

Support for GCSE results day

Many congratulations if you got the results you wanted in your GCSEs!

But if things didn't go according to plan or you've changed your mind about what you want to do next, don't panic. There are many options open to you.



The options available

Have a look at the ideas below to help you think about what's best for your next step. No one option is better than another; it's all about deciding what's best for you personally.

You could also combine one or two ways forward, for example re-taking some GCSEs and working or volunteering part-time to get experience of the world of work.

Have a think about:

- continuing with your studies at a 6th form or further education college – perhaps by taking a level 3 qualification such as A-levels or a vocational (job-related) qualification such as a BTEC?
- getting an apprenticeship ^[1] – a job with training – learning while you're earning. These are offered at intermediate and advanced level for students with GCSEs. There are increasingly opportunities in the health sector in areas such as:
 - business administration ^[2]?
 - healthcare assistant/clinical support/therapy support worker ^[3]?
 - healthcare science ^[4]?
 - finance ^[5]?
 - IT ^[6]?
 - pharmacy technician ^[7] and pharmacy assistant ^[8]?

The availability of apprenticeships depends on where you live so check out the National Apprenticeships ^[9] and NHS Jobs ^[10] websites.

- getting a paid job either full-time or part-time. For example, there are often vacancies in office-based roles and sometimes roles where you'll have direct contact with patients. Look out for apprenticeships too; many of these are aimed at students leaving full-time education
- re-taking one or more of your GCSEs if you want or need to try and improve your grades?
- consider volunteering which is a great way to try something out, learn new skills and gain experience ^[11]

Support and advice

There's plenty of advice available for you at this key time. Here are some ideas:

- Contact your school or college to discuss re-taking GCSEs, or your options if there's a 6th form.
- Find out from your local further education college about courses at level 3, including general education courses (such as A-levels) and vocational (job-related) courses such as BTEC and RSA.
- Visit the [National Apprenticeship Service website](#) to find out about apprenticeships, what they involve and what you can get out of them, and to search for apprenticeship vacancies.
- Get in touch with the [National Careers Service](#) on 0800 100 900 or have a web-chat with them. Impartial advisers are available from 8am to 10pm daily.
- If you're ready to look for a job or apprenticeship, the [NHS Jobs website](#) could have just the thing. Have a look at our [Explore roles pages](#) too for information about different roles in health.
- And you can call us - Health Careers - too on 0345 60 60 655 or email advice@healthcareers.nhs.uk to find out more about career options in the health sector. We're available on week days between 9am and 5pm.

Good luck!

Whatever you decide, good luck, and #BeTheDifference!

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Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/news/support-gcse-results-day>

Links

- [1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/secondary-school-or-fe-college/apprenticeships-traineeships-and-cadet-schemes>
- [2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/administration>
- [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/clinical-support-staff>
- [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/clinical-support-staff/healthcare-science-assistant-and-associate>
- [5] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/corporate-services/finance-staff>
- [6] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/health-informatics/information-and-communication-technology>
- [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/pharmacy/pharmacy-technician>
- [8] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/pharmacy/pharmacy-assistant>
- [9] <https://www.getingofar.gov.uk/>
- [10] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>
- [11] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/secondary-school-or-fe-college/gaining-experience>
- [12] <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>
- [13] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/Explore-roles>
- [14] <mailto:advice@healthcareers.nhs.uk>
- [15] https://twitter.com/alan_simmons?lang=en
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