.