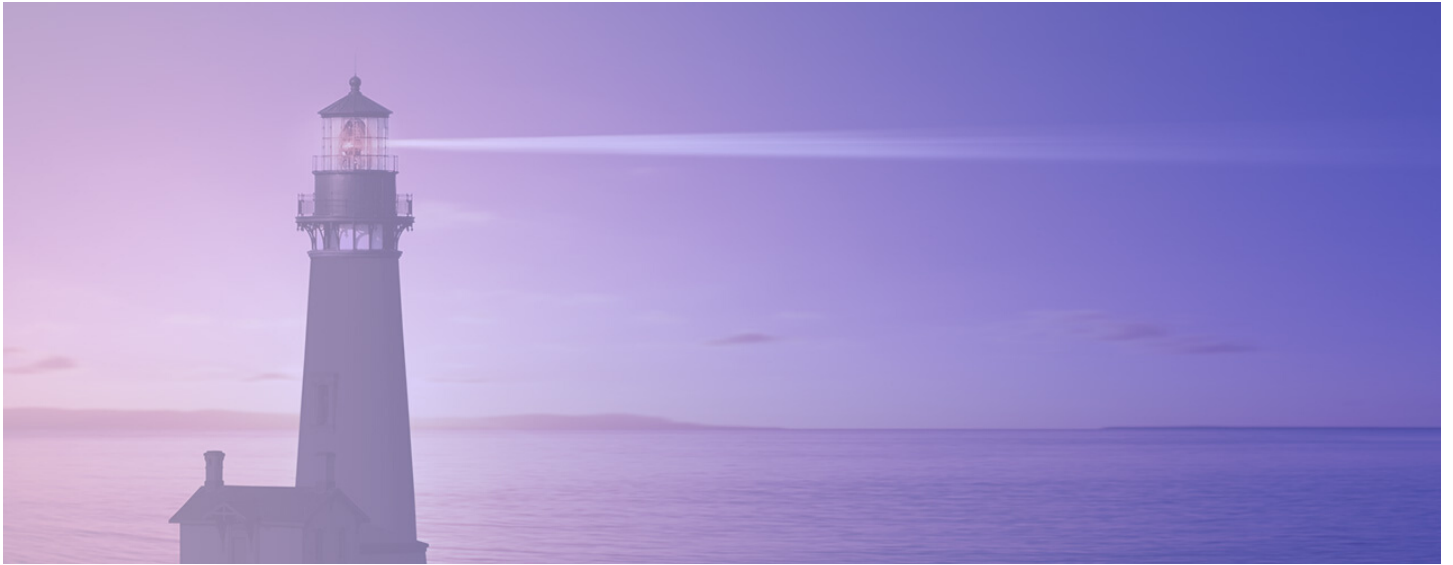




SUMMER TERM, JUNE 2020

# CAREERWAVE BULLETIN

*Independent and impartial career guidance from CareerWave*



## It's not too late to review your plans after Year 11!

*by Richard Allnutt, Director of CareerWave*

So here we are, 3 months since your statutory school education was suddenly cut short. It is also 3 months until the next stage of your career journey begins. A halfway point, if you like. Perhaps, then, this is an apt time to take a brief moment to reflect on the plans you have put in place?

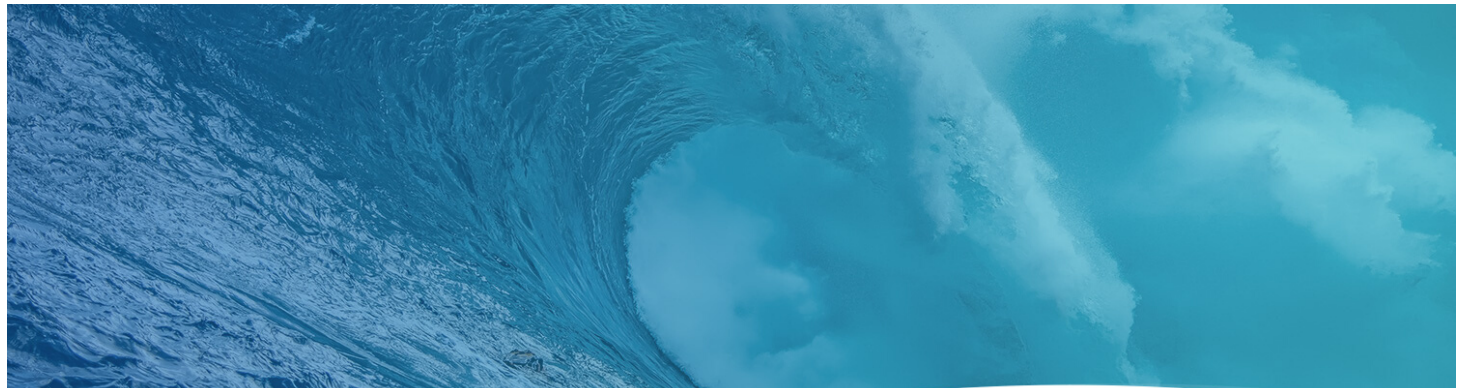
For many this moment of reflection is likely to be pretty brief- a simple question, "Am I satisfied with my choice?" met with a resounding, "Yes." However, for others this brief reflection might lead to more questions and maybe even some doubts. If, and when the doubts creep in, we can be overwhelmed by anxiety and stress. One of the reasons why is because we believe that it is too late to change our minds. Another is because we have been so sure of the choice we made, we have not properly considered the alternatives.

We want to reassure you that **it is not too late and there are always alternatives**. There is also help available. We, at CareerWave, are still here and understand that it is totally natural to have doubts and even completely change your mind. It is a pretty human thing to do really. Our message is therefore this- don't sit around worrying. Instead get in touch, whether that be by email, telephone or through the school. A conversation with your friendly, independent Careers Adviser might just reassure you that you're on the right track. Or it might change your plans for the better!

The CareerWave career guidance offer:

- *Career guidance by telephone*
- *Remote face-to-face career guidance through digital software (with parents present)*
- *Information and advice through e-mail*
- *Access to the CareerWave blog at;*

[www.careerwave.co.uk/insights](http://www.careerwave.co.uk/insights)



## A quick reminder of the main post-16 options

### Academic A-levels

A-levels are almost always taught at sixth forms. They are attached to schools, within colleges or they are stand-alone sixth form colleges.

You might not have considered the difference between a sixth form at a school and a sixth form college. Perhaps you are now thinking you might be better suited to a school sixth form experience? **It is not too late to explore this.**

Or, you might be doubting your A-level choices and want to make some changes. This is really common and switching subjects happens loads, especially after GCSE results day. Fortunately, A-levels are really flexible and lots of Uni degrees, for example, don't have specific subject requirements. **It's not too late to talk about A-level subject choices.**

A quick read of our [A-level article](#) might be enough to be reassured that **there is still time to change.**

### Technical courses

Technical courses are directly related to jobs or wider industries e.g. Bricklaying (job) and Health & Social Care (industry). Colleges offer the most technical options, although sixth forms also offer a few 'industry-wide' Level 3 courses, which can be taken alongside A-levels.

Perhaps you have not considered that Level 3 technicals like Business and I.C.T. can get you to University. **It is definitely not too late to consider a technical course instead of an A-level pathway.** Similarly, it is still possible to change from one technical course to another. **Rest assured colleges are used to dealing with changes.**

### Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Apprenticeships are real jobs and therefore they have to be competed for. This year, the competition will be tougher because the jobs market is taking a hit from coronavirus. However, there are still vacancies and **it is not too late to search for them and apply** using the [Find an Apprenticeship Service](#).

For more information & advice head straight to our website (below).

**I'm not sorted and/or I've changed my mind. What steps do I take?**

- 1. Speak to a qualified, independent Careers Adviser to plan steps*
- 2. Contact the place you have applied to and discuss alternatives*
- 3. Talk through with family and/or friends*
- 4. Read CareerWave's post-16 articles at [www.careerwave.co.uk/insights](http://www.careerwave.co.uk/insights)*
- 5. Write down the pros and cons of the old option and the new idea*
- 6. Apply for alternatives and attend interviews*
- 7. Speak to your Careers Adviser again and weigh it all up!*

**CareerWave is the career guidance company working in your school. During the lockdown, you might need some further support with your career planning. Our website has loads of advice about your options.**

**[www.careerwave.co.uk/insights](http://www.careerwave.co.uk/insights)**

**You can also get in touch at [info@careerwave.co.uk](mailto:info@careerwave.co.uk) or through the Careers Leader in your school**