



## A Guide for Parents/Guardians – Supporting young people to make education and career choices



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# As a parent or guardian, you have a significant influence on the career and education choices made by your child.

**A**lthough students will ultimately have to make their own decisions, your encouragement and guidance, during the transition from high school will be helpful as your son/daughter seeks to find their path to career success.

It's a good idea for young people to explore the different education and career options available to them as early as possible.

Whatever your son/daughter wants to do in life, a good standard of education and training can increase their chances of success. Gaining skills and qualifications:

- **Helps them to make the most of their potential**
- **Opens doors to more choice in employment and higher education**
- **Improves their earning power**
- **Leads to greater job satisfaction**

Young people in England are required by law to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 18.

Legally, they can leave school on the last Friday in June if they'll be 16 by the end of the summer holidays. However, by September, your son/daughter will need to be in official education or training.

## These are the options:

- ✓ **Stay in full-time education, e.g. at a college or sixth form, doing A Levels, T Levels or other vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs)**
- ✓ **Start an apprenticeship or supported internship**
- ✓ **Work or volunteer part-time while in education or training**
- ✓ **All teenagers who do not gain a grade 4 or above (previously grade C) in GCSE English and maths are expected to continue studying these subjects until the age of 18.**

## Full-time education

Your son/daughter could study full-time at a school, college or with a specialist training provider.

All study programmes will prepare them for higher level learning and employment and include opportunities for work experience. They could work towards subject-based academic qualifications like A Levels and/or work-related vocational awards, vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) like T Levels, BTEC and others.

You can find a list of providers here: [www.lcrbmore.co.uk/college-university/](http://www.lcrbmore.co.uk/college-university/) and register to use the prospectus function on be-more. Ensure you research the course options and entry requirements of the chosen institution.

Take a look on the school website for the sixth form section that will provide information about the courses available and entry requirements.

You can also search for provision here [www.skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk/](http://www.skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk/) and by checking your local council website for information.





## Apprenticeships

An Apprenticeship will prepare your son or daughter for skilled employment and higher level education and training. They combine high-quality training with paid work.

There are thousands of apprenticeship vacancies on offer, with more than 640 high-quality apprenticeships approved for use by employers, and can help to kick-start a career in anything from space engineering to advertising.

Apprentices work towards qualifications that give them the theoretical knowledge and practical skills they need to do a job well. Your son/daughter should start looking and applying for Apprenticeship vacancies very early in the spring term of year 11, even though they can't start one until after the "official school leaving date" in June.

Utilise the following websites: [www.lcrlbemore-co.uk](http://www.lcrlbemore-co.uk) or [www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)



## Employment with training

Your son/daughter can find employment, undertake voluntary work, become an intern or even set up their own business when they leave school.

However, they'll still need to be doing training or study at the same time that leads to a regulated qualification, like a Vocational Technical Qualification (VTQ). This means that as well as gaining valuable experience, they'll also gain a recognised accreditation that supports their future career.



## Supported Internship

Supported internships are a structured study programme based primarily at an employer.

They enable young people aged 16-24 with a statement of SEN, or an Education, Health and Care plan to achieve sustainable paid employment by equipping them with the skills they need for work, through learning in the workplace. Speak to your local college or school about this pathway and refer to your local council local offer website for more information.

[www.skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk/pages/training-choice/supported-internship-with-an-ehc](http://www.skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk/pages/training-choice/supported-internship-with-an-ehc)



## Getting advice on what to do after school

All state-funded secondary schools must provide independent careers guidance, including appointing a Careers Leader who oversees the careers programme. Ask your school about what careers guidance they can offer.

### Support career exploration



Young people can learn about their strengths and passions by taking a skills assessment.

[www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/skills-assessment](http://www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/skills-assessment)

Explore job profiles and sectors to find out which job they might enjoy [www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers](http://www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers)

Learn about the local economy / labour market - [www.lcrbmore.co.uk/careers/](http://www.lcrbmore.co.uk/careers/)

### Provide Emotional Support



Be supportive and understanding of your child's feelings and concerns about further education. Listen to their questions, fears, and aspirations, and provide emotional support and encouragement throughout the decision-making and transition process.

### Attend Open Days and Events



Take advantage of open days and events hosted by colleges, sixth forms, and universities. Visit campuses together with your child to get a feel for the environment, courses offered, and facilities available.

### Encourage Independence and Responsibility



Encourage your son/daughter to maintain a healthy balance between academic studies, extracurricular activities, and leisure time.

Attendance is important and failure to maintain a place in further education can impact any benefits you might receive.

### Stay Informed and Engaged



Stay informed about your child's progress and experiences in further education. Attend parent-teacher meetings, and encourage open dialogue with your child about their academic and personal development.

### Support the Application Process



If possible, assist your child with the application process. This may include helping them fill out application forms, writing personal statements, and gathering required documentation. Also providing support for interviews or assessment centres.

Ensure your child has a valid email address and understands how to use this. For digital support see the help list below.

If further support is required with applications ensure you request this from the school.

### Understand Financial Options



Familiarize yourself with the financial support available for further education, including bursaries. Check college / sixth form website for information about support available with meals, travel and other costs. [www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund](http://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund)



## Who to contact for support

**National Careers Service** – [www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/](http://www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/)  
Careers information, advice and guidance. Support and advice available online, web chat and via telephone.

**Career Connect** – [www.careerconnect.org.uk/services/careers-support-for-16-25-year-olds/](http://www.careerconnect.org.uk/services/careers-support-for-16-25-year-olds/)  
Advisors will work with young people if they are 16–18-years old or up to age 25 if they have an Education Health Care Plan and not currently in education, employment or training.

**The Careers & Enterprise Company** – [www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/](http://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/)

**LCR Careers Hub** - [www.lcrcareershubs.co.uk/](http://www.lcrcareershubs.co.uk/)  
Liverpool City Region Careers Hub

**LCR Be More** – [www.lcrbemore.co.uk/](http://www.lcrbemore.co.uk/)  
LCR Be More is the website and app for skills and career options in Liverpool City Region.

**Skills for Careers** – [www.skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk](http://www.skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk)

**Apprenticeship Support Centre** – [www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/support-centre](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/support-centre)

**Digital Support** - [www.helpingyouonline.co.uk](http://www.helpingyouonline.co.uk)

- Digital skills training
- Data services
- Helplines
- Digital inclusion hubs

**Local support to secure employment and training**

[www.sthelens.gov.uk/waystowork](http://www.sthelens.gov.uk/waystowork)

[www.liverpoolinwork.co.uk/home/support-and-training/](http://www.liverpoolinwork.co.uk/home/support-and-training/)

[www.seftonatwork.net/](http://www.seftonatwork.net/)

[www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/business/businesssupport/Employer-Support.aspx](http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/business/businesssupport/Employer-Support.aspx)

[www.wirral.gov.uk/jobs-and-training/help-finding-work](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/jobs-and-training/help-finding-work)

[www.knowsley.gov.uk/jobs/help-finding-work](http://www.knowsley.gov.uk/jobs/help-finding-work)

**Local offer websites provide** information for children and young people up to the age of 25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) their parents or carers – all in one place.

1. [www.liverpool.gov.uk/children-and-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/send-local-offer/](http://www.liverpool.gov.uk/children-and-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/send-local-offer/)
2. [www.seftondirectory.com/kb5/sefton/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0](http://www.seftondirectory.com/kb5/sefton/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0)
3. [www.localoffer.haltonchildrenstrust.co.uk/](http://www.localoffer.haltonchildrenstrust.co.uk/)
4. [www.new.sthelens.gov.uk/SEND](http://www.new.sthelens.gov.uk/SEND)
5. [www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk/knowsley-local-offer-send](http://www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk/knowsley-local-offer-send)
6. [www.sendlowirral.co.uk](http://www.sendlowirral.co.uk)

