

A young woman with dark hair and glasses is looking down at a book. The image is framed by a white circular border. In the top right corner, there is a teal background with a white thought bubble containing the text 'What Next?'. Below the thought bubble are three smaller orange circles of increasing size. In the bottom right corner, there is a white box containing the school's logo and name, and a purple banner with the slogan 'CREATE Excellence Together'.

**What
Next?**

The Post-Exam Survival Guide

 **Sandwell**
Community School

CREATE Excellence Together

What Next?

So, you've received your exam results.
What next?



It's a huge achievement to complete your exams, and now you've got an exciting future ahead.

But what if you didn't get the results you were hoping for?

Don't worry, we've got you covered.

You've still got lots of options, and this guide can help you choose the right one!

 **Sandwell**
Community School

CREATE Excellence Together

Find out what's next after exam results



Get the results you wanted?

YES

Congrats! Do you know what you want to do next?

NO

Don't worry! Do you see yourself working yet?

YES

Great, you'll smash it!

YES

An apprenticeship or training provider can get you hands-on experience as well as a qualification

NO

Are there any courses you'd like to study?

NO

That's okay, you can contact a local Careers Advisor to discuss your options

YES

College, sixth form, or university may be your best next step

NO

Don't Panic! Do you want to pursue your initial plan?

YES

Get networking, consider building your work experience or volunteering

NO

Are there any foundation courses available in relation to your chosen area of study?

YES

A foundation course or funded qualification could help you boost your skills

NO

There are lots of options available - how about earning some money?

YES

Earn while you learn with an apprenticeship!

NO

Read on for more options, support, and contact

Missed out on your Maths or English?

If you just missed out on obtaining a grade 4 or above in English and maths, don't panic there are still plenty of options available to pass these key subjects.

For Maths and English, resitting your exams in these subjects is advised if you haven't achieved a pass (grade 4). There are different options available for how you can study and resit these subjects:

- If you got a grade 3 and will be studying full-time (540+ hours) next year, you'll need to resit the GCSE
- If you got a grade 3 and will be studying part-time (150 – 539 hours), you can take a functional skills qualification instead of GCSE
- If you got a grade 2 or below, you can take a functional skills qualification instead of GCSE
- If you're going on to an apprenticeship, studying Maths and English will be part of your programme



Will resetting my GCSEs affect my future?

Resetting one or two subjects won't completely hold you back. Most schools and colleges will let you study your GCSEs alongside

A-levels for other subjects. You can still progress onto the next level and continue on your planned path.

What are Functional Skills?

Functional skills are a set of essential skills that employers and universities class as essential key skills. These include numeracy,

problem solving, literacy, communication and critical thinking.

How soon can I resit my exams?

Depending on the subject and your situation, you could be able to resit your exams after the beginning of the academic year or in the summer of 2025.

Is there an alternative to resitting my exams in school or college?

A-level 2 functional skills qualification is an alternative to having a GCSE. A-level 2 functional skill qualification is the equivalent to a GCSE grade 4.

What are the benefits of Functional Skills?

- Functional skills are a great alternative as they have less content than a traditional GCSE and can be completed in a faster time.
- They run all year round, unlike GCSEs which only run twice a year and must be sat in an exam centre.
- Functional skills can be taken anytime and even from home.
- They are based on skills that further education providers and employers class as fundamental to success in education or the workplace.

So, there are lots of different options if you didn't pass your Maths or English GCSEs. Speak to your careers advisor to find out more about the options available and the best route of study for you.

**It is never too late
to be what you
might have been.**



Discover what support is available to you

So, what next?

If you're still figuring out the right choice for you after receiving your exam results, that's totally fine.

There's plenty of support out there to help make the decision that bit easier, and it might be closer than you think.

We've rounded up careers support that's available in your local area, which can help you get into employment or training.

Birmingham

Birmingham Careers Service

birminghamcareersservice.co.uk
BCareers@birmingham.gov.uk

BOA

boa-academy.co.uk
info@boa-academy.co.uk

Birmingham Adult Education Service

learnbaes.ac.uk
information@baes.ac.uk

Birmingham Metropolitan College - BMet College

bmet.ac.uk
ask@bmet.ac.uk

Fircroft College

fircroft.ac.uk
enquiries@fircroft.ac.uk

Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College

jcc.ac.uk
info@jcc.ac.uk

Queen Alexandra College

qac.ac.uk
info@qac.ac.uk

South & City College Birmingham & University Centre

sccb.ac.uk
hello@sccb.ac.uk

Dudley

Dudley Connexions

connexionsdudley.org
connexions@dudley.gov.uk

Dudley Adult Education Service

dudley.gov.uk/residents/learning-and-school/adult-and-community-learning/
acl@dudley.gov.uk

Dudley College of Technology

dudleycol.ac.uk

Halesowen College

halesowen.ac.uk
info@halesowen.ac.uk

Kidderminster College

kidderminster.ac.uk
enquiries@kidderminster.ac.uk

King Edward VI College, Stourbridge

kedst.ac.uk
reception@kedst.ac.uk

Coventry

Careers Advice Shop

cw-chambertraining.co.uk

Job Shop

coventry.gov.uk/jobshop
jobshop@coventry.gov.uk

Coventry College

coventrycollege.ac.uk
hello@coventrycollege.ac.uk

Hereward College

hereward.ac.uk
enquiries@hereward.ac.uk

NWSLC - North Warwickshire and South Leicestershire College

nwslc.ac.uk
enquiries@nwslc.ac.uk

Sandwell

Sandwell Connexions

connexionssandwell.co.uk
sandwell_connexions@sandwell.gov.uk

Sandwell College

sandwell.ac.uk
enquiries@sandwell.ac.uk

Think Sandwell

sandwell.gov.uk/think-sandwell/
help-finding-work
enquiries_recruitment@sandwell.gov.uk

Solihull

Solihull for Success

 solihullforsuccess.com/job-seekers-home

 employmentteam@solihull.gov.uk

Solihull College & University Centre

 solihull.ac.uk


 enquiries@solihull.ac.uk

National

National Careers Service (NCS)

 nationalcareers.service.gov.uk


Youth Employment UK


 youthemployment.org.uk/careers-advice-help/

 info@youthemployment.org.uk

Walsall

Walsall Works

 go.walsall.gov.uk/walsall-works

 WalsallWorks@walsall.gov.uk

Walsall College


 walsallcollege.ac.uk

 info@walsallcollege.ac.uk

Wolverhampton


Wolverhampton Connexions

win.wolverhampton.gov.uk/kb5/wolverhampton/directory/service.page?id=kcTvb8XMiso&adultchannel=1


 connexions@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Wolves at Work

wolvesworkbox.com/directory/organisations/wolves-at-work.html#:~:text=Free%2C%20one-to-one,employer%20page%20for%20more%20details

 wolvesatwork@wolverhampton.gov.uk

City of Wolverhampton College

 wolvcoll.ac.uk

mail@wolvcoll.ac.uk

If you need any further support and guidance from school. You can contact the following people:



Daniel Westwood
dwestwood@sandwelcs.org.uk M: 07517830682

Levi Myers
Lmyers@sandwelcs.org.uk M: 07842319952

Emma Dixon-Reid
Personal Advisor
T: 0121 569 2955 M: 07855040018
E: **emma_dixonreid@sandwell.gov.uk**

Michelle Wood
Connexions Personal Advisor
T: 0121 569 2955
M: 07855 037 425
E: **michelle_wood@sandwell.gov.uk**

