

Welcome...

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

Why is Year 9 important?

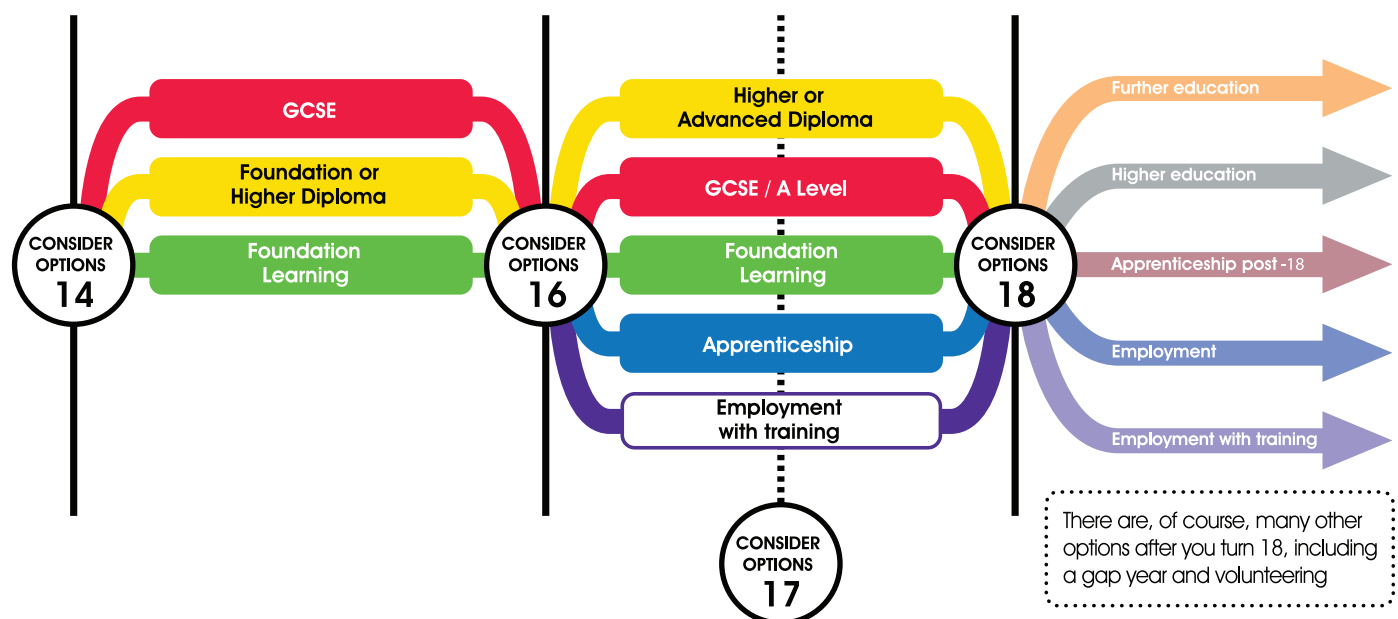
During this academic year your son/daughter will have to make choices about what they want to study in Year 10 and 11.

There are core subjects that everyone will have to take in Years 10 and 11 (such as English, Maths and Science) and other subjects which your son/daughter can choose from. These subjects are usually studied as GCSEs but can also be taken at Entry Level. Entry Level certificates and awards are designed for students who are not yet ready for GCSEs.

Schools will offer different optional subjects and courses for your son/daughter to choose from. It is important for your son/daughter to consider what they are good at, their interest and skills in deciding on what choices they make.

The information below shows the learning routes young people can take from the age of 14 and explains what they mean.

Learning routes for your son/daughter



What do the learning routes mean?

Higher or Advanced Diploma

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 / A Level

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

Foundation Learning

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

Apprenticeship

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

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.

How you can support your son/daughter

- Read the information they get from school
- Check that they know which subjects are compulsory
- Use their local online prospectus to get more information about local opportunities from college courses to training and work. 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
- Make a list of any questions they have about the options that interest them and where they lead
- Talk to the people who can help – their teachers, careers coordinator and Connexions Personal Adviser (PA).

Other helpful information

- During Year 9 there should also be an opportunity for your son/daughter to have an interview with their form tutor or another member of school staff. This will help him/her decide their subjects/courses for Years 10 and 11. They can review the plan to check that they are on track to achieve their subject and career goals.
- A website you and your son/daughter may wish to visit is www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u

Advice and guidance through the Connexions service

Your son/daughter will be able to access a Connexions PA in their school who can help by providing:

- Impartial guidance on subject choice in Year 9
- Advice on the range of post-16 options
- Career ideas
- Additional support to those young people who need it.

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