

How can I help my son/daughter to succeed after Year 11?

IF THEY ARE UNSURE OF THEIR PLANS:

- Contact your local Connexions office or Connexions Personal Adviser to discuss your son/daughter's options; they can give information on options such as Entry 2 Employment (E2E) so that your son/daughter can try out different things. For more help and information, visit: www.where2nxt.com

IF THEY PLAN TO GO TO COLLEGE:

- Make sure they have applied! Many College and Sixth Forms will have deadlines around February / March.
- Most Colleges will interview, and will acknowledge receipt of an application – has your son/daughter received a written offer of a place? They will be invited in for an interview and often an assessment test, usually from February onwards. (Please note that often the assessment tests form the basis of an offer of a college place, and missed or failed tests may result in a place not being offered. Speak to Connexions for practice tests or further information).
- Sometimes a back-up plan is a good idea if a popular college and / or course has been applied for.
- What next AFTER college? It's never too early to start thinking about University – in fact for some Higher Education courses you'll need to make sure that the right college subjects are being studied – visit this website for more help: www.uni4me.com

IF THEY WANT TO GET A JOB:

- Have they already spoken to an employer? If they've been offered a place it's worth confirming this in writing – even if the employer is a family friend.
- Will they receive training, leading to a qualification with their job? If not, speak to a Connexions Personal Adviser about how they can help with this.
- Young people cannot legally work full time until AFTER the LAST Friday in June, even if they have not been at school full time because of exams.
- Have they got a CV? Do they need help with application forms? Connexions Personal Advisers can help with these things – at school and at the Connexions Offices in Salford, Eccles, Walkden and Irlam once your child has left school.
- It can be worth applying for more than one job vacancy – remember that demand is likely to be high.
- Your son/daughter's Connexions Personal Adviser will be taking 'Summer Leaver' Vacancies into school – these jobs can be applied for NOW since the successful applicants won't start working until at least July.
- All Connexions' vacancies are available on the Internet. Visit here for more information: www.cnx2jobs.com

IF THEY WANT AN APPRENTICESHIP:

- Connexions Personal Advisers in school will help your child to apply for these, which are available in lots of different job / career areas.
- These are HIGHLY competitive! So it's vitally important that your son/daughter attends any interviews or assessments.
- Apprenticeships are all about learning and in most cases your son/daughter will earn a wage at the same time. There are over 180 apprenticeship job areas which combine hands-on experience of working, with the opportunity to study for qualifications like NVQ's.
- Some apprenticeships are very popular, and in short supply, so you also need to know when and where to apply, your son/daughter's Connexions Personal Adviser can tell them about what's available locally and also help them with their application.
- Remember to ask friends/family about jobs that they may know about as this is a great way of getting apprenticeships. If you or the employer are unsure about how to set up the training, please contact a Connexions Personal Adviser.
- Remember to consider back-up plans for any of these options, particularly apprenticeships, so that your son/daughter has plenty of choices after GCSEs.
- Visit here for more help: www.connexions-salford.com/work/choicesforwork/apprenticeships