

Professional Pathways: *For students who already have a particular professional ambition, the Professional Pathways Programme offers bespoke specialist support to ensure they are best informed and prepared to progress in these highly competitive professional careers.*

Our Professional Pathways are built around five key components:

- Appropriate A-level subject choices
- Work experience placements with prestigious companies
- A tailored EPQ to develop sector-specific skills and knowledge
- Talks by academics and industry professionals
- Pathways mentor to support your preparation to successfully progress into the profession

Pathways Available	Course Content <i>A-level subjects Pathway students study</i>
Law	Law
Finance & Accounting	Maths and either Economics or Business Studies
Teaching	A national curriculum subject, preferably two
Healthcare	Biology or Applied Science
Architecture	Maths and either Art or Graphics
Marketing, PR & Advertising	A design or communication subject <i>e.g. Graphics, Media, English</i>
Academic Athletes	Physical Education
Professional Writing	English Literature, English Language or English Lang/Lit Combined
Social Work	Sociology, Philosophy & Religion or Health Studies

Where are they now?

Professional Pathway students choose between entering the world of work directly after their A-levels or continued study in their chosen field at university. The additional experience, insight and qualifications they receive through the Professional Pathways Programme enhance their applications in these very competitive fields.

Learning beyond the classroom:

Work experience will be arranged to suit the employer(s) and the student. It could be that both are happy with little and often e.g. an afternoon per week throughout the year.

Sometimes, the better experience is to be gained through two weeks full time during the college holidays. Students' timetables are configured so that they can gain experience either way, whichever suits their pathway best.

Professional mentors may be ex-Winstanley students already in the career of choice or local experts who volunteer to support our students. They may meet face to face only or have a largely online relationship depending upon the mentor's location and Pathway student's needs. The mentor will advise and coach the student through making their career choices and other decision making.

Careers advice is vital and all students will receive one to one, face to face advice sessions with our Careers Manager. They will also receive support and preparation for sector-specific aptitude tests and complete questionnaires to help them decide on the best route forward for them.

Moving Up from GCSE:

Students may already be very well informed about what's required for them to fulfil their dream, but this isn't vital. Following a Professional Pathway is about finding out if the reality of this career is right for you; indeed on completing the Pathway, some students change their mind and pursue a different direction altogether.

No previous work experience is necessary but you should have a genuine interest in the career pathway and be prepared to demonstrate that passion and insight at your Professional Pathways interview.