

# Welcome...

## In this issue...

- Why is Year 9 important?
- So what does your son/daughter need to consider?
- Helpful Information Advice and Guidance through the Connexions Service
- Where to get help

**Your son/daughter is currently in Year 9 and in two years, will come to the end of their compulsory education. As a parent/carer, you know them best and can offer your support and guidance.**

### Why is Year 9 important?

During Year 9 young people must decide between the range of options open to them and make the choice of subjects and courses to take in Years 10 and 11. Choices will vary between schools, but schools tend to produce their own options booklet to help with decision-making. All young people must study a core of compulsory subjects but they will need to make choices between the optional courses available.

Many schools also offer courses linked to a local college, leading to vocationally related qualifications. If your son/daughter has some ideas of which job or career areas they may like to go into, it is important they research the areas. Some careers and post-16 qualifications will require specific entry qualifications. Make sure they are either doing the subjects required or, if they have no post-16 ideas at present, a broad range of subjects to keep their options open.

# 9

YEAR

# factsheet

## So what does your son/daughter need to consider?

When they are choosing subjects for Years 10 and 11 it is useful to think about:

### What they like and what they are good at

If they like a subject, they are more likely to succeed in it. However, they also need to consider subjects that might be required in their future course or career choice.

### Interests and skills

They will want to consider, for example, whether:

- They are practical, creative, caring
- They like helping people, being outdoors, making things

### Course content and assessment

Most GCSEs are made up of examinations and coursework, although the mix of these will vary between subjects. Coursework involves work done over the period of the course. It could include essays, experiments, field work reports and practical work. Learning on some courses might be at a local college. How your son/daughter learns best can affect the choice of some options. In September 2008 the government introduced a new set of Diplomas for 14-19 year olds. These new qualifications combine practical learning with academic study. They do not replace GCSEs, but can be taken alongside a number of GCSEs. For further information visit [www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19).

## Helpful information

Students in Year 9 may also receive, through the school, an information booklet called **Which Way Now?** This focuses on option choices and their career implications. If your son/daughter has not received a copy it can be read or downloaded from

[www.connexions-direct.com/whichwaynow](http://www.connexions-direct.com/whichwaynow).

Or download the Parent and Carers' of Year 9 Students guide from [www.connexions-direct.com/parentcarer](http://www.connexions-direct.com/parentcarer).

Another website you and your son/daughter may wish to visit is [www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u](http://www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u).

**jobs4u** is a useful site for exploring career ideas. It provides information on over 600 jobs, including the qualifications required, salary information and training requirements.

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.

## Advice and guidance through the Connexions service

Young people have more choice than ever before in their education at the end of Year 9.

Your son/daughter will be able to access a Connexions Personal Adviser (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.
- Opportunities to discuss:
  - career ideas
  - post-16 training opportunities and courses, work and vacancies for young people.
- Additional support to those young people who need it.

**mychoice**london.co.uk  
All your options in a click

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.

## Where to get help

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](http://www.centrallondonconnexions.org.uk)

or call **020 7938 8080**.

Help is also available from 8am – 2am, 7 days a week from Connexions Direct. Young people and parents/carers can contact the service by calling **080 800 13 2 19\***, text **07766 4 13 2 19** or web chat/web cam with adviser/secure message board at [www.connexions-direct.com](http://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](mailto:info@centrallondonconnexions.org.uk).