

A Parent/Carer's Guide to Your Child's Future

It's daunting to consider the choices available for young people as they plan the future and decide what will happen once they leave school – there's more choice than ever before. There are many opportunities available to help school leavers reach their career ambitions, and lots of possibilities to explore if they're unsure of what they want to do. Ultimately, it is up to your child to decide what's best for them.

Your child may already have an idea on what they want to do. However, it's still helpful to consider the different choices available in further education and how they may suit your child as an individual. It's crucial to start them thinking about it as early as possible so that they can search for opportunities in plenty of time. Some questions to consider include:

- > Do they have a career in mind?
- > How do I make sure they're prepared?
- > Would gaining practical experience help them?
- > Would they be motivated to work independently?
- > Do they want to stay at home or move away?

Many careers are open to young people regardless of their qualifications. If your child can't decide or changes their mind later that is fine, especially if their chosen career doesn't require certain subjects – so double check the qualifications they may need to get onto a Degree course or an Apprenticeship. It's also important to consider the financial aspects of the different routes to higher education, you can get a degree without debt now! Here's some next steps for you:

- > Take the time to discuss ideas, and start conversations as early as possible
- > Consider all of the available options and decide what best suits them
- > Attend University open days and Careers Fairs and get in contact with employers
- > Remember that most importantly, it's your child's decision and THEIR future

757,300

The total number of qualifications achieved in 2016/17 (Gov.UK)

79%

of students say their parents help them make their career decisions

54%

of parents are in the dark about their children's careers options at 18