Introduction

Choosing the right course

With such a wide range of different courses to choose from, how can you find out which type of qualification would best suit your interests, career plan and learning style? Take a look below to see which type of qualification would be best for you.

Competition for places on courses is high, so you can't wait until you get your GCSE results to decide. If you are unsure, you can apply for more than one course. You will then have the opportunity to attend an interview for those chosen areas to help you make a decision. When you come to the College for your interview, we will consider your predicted grades and discuss the qualification that would be right for you. The qualification guide on page 7 will also help you find out which level you should start at.

AS & A Levels

If you are planning to go to university, but want to keep your career options open, A Levels would be the best choice for you. You'll have the opportunity to study the subjects you choose in greater depth through academic and private study, and most of your assessment will be through exams.
Most students select four AS Level subjects to study in the first year, if successful, they will progress to complete three full A Levels in Year two (sometimes called A2). For more information about A Levels, turn to pages 32-37.

Vocational Courses

For those of you who are interested in a specific field, or have a clear career path in mind, a vocational course will set you in the right direction towards employment or university. These nationally recognised qualifications place more emphasis on practical skills and are assessed through work-related assignments. The new BTEC Diplomas are defined by the Qualifications and Credit framework. You will see throughout this prospectus various vocational options. The available levels for BTEC are: Award, Certificate, Subsidiary Diploma and Extended Diploma, the Extended Diploma is equivalent to 2-3 A-Levels.

Foundation learning programmes

You don't need any formal qualifications to enter a course at Foundation Level. If you need some extra support with your studies, or work best within a smaller group, our Foundation and Entry Level courses would be suitable for you. You will have the opportunity to develop numeracy, literacy, ICT, social and personal skills, and progress towards higher level qualifications.

Apprenticeships

If you are interested in combining study with quality experience in the workplace, an Apprenticeship would be the qualification for you. You will have the opportunity to earn a wage while learning relevant skills for your profession. Apprentices either divide their time between the workplace and College, or complete their Apprenticeship 100% in the workplace. An Advanced Apprenticeship can also open the door to Higher Education. For more information about Apprenticeships, turn to pages 60-62.

Qualifications I already have, or I am currently studying for:	The level of course I should apply for, and the qualifications I could achieve:
• No qualifications	**Entry Level** • Certificates • Awards • Diplomas (vocational component of Foundation Learning)
• GCSEs Grades E-G • Entry Level Certificates, Awards and Diplomas	1 **Level 1 - Foundation** • Diplomas (vocational component of Foundation Learning) • Awards • Certificates
• GCSEs Grade D • Level 1 Certificates, Awards, and Diplomas • NVQ Level 1 • Foundation Certificate • Introductory Diploma	2 **Level 2 - Intermediate** • Diploma • Extended Certificate • Certificate
• GCSEs Grades A*-C • NVQ Level 2 • BTEC First Diploma • New Diploma at Level 2	3 **Level 3 - Advanced** • Extended Diploma • Diploma/New Diploma • Subsidiary Diploma • Certificate • AS/A2 Qualification
• Extended Diploma • Diploma • Subsidiary Diploma • Certificate • AS/A2 qualifications • BTEC National Award/Certificate/Diploma • New Diploma at Level 3	4 **Level 4-8 Higher Education** • Foundation Degrees • BA/BSc.(Hons) • Professional Studies

Higher Education

The College offers a range of Higher Education courses that complement our range of Further Education courses. All our Degree programmes are awarded by the University of Surrey. Students applying for our Level 3 courses may also be accepted onto the **Degree Academy**.