

Focus on the Future!

Part Five:

Year 10 Guide to Post 16 options.

Spotlight on.....



Here you can find out about one of your many options when you leave school-
Writtle University College.



What is it Like?

- You can study a wide range of courses including sport, floristry, animal management, equine management, horticulture, agriculture, landscaping, veterinary nursing, conservation and art and design.
- This college has a huge site just outside Chelmsford, free college buses run from Chelmsford town centre to get you to the college site.
- You will study and focus solely on **one** subject
- You have access to a range of extra activities including sports and work experience
- It is one of the largest colleges offering such courses in the county

- Most courses are BTECs and are offered at levels 2 and 3 (some level 1 courses may run each year). They also have a university site and offer degree level qualifications.
- Facilities including a working stables and breeding centre, onsite animals and reptiles, animal hydrotherapy pool, indoor and outdoor sports facilities, onsite agricultural machinery and 133 hectare farm for crop production.

Qualifications on offer:

BTEC and Apprenticeships

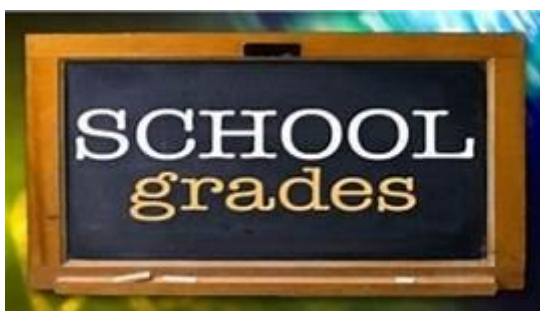
The majority of courses are BTEC although Writtle also offer short courses and apprenticeship training as well as degree courses in their University site.

Your course will be about learning real skills you would need for a particular industry. Your course will be a mix of practical learning and theoretical work.

You are assessed through course work projects and also observations of your practical work. There are still some formal assessments.

'It's all about Me' English and Maths GCSE courses:

If you have GCSE grades 9-4 you will build on those skills as part of your main course of study. If you haven't yet achieved GCSE grade 4 in English and/or maths, you'll attend timetabled English and / or maths class and work towards resitting your GCSE exams.



Apprenticeships:

For some courses, let's say animal care, you could potentially study at college and use their onsite facilities, or you could train via an apprenticeship in a real life kennels, or cattery. There are lots of factors to consider before you decide if an apprenticeship is right for you. We will cover this in more detail soon.

Writtle University College is a provider of apprenticeship training. If you have an employer you can apply to Writtle for the apprenticeship route. This means that you attend work each day and Writtle will deliver the qualification to you based on what you learn at work. You can still apply if you do not have an employer but **you will be expected to have found an employer** before the course starts. I always recommend applying to a full time normal college course as a back-up.

Entry Requirements



The entry requirements can vary depending on what course and what level you start at. As a typical guide, if you start at:

- level 2 you need to have at least 4 GCSES grades 9-3 including English and Maths
- level 3 you need to have at least 5 GCSES grades 9-4 including English and Maths

Some level 1 courses may be offered:

- level 1 you need to have at least 3 GCSES grades 9-1 including English language

Writtle University College are also keen for you to have completed some work experience in your chosen subject area before you start the course!

What could you do after this?



These types of qualifications are especially good to prepare you for the working world.

You will leave this college with real skills you can use in the work place. If you study here, you could progress into employment, a university course, a gap year or a higher or degree level apprenticeship course.

You CAN go to university following one of these courses as long as you have achieved level 3!



How to Apply

1. Be aware of the application deadline. I would recommend applying to this particular college early in the autumn term but you can apply throughout year 11. Be aware that there are deadlines for veterinary nursing – check their website for updates.
2. You normally have an opportunity to go and look around the college on an open event.
4. You can then **apply** using the college application form. This is very simple and takes a few minutes. You can download it and either post it or email it back to the college.
5. You will attend an interview and hopefully be offered a place as long as you go on to achieve the GCSE grades needed.

You are not committing yourself by applying or by attending an interview!

You might change your mind about which course you end up studying and can tell the college of any changes you want to make as early as possible. You may end up going to a different college, but you must apply to give yourself these choices!

How to find out more

- A great place to start looking into this more is the College website:

<https://writtle.ac.uk/>

- For more information on BTEC try these:

<https://www.ucas.com/further-education/post-16-qualifications/qualifications-you-can-take/btec-diplomas>

<https://www.allaboutschooleavers.co.uk/school-leaver-options/college-courses/what-is-a-btec#like-what-you-are-reading>

Quick Round Up:

- A good choice if you want to focus on one area of study.
- A good choice if you already know the industry you want to work in.
- A good choice if you like practical forms of study.
- A good choice if you learn through 'doing' something
- A good choice if you want to study at a large college.
- A good option to explore for careers you may not have considered.

I hope you have found this helpful. Please email me if you have any questions.

I am available on a Wednesday. leaves@ramseyacademy.com

