

Post-16 Education and Next Steps

All Year 11 students are expected to remain in **education or training until the age of 18**. As students progress through Year 11, it is therefore important that they begin to consider their options for life after GCSEs and identify the pathway that is right for them.

There are a wide range of post-16 opportunities available, including **Ilfracombe Academy Sixth Form, North Devon College (Petroc), Exeter College** and other sixth forms, colleges and training providers. We encourage students to explore the full range of options available to them so that they can make informed decisions about their next steps.

Why choosing your next steps matters

In our experience, having a clear sense of what they would like to do after Year 11 can be a **powerful source of motivation for students**. Understanding the courses, qualifications and careers they are working towards can give greater purpose to their studies and help students recognise the importance of making the most of every opportunity during Year 11.

Post-16 courses and providers have their own **entry requirements**, which students will need to meet in order to enrol in September following Year 11. Achieving strong GCSE results will give students the **widest possible range of options** when making decisions about their future.

Achieving the required standard in **English and mathematics** is particularly important. Students who do not achieve a grade 4 or above may be required to continue studying these subjects alongside their post-16 programme.

Ilfracombe Academy Sixth Form

The date of the **Ilfracombe Academy Sixth Form Open Evening** can be found on the **Year 11 Roadmap to Success**.

Full details of our Sixth Form offer can be found on the school website:

[The Ilfracombe Academy – Sixth Form](#)

We would be delighted to welcome students and parents/carers to our Open Evening. We strongly encourage families to **talk about post-16 options at home**, attend open events and take time to consider which courses and pathways best match each student's interests, strengths and future aspirations.

Exploring Other Providers

We fully support students who wish to explore opportunities at other sixth forms, colleges and training providers. We would encourage students to attend open events **without compromising their current Year 11 studies wherever possible**.

For example, open events at providers such as **North Devon College (Petroc)** typically take place in the evening, meaning that students can attend without missing their timetabled Year 11 lessons, including Period 6.

Support with Next Steps

Choosing what to do after Year 11 can sometimes feel daunting. If your child would benefit from **additional guidance or support in exploring their options**, please contact the Year 11 Pastoral

Team. We are happy to help students consider their interests, qualifications, aspirations and the range of pathways available to them.

Our aim is for every student to leave Year 11 with a clear and informed plan for their next steps, while remaining fully focused on achieving their potential in their GCSE examinations.