

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

IF THEY ARE UNSURE OF THEIR PLANS:

- Contact your local Connexions Centre or Connexions Personal Adviser to discuss your son/daughter's options; they can give information on options such as Foundation Learning so that your son/daughter can try out different things. For more help and information, visit: www.mycoursemyfuture.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: <http://www.aimhigher.ac.uk/uni4me/home/>.

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 the exams have already finished.
- 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 Centres in Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale once your child has left school.
- It is 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 [cnx2jobs](http://www.cnx2jobs.com) for more information: www.cnx2jobs.com.

IF THEY WANT AN APPRENTICESHIP:

- Apprenticeships are all about learning and 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 NVQs.
- Connexions Personal Advisers in school can tell them about what's available locally and also help them with their application.
- Some apprenticeships are very popular and in short supply - and are HIGHLY competitive! So it's vitally important that your son/daughter attends any interviews or assessments.
- Remember to ask friends/family about jobs that they may know of 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: <http://www.connexions-rochdale.org.uk/work/choicesforwork/apprenticeships.cfm>.