

# Next Steps

What is your son or daughter going to do after Year 11?



- Stay in education?
- Get an apprenticeship or training?
- Get a job?

Practical Advice from Connexions  
for Parents and Carers

connexions

TAMESIDE

## Next steps for parents and carers...

- Did you know that parents are the biggest influence on their children's career choices?
- Do you have all the information you need about the options available after Year 11?
- Do you know how important it is for young people to get the qualifications and skills to cope in this fast changing world?

This leaflet offers some practical advice on how you can support your son or daughter plan their next steps. If you or your son or daughter needs further help please contact Connexions Tameside.

Connexions Tameside is a service for all 13 to 19 year olds (up to 25 for young people with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities). Our aim is to help young people with all the issues that affect the choices they make about their future. Connexions Personal Advisers can be contacted at your son's or daughter's school or at the Connexions Centre.

## Staying in Education...

There are lots of courses on offer including new Diplomas at Advanced and Higher Level. So whatever your son's or daughter's interests and abilities there will be courses they could consider. Colleges have open days or evenings (see [www.connexions-tameside.com](http://www.connexions-tameside.com) for dates). Some colleges have application deadlines in February or March and some courses fill very quickly.

### How you can help

- Talk to your son or daughter about the courses they are considering (see [www.yourchoiceintameside.co.uk](http://www.yourchoiceintameside.co.uk) and [www.greatermanchesterfutures.co.uk](http://www.greatermanchesterfutures.co.uk)).
- Encourage your son or daughter to get an appointment with their Connexions Personal Adviser early in year 11 to talk about suitable courses.
- Make sure they apply to college before any deadline set.
- The next step will be an interview. They must attend this to make sure of getting a place (it can be rearranged). There may also be a 'taster/assessment' day they must attend.
- Check with your son or daughter whether they need to return an 'acceptance slip' once they've been offered a place.
- If they're eligible make sure they apply for EMA before the course starts. Find out more on <http://ema.direct.gov.uk/> 0800 121 8989
- 'Enrolment' is when your son or daughter goes to sign up for their course. This happens in August/early September, usually once the GCSE results come out. Missing this may mean they don't get on the course they really want to do.

## Apprenticeships and training...

Apprenticeships are available in a wide range of job areas. Some are very competitive, eg those for building trades. Being organised with apprenticeship applications is vital – your son's or daughter's Connexions Personal Adviser can help them through the applications process. [www.cnx2jobs.com](http://www.cnx2jobs.com) is useful for information about apprenticeships and the types of opportunities available. If your son or daughter needs support to get into employment they can consider e2e or other forms of training.

### How you can help

- Encourage your son or daughter to get an appointment with their Connexions Personal Adviser early in Year 11 to talk about suitable opportunities.
- Help them to get a cv (curriculum vitae) together (see [www.connexions-tameside.com](http://www.connexions-tameside.com) for examples).
- Make sure applications are made by deadlines. Some applications can be made on-line.
- The next step will be an interview. Help them to think about the type of questions they may be asked. (See [www.connexions-tameside.com](http://www.connexions-tameside.com) for examples). Or ask Connexions for a copy of 'Getting that job'. An aptitude test is often part of the selection process for apprenticeships.
- If they go into training or e2e make sure they apply for EMA before the course starts. Find out more on <http://ema.direct.gov.uk/> 0800 121 8989

## Jobs...

If your son or daughter is thinking about getting a job, it's a good idea to choose a job that offers planned training leading to recognised qualifications (NVQs). Doing a job with training gives them better long-term prospects - employers need workers with skills and qualifications. If your son or daughter has been offered a job, it's worth asking for this to be confirmed in writing – even if the offer is from a family friend. Young people cannot legally work full time until AFTER the last Friday in June of Year 11. This remains the case even if they have not been attending school full time.

### How you can help

- Encourage your son or daughter to see their Connexions Personal Adviser to talk through their ideas and find out what jobs are available to school leavers.
- You can help by showing your son or daughter where to find job advertisements – newspapers, websites ([www.cnx2jobs.com](http://www.cnx2jobs.com) is a useful one to try), and contact employers directly.
- Make sure they have a cv and a covering letter to send to employers. Their Connexions Personal Adviser will help them to prepare a cv and letter.
- Talk to them about the demands of working – the importance of turning up on time, making an effort to get along with other people and being reliable.
- Help them to prepare for interviews – getting the dress code right and thinking in advance about the questions they might be asked is important.

## And finally...

- Your son or daughter can apply for several different opportunities. In fact, Connexions always encourages a young person to have at least one 'back-up' plan, and possible two if they want to do something that is very competitive.
- Connexions Personal Advisers can explain how competitive different choices are.
- Ask for a copy of 'cnx2 your future' Connexions has given a copy to all Year 11 students – it's full of useful information; or download a copy at [www.connexions-tameside.com](http://www.connexions-tameside.com)

## How to contact Connexions Tameside....

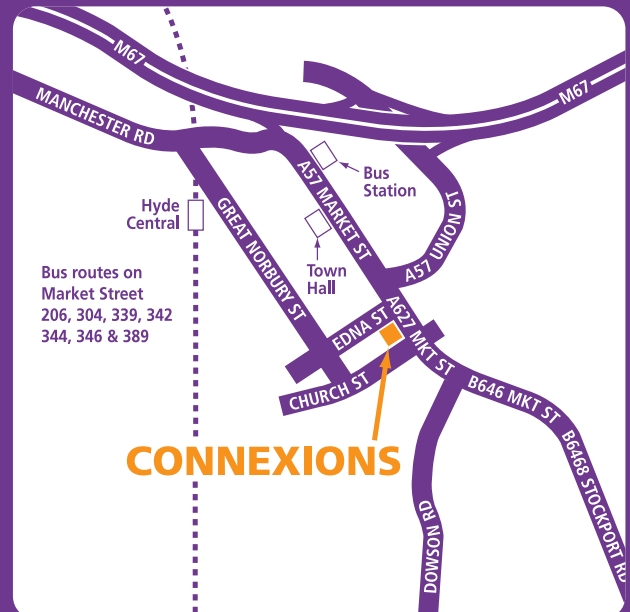
[www.connexions-tameside.com](http://www.connexions-tameside.com)

email: [info@connexions-tameside.com](mailto:info@connexions-tameside.com)

tel **0161 330 1528** (Ashton) **0161 368 1897** (Hyde)



Ashton



Hyde

## Other useful contacts/resources

- Child Benefit <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/>
- 14-19 on line prospectus [www.yourchoiceintameside.co.uk](http://www.yourchoiceintameside.co.uk)
- Apprenticeships [www.nwapprenticeships.co.uk](http://www.nwapprenticeships.co.uk)
- Information on college exam performance <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performance/tables/>
- Diplomas [www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas](http://www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas)