

HOW TO TALK ABOUT T LEVELS

A guide to introducing and sharing information about T Levels with your students, staff, parents and governors.



T-LEVELS

THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

A NEW CAREER-FOCUSSED ALTERNATIVE TO A LEVELS



V4 April 2023



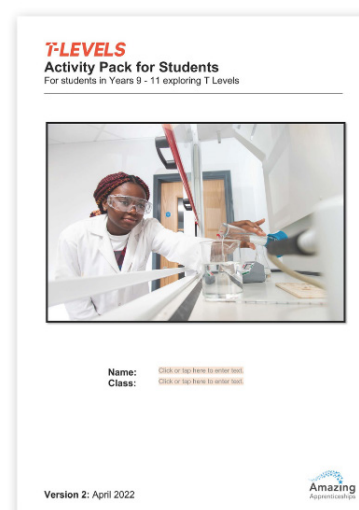
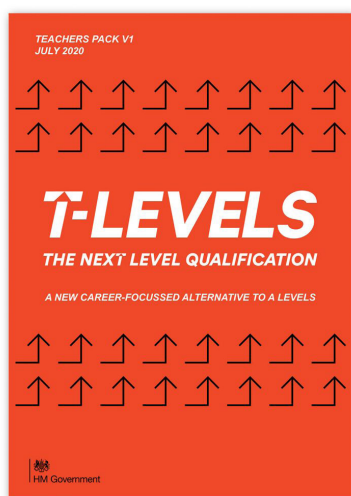
HM Government

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide has been written to support Careers Leaders, Senior Leaders and any other person with responsibility for introducing and sharing information and awareness about T Levels with your students, staff, parents and governors.

What's included?

The guide forms part of a digital-toolkit for schools and colleges, which includes:



- ↑ Teacher's Guide to T Levels
www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-levels-resources-for-teachers-and-careers-advisers
- ↑ 3 x Staffroom posters
www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-levels-resources-for-teachers-and-careers-advisers
- ↑ Student T Level Activity Pack
www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-levels-resources-for-teachers-and-careers-advisers



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SECTION 1
Establishing
Readiness



WHAT ARE T LEVELS AND WHY SHOULD WE BE TALKING ABOUT THEM?

WHAT ARE T LEVELS?

T Levels are a 2 year qualification choice that follow GCSEs and give students a head-start towards the career they want. They are aimed at post-GCSE students and should be positioned as a high-quality alternative to A levels, apprenticeships, traineeships or any other post-16 option.

T Levels are based on the world's best technical education systems and are part of government reforms to help address the skills gap and provide a clear range of options after GCSE. The courses were developed with leading employers to ensure that young people gain the knowledge and skills that businesses need.

T Levels are based on the world's best technical education systems

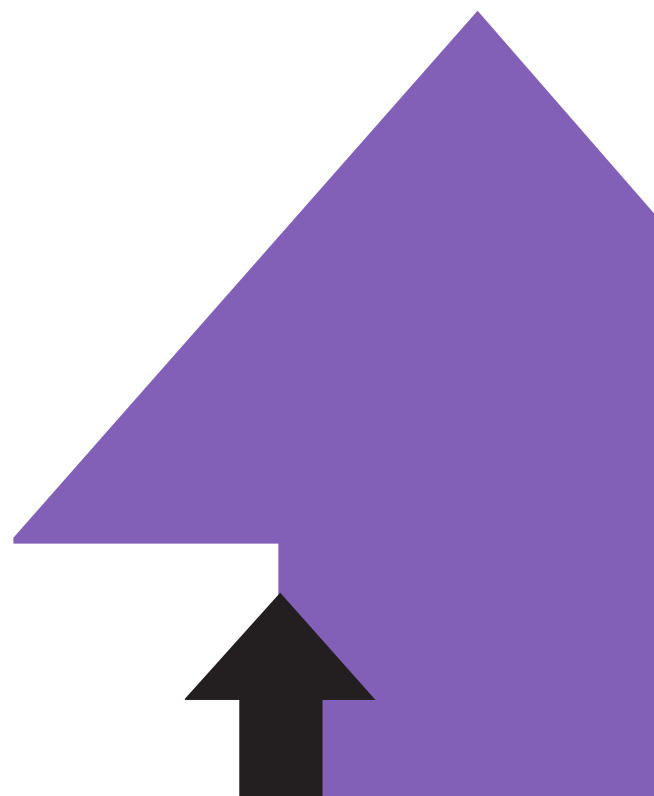
A T Level is equivalent in size to 3 A levels and will attract UCAS points. They combine learning environment study (80%) with a substantial industry placement (20%) and will support young people to progress into an entry-level skilled job, a higher apprenticeship or on to further study, including at university.

The vision of the government is that T Levels will become the option of choice for the majority of 16-18 year olds who want to progress into skilled employment or onto higher levels of technical education.

WHO IS OFFERING T LEVELS?

The first 3 T Level courses launched in September 2020 at 43 selected colleges, schools and independent training providers across England.

The rollout continues until September 2023 when over 20 T Levels will have launched in a greater number of providers. From 2024 it is expected that T Levels will be a mainstream technical education offer for students across England.



WHAT ARE T LEVELS AND WHY SHOULD WE BE TALKING ABOUT THEM?

WHICH STUDENTS ARE THEY BEST SUITED TO?

T Levels will suit those students who know the industry or area of work they want to pursue for a career, and like the idea of a predominantly learning environment based course but with a strong practical emphasis and time in the workplace. They differ from apprenticeships which are predominantly work-based and focussed on a particular occupation; and A levels which are academic and entirely classroom or learning environment based.

Since a T Level is equivalent to 3 A levels in size, it is important to recognise the amount and rigour of learning involved. For students who need extra support before starting a T Level, there is a 1 year transition programme.

T Levels will suit those students who know the industry or area of work they want to pursue for a career

WHY SHOULD WE BE TALKING ABOUT THEM?

Not only is it the right thing to do to ensure that your students understand all of the options available to them post-16, it is also a legal requirement. Through responsibilities placed on schools through the Baker Clause and also the statutory guidance of the Careers Strategy¹ set out by government in October 2018, all students should receive access to high-quality, impartial information about all of their options, and this now includes T Levels.

1 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/748474/181008_schools_statutory_guidance_final.pdf



EVALUATING YOUR STARTING POINT

One of your first activities will be to gather in as much information as possible about the local area and planned T Level provision so that you can understand the current context for your establishment.

For example, if you are in an area where there is currently a high level of T Level provision, the urgency to ensure that your staff, students and their families are informed about these options will be higher than if you are in an area where provision is still being rolled-out. You will need to adapt the information that you provide to your students, staff and parents as appropriate to your local situation.

There are two evaluations that you could conduct for your school:

1. Evaluate T Levels as part of your local post-16 offer.
2. Evaluate your readiness to provide high-quality, impartial information about T Levels.

By completing these two evaluations, you will be able to evidence and explain why you have selected and planned the relevant activities for your establishment, and to demonstrate how you intend to build on and increase awareness in the coming months and years as the rollout of T Levels increases across the country.



ACTIVITY 1: EVALUATE T LEVELS AS PART OF YOUR LOCAL POST-16 PROVISION

T Levels are being rolled out across the country in a phased approach, both in terms of courses available and the number of providers offering them. This means that not every school in England will have immediate access to the full range of T Levels in their local area. It will take time for the offer to grow and for the full availability of courses to rollout.

The availability of provision will affect how you approach T Level awareness with your students and the priority that you apply to different year groups and activities.

Use the steps below to self-evaluate your school's current position.

STEP 1: Visit the government T Level website and use the postcode finder service to find your nearest T Level provider and the courses they offer:
<https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/find>



Enter your school/college full postcode and select: 'All T Level courses' from the menu.

FIND YOUR NEAREST T LEVEL

Search for colleges and schools who start delivering T Levels in 2020 and 2021

All T Level courses
▼

STEP 2: View the results.

They will show local providers offering T Levels and whether they have already commenced delivery, or are due to commence delivery.

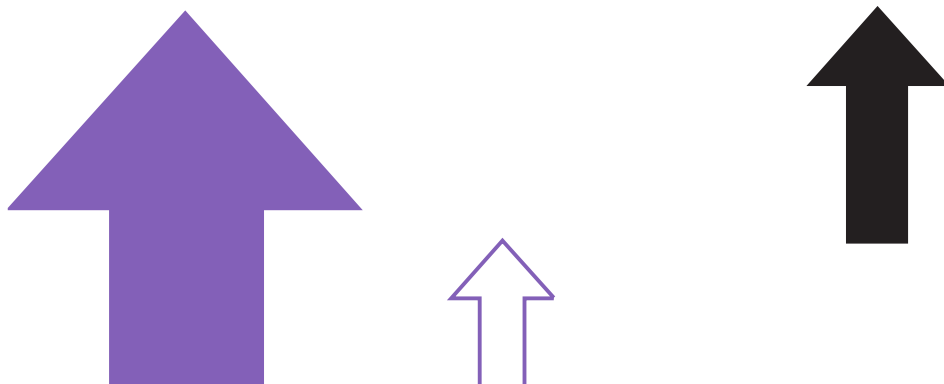
ACTIVITY 1: EVALUATE T LEVELS AS PART OF YOUR LOCAL POST-16 PROVISION

STEP 3: Use the grid on page 11 to make a note of who your local T Level providers are and which courses are available.

STEP 4: Evaluate the information that you find to establish your current local situation.

We have:

- A) No local provision
- B) Some local provision
- C) A broad range of local provision



ACTIVITY 2: RECORD YOUR LOCAL PROVISION

Use this grid to make a note of who your local T Level providers are and which courses they are offering.

Local providers	Available T Level programmes														2024	2025	Planned							
	Design, surveying & planning	Digital (Production)	Education & Early Years	Building services	Onsite Construction	Digital Support Services	Digital Business Services	Healthcare Science	Health	Science	Accounting	Design and development for engineering and manufacturing	Finance	Maintenance, installation and repair for engineering and manufacturing	Management and administration	Engineering, manufacturing, processing and control	Agriculture, land management and production	Legal Services	Animal Care & Management	Hairdressing, Barbering and Beauty Therapy	Craft and Design	Media, Broadcast and Production	Marketing	Catering

The full list of providers who are currently, or will be offering T Levels is on the government website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/providers-selected-to-deliver-t-levels>



This does not break down by sites or different providers within groups, but might give you an idea of the next level of rollout.

TOP TIP

If you search for T Level providers and the closest ones are still too far away to be a viable option for this year, it is very likely that your local providers will start offering T Levels in the coming years. Remember, you still have a statutory duty to be informing your students about T Levels. However, you may prefer to focus this information on the year groups that are more likely to be able to access these courses in the future.

ACTIVITY 3: EVALUATE YOUR READINESS TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY, IMPARTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT T LEVELS

Whilst conducting the evaluation of the availability of T Level provision in your local area (activities 1 and 2), it is useful to simultaneously evaluate your school/college's readiness to provide high-quality, impartial information about T Levels, so that you are realistic in your plans and open to identifying where further activities could be required.

Use the table below to help you to evaluate your readiness and celebrate the good work that you are already undertaking in talking about T Levels with your students, staff, parents and governors. This activity will also help you to identify the areas where you could develop your response to T Level provision over time.

How to use this tool

There are 24 questions split into sections covering:

- ↑ Strategy
- ↑ Environment & communications
- ↑ Staff
- ↑ Students
- ↑ Governors
- ↑ Parents and Carers

Each question has space for you to tick whether you feel that progress in this area is **Limited**, **In progress** or **Established**. We recognise that 'Limited' will be inevitable for some where there is no provider nearby or they are only starting to offer T Levels this year.

There are a number of suggested 'Development Activities' that could help to address gaps in your provision, and lastly, a column so that you can indicate priority activities.



ACTIVITY 3: EVALUATE YOUR READINESS TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY, IMPARTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT T LEVELS

	Limited	In progress	Established	Suggested development activities	Priority?
Strategy					
1	Are senior leaders aware of T Levels? Have they formed a clear idea of how they wish to respond to the existence of T Levels and documented this in the organisation's development plan?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit and use the free Education & Training Foundation (ETF) Understanding T Levels programme 	
2	Is T Level awareness part of your CEIAG provision and careers strategy?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read The Careers Strategy, A guide for secondary school headteachers Look at Activity 5: Developing a longer-term T Level approach 	
3	Is T Level awareness being promoted to all stakeholders (students, parents and staff) including face to face and digital / blended activities?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at pages 24-27 of this booklet for 'Helpful Resources' where a number of free resources are identified 	
4	Do T Levels feature as part of the CPD programme for teachers and governors to enable them to build their knowledge and confidence about T Level provision?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Activity 4: Planning T Level activities for summer 2021 and book in an ASK Teacher CPD workshop. Look at Activity 5: Developing a longer-term T Level approach 	
5	Are T Level activities visible beyond stand-alone events and linked to relevant subject areas?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at the Careers & Enterprise Company 'My Learning My Future' resources which link careers to 21 curriculum subjects, many of which include links to T Level courses too. 	

ACTIVITY 3: EVALUATE YOUR READINESS TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY, IMPARTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT T LEVELS

	Limited	In progress	Established	Suggested development activities	Priority?
Strategy					
6	Do you know what T Level provision is currently available in your local area?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Activity 1: Evaluate T Levels as part of your local post-16 provision 	
7	Have extra-curricular opportunities been created for students to explore T Levels? E.g. Guest speakers / external visits?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Activity 5: Developing a longer-term T Level approach 	
8	Do you know what T Level provision is going to become available in your local area in the next 3 years?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Activity 2: Record your local provision 	
9	Do you have strong links with local T Level providers?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Activity 5: Developing a longer-term T Level approach 	
10	Do you know any T Level students that could act as ambassadors for T Levels in your school?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Activity 5: Developing a longer-term T Level approach 	
11	Do you know any T Level employers that could act as ambassadors for T Levels in your school?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Activity 5: Developing a longer-term T Level approach 	
Environment & communications					
12	Is T Level information obvious to visitors to your premises and/or website?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Section 3 of this booklet 'Helpful Resources' where a number of free resources are identified including posters and display screen information. 	
13	Is T Level information included within your school newsletters and/or other communications?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Section 3 of this booklet 'Helpful Resources' where example text is provided 	

ACTIVITY 3: EVALUATE YOUR READINESS TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY, IMPARTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT T LEVELS

	Limited	In progress	Established	Suggested development activities	Priority?
Staff					
14	Do staff know what T Levels are and feel confident in delivering information and advice to support students to consider T Levels?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Section 3 of this booklet 'Helpful Resources' where a number of free resources are recommended. Look at Activity 4: Planning T Level activities for summer 2021 and book in an ASK Teacher CPD workshop. Look at Activity 5: Developing a longer-term T Level approach where a staff survey/poll is suggested. Look at Section 3 of this booklet 'Helpful Resources' where example text is provided 	
15	Do staff feel confident in sign-posting students where to find more information about T Levels?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Activity 5: Developing a longer term T Level approach where a staff survey/poll is suggested. 	
16	Do staff network with local providers of T Levels?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Activity 5: Developing a longer-term T Level approach where connections to T Level providers and utilising the Careers Hub are suggested. 	
Students					
17	Do students know what T Levels are and feel confident in how to explore what T Level provision is available / will be available in your local area?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Activity 4: Planning T Level activities for summer 2021 and book in an ASK Teacher CPD workshop. Look at Activity 5: Developing a longer-term T Level approach where a staff survey/poll is suggested. Look at Section 3 of this booklet 'Helpful Resources' where many free resources are suggested 	

ACTIVITY 3: EVALUATE YOUR READINESS TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY, IMPARTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT T LEVELS

	Limited	In progress	Established	Suggested development activities	Priority?
Students continued...					
18	Do students know where to look to find out more about T Levels?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Section 3 of this booklet 'Helpful Resources' where many free resources are suggested 	
19	Do students have the opportunity to engage students currently on a T Level course about their experiences?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Activity 5: Developing a longer-term T Level approach where connections with local role models are suggested. Look at Section 3 of this booklet 'Helpful Resources' where links to filmed case studies with students are provided. 	
20	Does your school invite local T Level providers and/or T Level employers to engage with students about T Level courses and industry placements?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Activity 5: Developing a longer-term T Level approach where connections with employers are suggested. 	
Parents & Carers					
21	Do parents and carers know what T Levels are and feel confident in how to research what T Level provision is available / will be available in your local area and what this could mean for their child?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Activity 4: Planning T Level activities for summer 2021 and consider which activities might be appropriate for your parents and carers. 	
22	Do you invite local T Level providers and employers to engage with parents and carers about T Levels?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Activity 5: Developing a longer-term T Level approach where connections with T Level experts are suggested. 	

ACTIVITY 3: EVALUATE YOUR READINESS TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY, IMPARTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT T LEVELS

	Limited	In progress	Established	Suggested development activities	Priority?
Governors					
23	Do Governors have a clear idea of how the rollout of T Levels impacts upon the whole-organisation vision?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share The Careers Strategy, A guide for secondary school governors 	
24	Do Governors understand what the local area can offer in terms of T Level provision? Do they feel confident that the school/college's response to T Levels is robust and appropriate to the context?			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at Activity 5: Developing a longer-term T Level approach where connections with T Level experts are suggested. 	



SECTION 2
Starting the
conversation



ACTIVITY 4: PLANNING T LEVEL ACTIVITIES

It is important that students, teachers, parents and carers are informed about the full range of options, including T Levels. The full range of courses will have started by 2023.

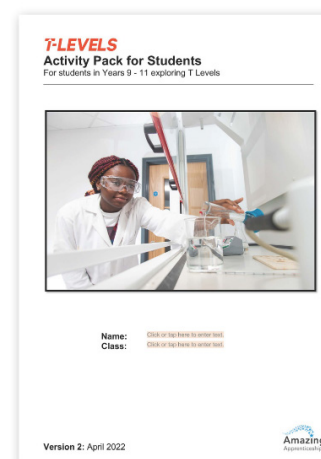
See below for some suggestions of activities that you could organise for students, staff, governors and parents to explore T Levels. Virtual delivery or socially distanced options are also included.

FOR YOUR STAFF AND GOVERNORS

- ↑ Display the 3 x [T Level posters](#) in your staff room(s) - there are 3 so you can change them occasionally to keep it fresh.
- ↑ Circulate the [T Level Teacher Guide](#) to staff and governors.
- ↑ Circulate the [‘What are T Levels’ film](#) to all staff or show it at a staff event and have questions after, maybe using the quiz?
- ↑ Circulate the [T Level quiz](#) to all staff and governors or show the film at an online governors meeting.
- ↑ Organise for a speaker from the [ASK Programme](#) to visit your school (virtually or in-person) to deliver a teacher CPD session about T Levels for your staff and governors.

FOR YOUR STUDENTS

- ↑ Download and display the student [‘Poster Bundle’](#)
- ↑ Download and use the T Level student activity pack with your students in years 9 - 11. This is now available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).



ACTIVITY 4: PLANNING T LEVEL ACTIVITIES

FOR YOUR STUDENTS (continued)

- Organise for a speaker from the [ASK Programme](#) to visit your school (virtually or in-person) to deliver an Awareness Assembly presentation to students so that they can explain T Levels in more detail.

This activity is particularly relevant if you have T Level provision available in the local area and students in year 11 who are considering their options.

- Share the [‘What are T Levels’ film](#) with your students or show them [T Levels website](#) so they can explore for themselves.

FOR YOUR PARENTS AND CARERS

- Ensure that you are [signed up](#) to the Amazing Apprenticeships newsletter. Each month a free ‘parents’ and carers’ pack’ is distributed, and it will contain an article about T Levels in every edition.

Amazing Apprenticeships

HOME RESOURCES ABOUT US NEWS STAFF ONLY CONTACT US SUBSCRIBE

NEWSLETTER

SIGN ME UP

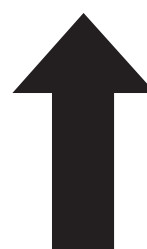
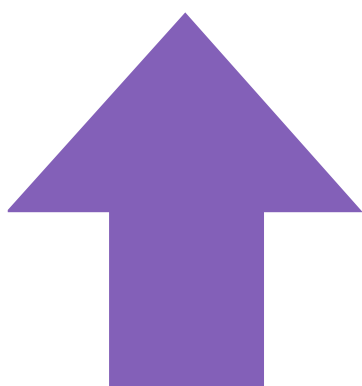
WHY SIGN UP?

If you're wondering why you should sign up to receive the Amazing Apprenticeships monthly newsletter, let us give you our top three reasons...

1. Get the latest information about apprenticeships, including employer recruitment announcements, events, and much more, direct to your inbox.
2. Be the first to know about free apprenticeship resources for teachers, parents and students, downloadable with the click of a button!
3. It's totally free! And if for any reason you want to stop being in the know about apprenticeships, you can unsubscribe at any time.



Links to all resources are provided in Section 3: Helpful Resources, starting from page 24.



ACTIVITY 5: DEVELOPING A LONGER TERM T LEVEL APPROACH

It is useful to consider how you could develop a longer-term T Level approach. The checklist below sets out some ideas for you to consider:

CHECKLIST

- Include T Levels as a distinct strand within your school/college **Careers Strategy**.
- Engage with the **ASK Programme** and book a planning meeting so that you can schedule a range of support activities for students, staff and parents covering T Levels, apprenticeships and traineeships.
- Speak to your Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to plan when it would be appropriate to include T Levels awareness activities into the **staff CPD and INSET programme**.
- Create a **short survey / poll** to circulate amongst staff to gauge their level of understanding of T Levels. This will help you to identify where the gaps are and where you need to prioritise your efforts.
- Establish **who your local T Level providers are** (see Activity 1) and make contact with them. Find out if and when they are holding information sessions, open days, tours and if they would be willing to come in and speak to your students and staff.
- Encourage students and staff to **visit local T Level providers** (you may need to organise a visit) and bring local young people in to share their experience of undertaking a T Level.

Continued on next page...



ACTIVITY 5: DEVELOPING A LONGER TERM T LEVEL APPROACH

CHECKLIST CONTINUED

- Speak to your local T Level providers to **find out which employers** they are engaged with, and if those employers might be willing to visit your school to speak with students and staff. You need to be aware that most industry placements take place in the second year of a T Level so the providers may not have all the placements agreed.
- Speak to your SLT about how you might openly **share information with parents and carers** about local T Level events and activities, for example through newsletters and your website. Can you create a calendar of where and when you can weave this information into the existing communications schedule?
- Engage with your **local Careers Hub** and find out what involvement they have with T Levels providers and if there are any activities that you can get involved in.
- Incorporate your T Level plans into your **Compass recording** (of how you are meeting your statutory duty of working towards the achievement of the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks)



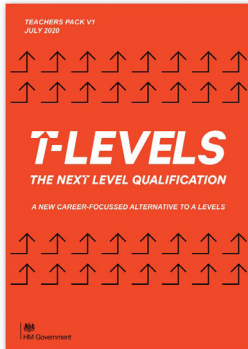


SECTION 3
Resources
and support



HELPFUL RESOURCES

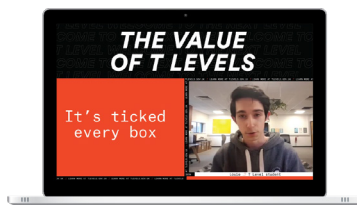
The following pages list a number of resources that will assist you to raise awareness of T Levels with your students, staff, parents and carers and Governors.



The Teacher Guide to T Levels

This 18 page guide sets out the basics that every teacher needs to know about T Levels.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-levels-resources-for-teachers-and-careers-advisers



What are T Levels film

Watch the new T Levels film featuring a wide range of teachers, careers advisers, students and employers. The film is ideal for teachers and careers advisers but is also relevant for students and their parents and carers.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-levels-resources-for-teachers-and-careers-advisers



3 x Staffroom posters

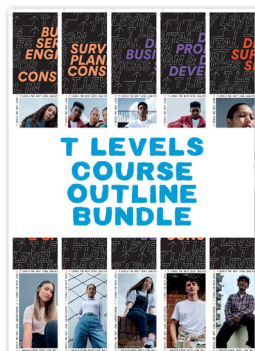
Use these 3 x staffroom posters to prompt discussion and debate amongst your colleagues.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-levels-resources-for-teachers-and-careers-advisers



HELPFUL RESOURCES

The following pages list a number of resources that will assist you to raise awareness of T Levels with your students, staff, parents and carers and Governors.



T Level Course Outline Bundle

A comprehensive bundle of 10 course outlines for the three courses currently available, and the further 7 T Level courses that launch in September 2021.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-levels-resources-for-teachers-and-careers-advisers



T Level Student Ambassador Film - 60 seconds!

This exciting new graphical film presents some of the key facts about T Levels in an engaging and colourful format. Learn about T Levels in under a minute with this film.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-levels-resources-for-teachers-and-careers-advisers



Introducing T Levels to students

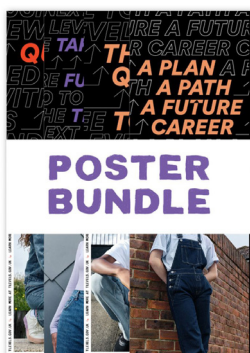
This helpful scripted presentation has been made for teachers to use to introduce T Levels to their students.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-levels-resources-for-teachers-and-careers-advisers



HELPFUL RESOURCES

The following pages list a number of resources that will assist you to raise awareness of T Levels with your students, staff, parents and carers and Governors.



Poster Bundle for Students

A useful set of 4 printable posters aimed at students. The posters could be used in the staffroom, in career rooms or around the school on display boards.

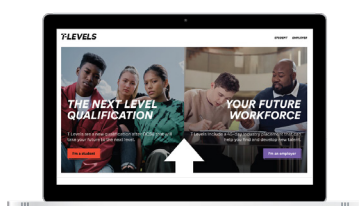
www.gov.uk/government/publications/t-levels-resources-for-teachers-and-careers-advisers



T Level website

Introduce your students and parents/carers to the T Level website which has information about what T Levels are, the subjects available, local providers and courses available.

www.tlevels.gov.uk/students



Industry Placement film

This exciting film presents further insight into industry placements and what a young person might expect when undertaking their placement (20% of their T Level time). Hear what students have to say about industry placements and why they would recommend them to others.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nY0cO97FKqI>



HELPFUL RESOURCES

The following pages list a number of resources that will assist you to raise awareness of T Levels with your students, staff, parents and carers and Governors.



Pre-written Tweets, text and imagery



Pre-written materials produced by the CDI as part of the Stakeholders Toolkit. You can use and tweak this text to provide messaging in your communications.

<https://www.thecdi.net/T-Levels>



Free school and college support



The Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools and Colleges Programme (ASK) is available to every educational establishment in England with students in years 10 - 13.

Through the programme, schools and colleges are entitled to access a free, bespoke support package to transform awareness of T Levels, apprenticeships and traineeships, so that students, parents and carers, teachers and careers advisers, and governors can be informed about the wonderful opportunities available

Schools and colleges may complete the ASK request support form available on the Amazing Apprenticeships website.

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/request-support>



STAYING INFORMED

There are a number of ways that you can stay up to date with the latest information about T Levels.

↑ **Follow key accounts on Twitter and Instagram**

@TLevels_govuk

@AmazingAppsUK

↑ **Subscribe to receive newsletters and updates**

Amazing Apprenticeships newsletter

Visit: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/newsletter>

↑ **T Level website**

Official information on T Levels, plus how to find your nearest T Level provider.

Visit: www.tlevels.gov.uk

T-LEVELS STUDENT EMPLOYER

THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION
T Levels are a qualification after GCSE that will take your future to the next level.
I'm a student

YOUR FUTURE WORKFORCE
T Levels include a 45-day industry placement that can help you find and develop new talent.
I'm an employer

