



COLLEGE AFTER YEAR 11

Your application, your grades, your next step

- **Iford Academy Post 16 Information**

Including Bournemouth & Poole College, Brockenhurst College and other local routes

What changes after Year 11?

College gives you more independence — and more responsibility.

More choice

Vocational courses, A Levels, T Levels, Foundation routes, Apprenticeships, Training and Work.

More independence

You manage your timetable, travel, deadlines, equipment and communication.

More responsibility

Attendance, punctuality, behaviour and effort matter because college is preparation for adult life.

The good news

You do NOT need to have your whole life figured out at 16. Your job is to choose a sensible next step that keeps your options open.

Your support team

Michelle (Careers Advisor) + your tutor/team + college staff can help you compare courses, apply, prepare for interviews and make a back-up plan.

Know your route before you apply

Different routes suit different learners and careers.

College / FE

Practical + academic courses
Levels 1–3 • T Levels • Foundation

Coastland College (Kingston Maurward)

Practical + academic courses
Levels 1–3 • T Levels • Foundation

Mainly focused on animal and outdoor courses

Apprenticeship

Work + study + qualification
You apply for a job as well as training

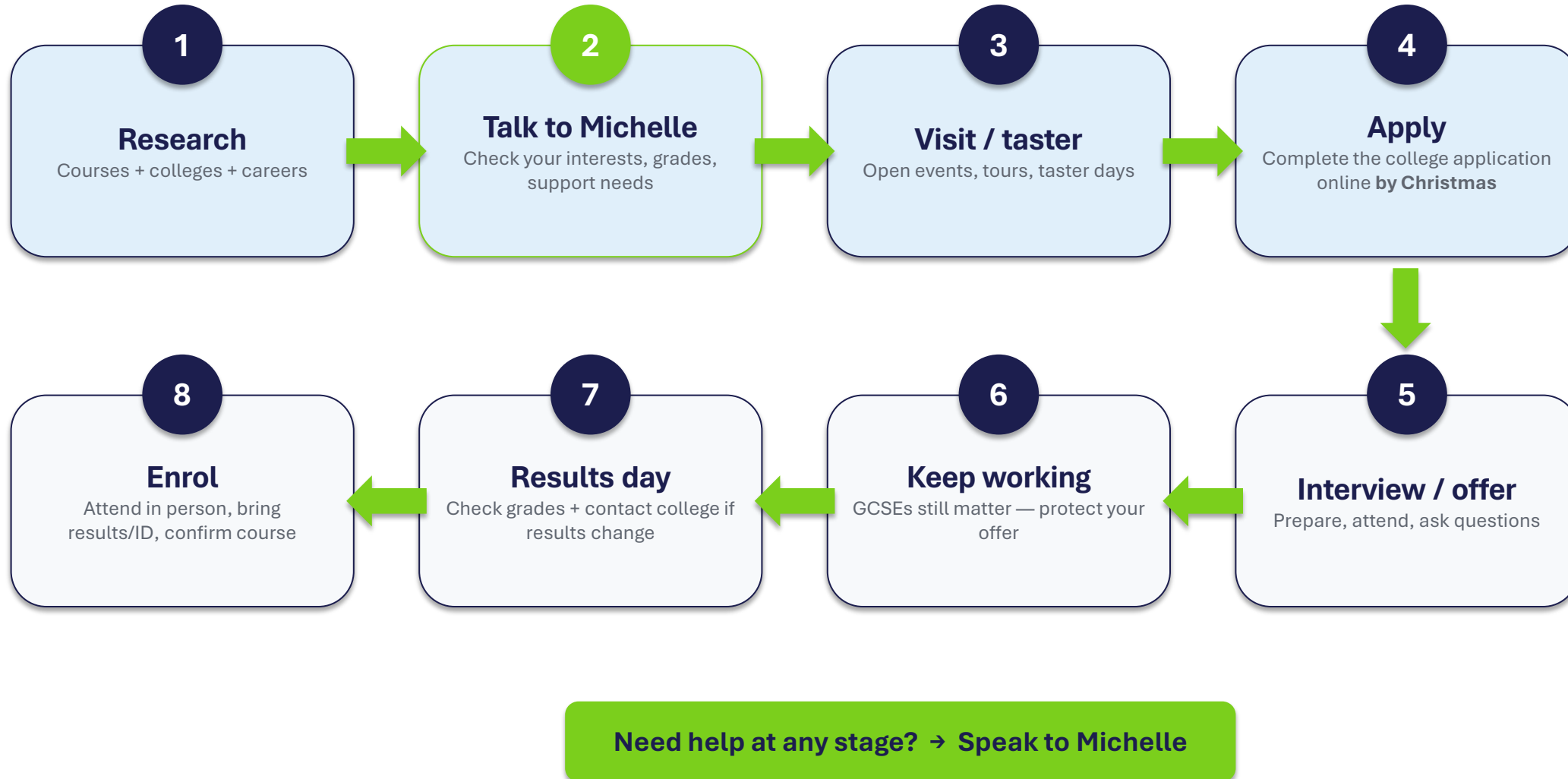
Supported / specialist route

Extra support, independence and transition
Important if you need a more personalised setting

Start with the career you might want → then work backwards to the course and grades you need.

Your Year 11 → College application flowchart

Michelle is the person at Iford who can help you through the process.



Bournemouth & Poole College

What the current process looks like for school leavers.

- 1 Autumn** Applications open in October for the next academic year. Apply early and use your predicted grades.
- 2 Interview** From October onwards: book an interview through your application portal.
- 3 Offer** If successful, you receive an offer by email. Course level can be reviewed after GCSE results.
- 4 Stay engaged** Watch your emails and college updates; attend the new-student welcome event.
- 5 Results day** If grades are different from expected, still contact/attend — the college can discuss alternatives and resits.
- 6 Enrolment** Enrolment is in person; bring your results and photo ID. Your place is not secured until you enrol.

Source: Bournemouth & Poole College application process and enrolment pages (current information checked Sept 2026).

Brockenhurst College (Brock)

A strong local option for A Levels, vocational courses, T Levels and foundation routes.

Apply early

Applications open from September. Brock recommends applying as early as possible; applications after the main window may have fewer course choices.

Interview + offer

Interviews start from October. Bring / have ready predicted or actual grades, recent school information and ID when required.

Freshers' Day

Use the summer transition opportunity to try courses, see the campus and meet staff/students.

Enrolment

In July you get an enrolment appointment/portal. In August you discuss your GCSE results and confirm your programme.

If grades are lower

Do not disappear. Brock says there are alternative levels and specialist advisers who can help you find a suitable route.

Other local options to investigate

Do not assume one route is the only route.

Sixth Form

A local sixth-form option. For 2026 entry, standard criteria included GCSE English and Maths at grade 5+, plus four other GCSEs at grade 4+; some subjects require higher grades. Always check the latest prospectus for your year.

Bournemouth & Poole College – different levels

Level 1: 3 GCSEs including English & Maths at 1–3. Level 2: 4 GCSEs including English & Maths at 3+. Level 3: 5 GCSEs including English & Maths at 4+.

Apprenticeships

You work and study. You need to apply for vacancies, attend interviews and meet the employer's requirements. Start researching early — don't wait until Results Day.

Specialist / supported provision

If you have an EHCP or need extra support, tell Michelle early. Colleges have support teams and some offer specialist foundation/independence programmes.

What grades will I need?

There is no single 'college grade'. Your course level and chosen subject matter.

Entry Level

No fixed grade requirement at BPC; suitability is assessed.

Think: starting point + support

Level 1

BPC: usually 3 GCSEs incl. English & Maths at grades 1–3.

Build skills + confidence

Level 2

BPC: usually 4 GCSEs incl. English & Maths at grade 3+.

Next step toward Level 3

Level 3

BPC: usually 5 GCSEs incl. English & Maths at grade 4+.

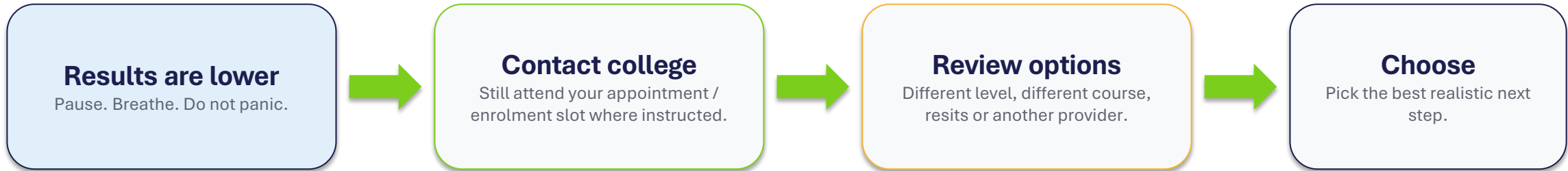
A levels / T Levels / higher vocational routes

Important

Individual courses can ask for higher grades or specific subjects. Check the course page before applying.

What if I don't get the grades?

A lower result is a change of route — not the end of the road.



English + Maths

If you miss grade 4 in English and/or Maths, many colleges can offer resit or Functional Skills routes alongside your programme.

If a course is full or you miss its specific grade

Ask about a related course, a lower level, another college or a later progression route. Do not simply stop attending.

Your Results Day rule

Take your results with you • Have photo ID if asked • Check email/portal • Speak to Michelle if you need help.



College expects you to act more like an adult

Behaviour + attendance are part of your employability.

Attendance

Turn up to every timetabled lesson, tutorial and required activity. Attendance and punctuality are monitored. If you are unwell, follow the college absence procedure.

Punctuality

Plan your journey. Arrive before the lesson starts. A late arrival can mean missed learning and creates a poor professional impression.

Behaviour

Respect staff, students and the community. Follow college rules. Your behaviour on the journey to/from college can matter too.

Phones + independence

College is not school with fewer rules. You are expected to manage your phone, equipment, deadlines and communication responsibly.

A simple standard

Be ready • Be respectful • Be reliable • Ask for help early • Keep going when work is difficult.

Transport: plan it before September

A great course is no good if you cannot get there reliably.

Bournemouth & Poole College

Bournemouth/Lansdowne: buses + Bournemouth Station (about a 15-minute walk). Poole: buses + Parkstone Station (about a 15-minute walk) or a short bus ride from Poole Station.

Brockenhurst College

Train is a major option: services run from Bournemouth and Southampton. Brock also has an extensive bus network and subsidised college/public-service bus passes; bursary support may help eligible students.

Your transport checklist

1. Do a trial journey. 2. Save the route/timetable. 3. Have a back-up route. 4. Budget for fares/passes. 5. Check bursary/travel support.

Be realistic

A long journey can affect punctuality, tiredness and attendance. Tell Michelle if transport is likely to be a barrier — it is better to solve it before September.

What you need to prepare

Start now — not the week before enrolment.

Research

2–3 realistic courses + at least one back-up

Visits

Open events / tours / taster sessions

Interview

Why this course? What do you enjoy? What are your strengths?

Organisation

Check email/portal regularly; save deadlines

Grades

Know your predicted grades and what each course asks for

Application

Personal email address + correct details + predicted grades

Support

Tell Michelle about EHCP/SEND, travel, wellbeing or learning needs

Money

Look into bursaries, travel support, equipment/uniform and other costs

What to expect at college

It will feel different — that is part of becoming independent.

Your timetable

You may have gaps between lessons. You will need to use time sensibly for study, travel between rooms/campuses and appointments.

Independent work

Expect homework, coursework, revision, deadlines and responsibility for asking for help.

Support exists

Tutors, learning support, careers staff and pastoral teams are there — but you have to speak up.

Interview questions to practise

Why this course? • Why this college? • What are you good at? • What do you want to improve? • What are your career ideas? • What support helps you learn best?

Professional habits

Email politely • arrive on time • bring what you need • listen • ask questions • accept feedback • meet deadlines.

Full time course is 3 days a week

YOUR NEXT 5 ACTIONS

1

Pick 2–3 realistic post-16 options

2

Research the course entry requirements

3

Book / attend an open event or taster

4

Speak to Michelle and make a back-up plan

5

Apply early — then keep working for your GCSEs

Michelle — Careers Advisor at Iford Academy — is one of the people who can help you make this happen.

Useful official websites

Use the current course pages and admissions information when you apply.

Bournemouth & Poole College

thecollege.co.uk

Application process • Entry requirements • Travel • Enrolment • Bursaries

Brockenhurst College

brock.ac.uk

Sixth Form • Applications • Entry requirements • Travel • Support & bursaries

Coastland College

[Welcome to Coastland College](#)

Admissions • course requirements • applications

Iford Academy

Michelle.Bradnam@ta.weareauthentic.education

Careers information • school contacts • transition support

Important

Information and deadlines can change. Always check the current course page before submitting an application.