

Welcome...

This factsheet provides a range of information to help support your son/daughter in making some important decisions after the age of 16 about their education, future training or work.

What happens in Year 11?

In Year 11, your son/daughter will need to decide what they want to do when they leave school.

Staying on in education – going into 6th form or college. There's a wide range of courses to choose from including A levels, BTECs, The Diploma, or GCSEs. Find out as much as you can about the schools and colleges that offer the courses your son/daughter likes by reading their prospectuses and going to open days.

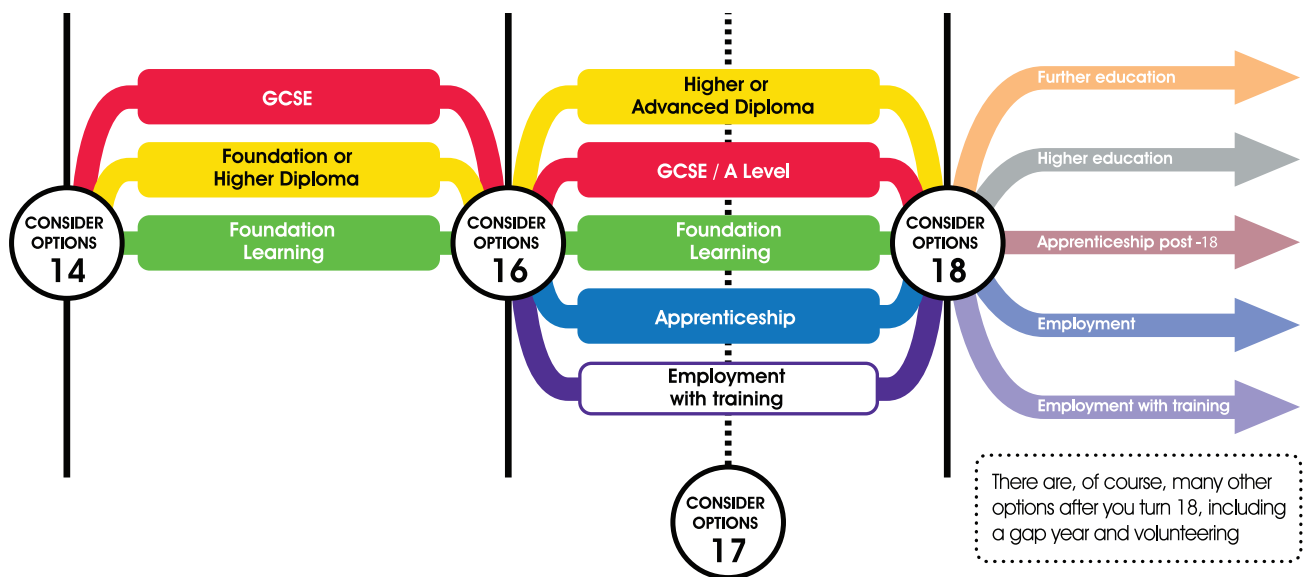
Work and Training – There are a range of work-based learning programmes available if your son/daughter wants to continue their learning in a work environment.

- **Entry to Employment (e2e)** - This programme is aimed at young people who are not quite ready to start an Apprenticeship and may need extra support to develop their skills and confidence (this may also be referred to as Foundation Learning in the future).
- **Apprenticeships** - These lead to National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) at level 2, key skills and technical certificates.
- **Advanced Apprenticeships** - These lead to NVQs at level 3, key skills and technical certificates.

Getting a job – If your son/daughter is planning on going into employment, they need to start researching companies. Personal Advisers (PAs) linked to their school/college or based at your local Connexions centre can help with job applications, CVs and interview techniques.

The information on the next page shows the learning routes young people can take from the age of 14, their options at 16 and explains what they mean.

Learning routes for your son/daughter



What do the learning routes mean?

- Higher or Advanced Diploma**
- GCSE / A Level**
- Foundation Learning**
- Apprenticeship**

The Diploma combines theoretical study with practical experience based around a work-related curriculum. It is available at Foundation, Higher and Advanced level (Level 1 - Level 3).

GCSE and A level qualifications are regularly updated to ensure that they remain high quality, relevant and interesting. They can be combined with Diplomas.

This is for learners not ready for a full level 2 qualification and include a mix of learning to suit the individual.

Apprenticeships allow students to learn at work and gain qualifications. The number and range of Apprenticeships is increasing hugely so 1 in 5 will take this route by 2020.



Consider Options
Well before the decision points, information and advice will be critical to guide young people to make the best choice for them in relation to their prior learning. Some students may change paths at 17 because there are more one year courses available after 16.

Some key dates to remember!

From September – The Connexions PA who visits the school will make sure that your son/daughter has an opportunity to find out more about their options in order to help them reach a decision about their next step.

October/November/December – Is an opportunity to research options. Many schools and colleges will have parents evening and open days.

January – Many colleges start accepting applications for courses. In popular colleges, they may start to accept applications earlier.

February – Recruitment for work-based learning programmes begins. Your son/daughter should discuss this with their Connexions PA and how they may apply for suitable vacancies.

April/May – Is preparation and exam time.

June – Official date when your son/daughter can leave school is Friday 24th June 2011.

August – Exam results come out on Thursday 18th August 2011.

Choice is the online e-prospectus for Londoners aged 14-19. Choice helps young people living in London to access details of all free learning opportunities open to them. It also provides a range of tools to help young people consider careers options and plan the best route to achieve their preferred course or profession.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMAs)

These are weekly payments of up to £30 paid for two or three years, directly to young people who continue their education beyond 16 or go into e2e. They may also receive bonuses if they remain on their courses and make good progress.

To qualify young people must:

- live in a household where the income in 2009/10 was £30,810 or less*
- be doing at least 12 hours guided learning on any academic or vocational course at school or college, or be on an Entry to Employment programme.

EMAs will not affect other benefits young people or their families may be receiving. It will be paid on top of any other support provided by the government or any earnings from part-time jobs. For more information phone **0800 121 8989** or visit www.direct.gov.uk/ema.

*The maximum £30 per week will be paid irrespective of family income when doing e2e.

How you can help

- If your son/daughter is considering full-time education, it is important to look around and think about all the options on offer. Remember that your son/daughter can apply to several schools or colleges.
- Make time to go to open days and information events, and meet staff who might be teaching your son/daughter.
- Use the local online 14-19 prospectus to find out exactly what is available locally. Choice (www.mychoicelondon.co.uk) is the online e-prospectus for Londoners aged 14-19. Choice helps young people living in London to access details of all free learning opportunities, training or work.
- Look at different schools and colleges and their learning environments. Find out what is on offer in the way of clubs and other extra-curricular opportunities.

Advice and guidance through the Connexions service

Young people have a lot more options than ever before in their choice of education and/or training at the end of Year 11. Connexions can help your son/daughter by providing:

- Access to a PA who can provide information, advice & guidance
- Advice on a wide range of issues e.g. housing, health, etc and liaising with other professionals on their behalf
- Opportunities and help to identify suitable college/university courses
- Help with preparation of CVs/application forms and arranging interviews for training courses and employment.

Useful links

- www.direct.gov.uk
- www.mychoicelondon.co.uk
- www.parentlineplus.org.uk
- www.parentscentre.gov.uk
- www.gotateenager.org.uk
- www.parentpartnership.org.uk
- <http://moneytolearn.direct.gov.uk>
- www.parentchannel.tv

Where you can access the service

Personal Advisers are based in schools, colleges, youth clubs and Connexions One Stop Shops. To find your local Connexions centre visit www.centrallondonconnexions.org.uk or call 020 7938 8080.

Help is also available from Connexions Direct, 8am – 2am, 7 days a week.

Young people, parents and carers can contact the service by calling 080 800 13 2 19*, text 07766 4 13 2 19 or web chat at www.connexions-direct.com.

(*Calls from landlines are free but the mobile networks may charge. Ask the adviser to call you back).

This information is available in alternative formats, call 020 7938 8080.

If you have any comments on this publication, email: info@centrallondonconnexions.org.uk