



connexions

WEST

Education and training options for young people. A guide for parents and carers.

Choices

MATTER / 2010/11

This booklet will help you support your teenager as they make decisions about their future.

It will point you towards some of the best websites, software programs and booklets available.

A similar booklet has been produced for young people. They can get a copy from school or Connexions West.

In recent years the education and training pathways available to 14–19 year olds have been significantly developed. The aim is to increase the motivation, participation, achievement and progression of young people.

Some young people, aged 16–19, will also be entitled to financial help towards living and learning costs.



Dissuade your teenager from doing something just to be part of the crowd.

Due to the recent change of government, some information in this booklet may change.

Main routes through 14-19 education and training



▶ The Diploma

This combines classroom-based study with experience in the work place. By September 2011, 14 subjects, ranging from engineering to creative and media, will be offered. It can be combined with GCSEs and A Levels.

▶ General qualifications

GCSE and A Level qualifications are regularly updated to ensure that they remain high quality, relevant and interesting. They can be studied alongside a Diploma.

▶ Foundation learning

This is for learners who are not ready to take GCSE or other Level 2 qualifications. It includes a mix of learning to suit the individual.

▶ Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships allow young people to learn at work and gain qualifications. The number and range of Apprenticeships is increasing. It is anticipated that by 2011 one in five young people will take this route.

▶ Employment with training

Ensures that all young people who leave school to start work spend at least one day a week (or equivalent) in part-time education or training.

▶ Consider options

Well before the decision points, information and advice will be critical to guide young people to make the best choice for them. Some may change paths at 17 because there are more one year courses available after 16.

Careers education, information, advice and guidance in schools

Schools must provide activities to support young people's career and personal development. This includes:

- ▶ a planned programme of careers education from Year 7–11.
- ▶ comprehensive and up-to-date information on learning and career opportunities.
- ▶ making available impartial advice and guidance.

Raising the participation age

Young people currently in Year 9 will continue in education or training to 17. The current Year 8 (who started secondary school in September 2009) will continue until they are 18.

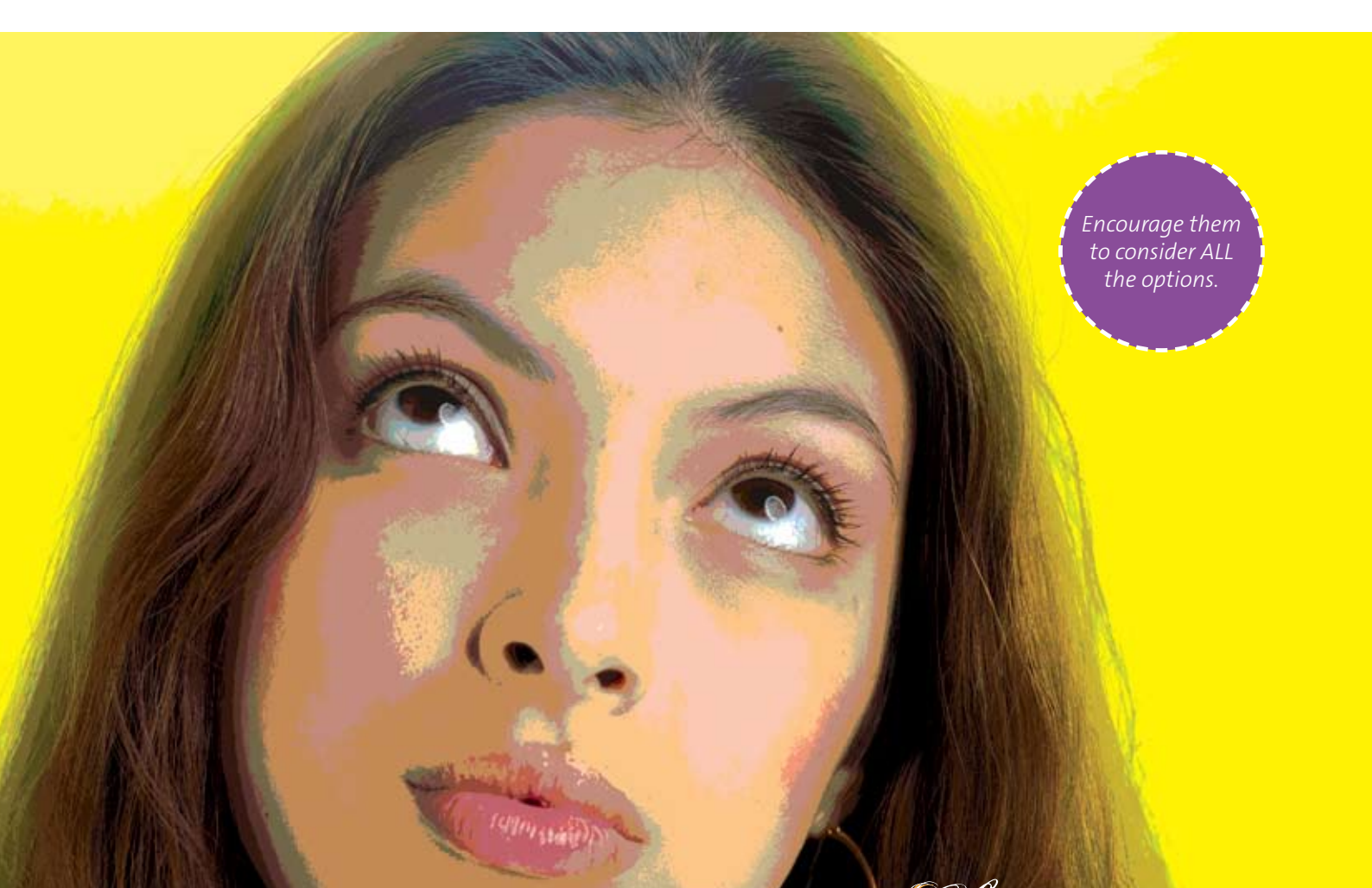
This change does not necessarily mean staying in school.

Young people will be able to choose one of the following routes:

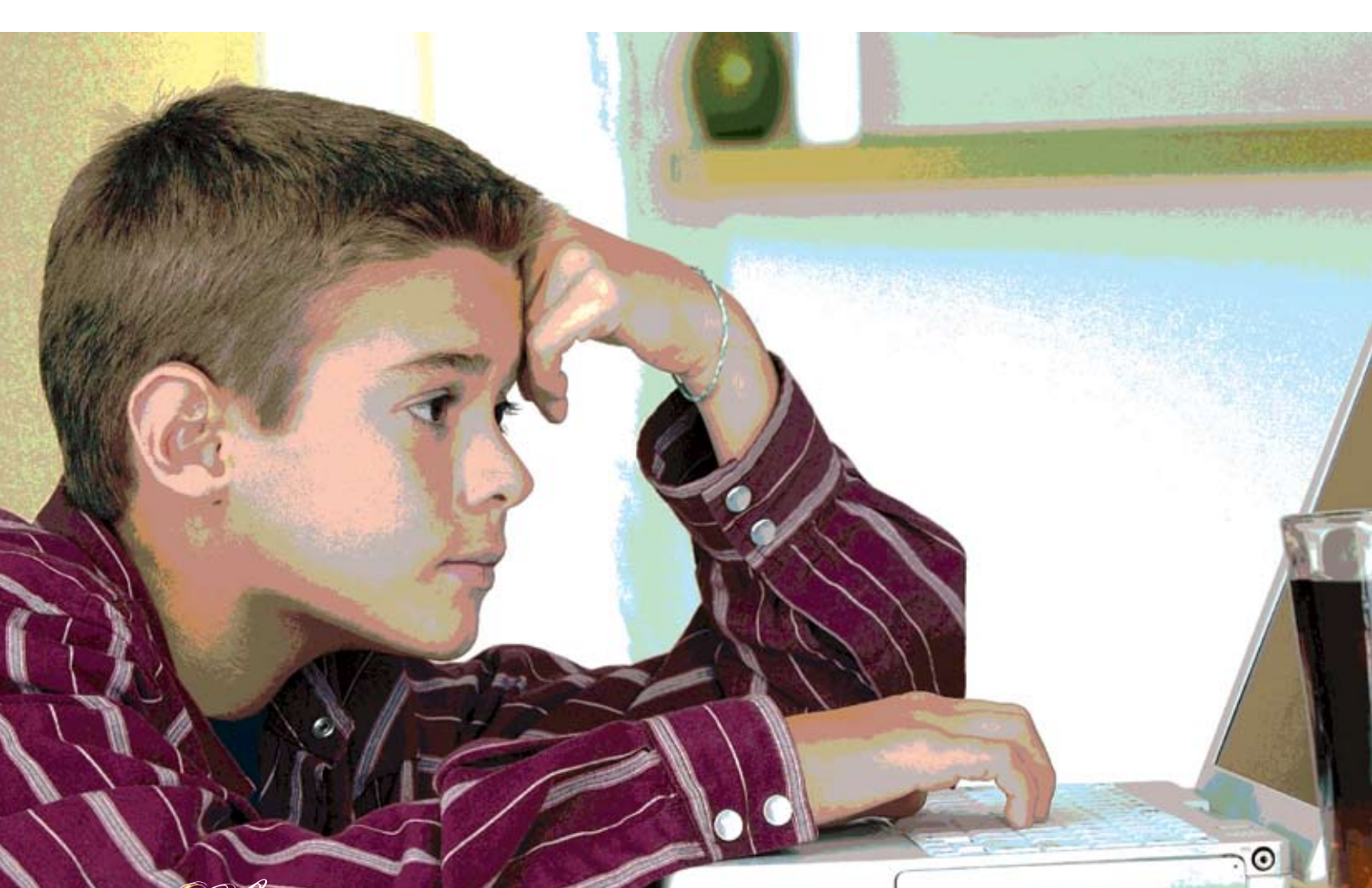
- **full-time education**, such as school, college or home education.
- **work-based learning**, such as an Apprenticeship.
- **part-time education or training**, if they are employed, self-employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours a week.

Young people will get the support they need to access these opportunities. This will include good quality information, advice and guidance and financial support. There will also be support for young people facing additional barriers.

In 2009, just under 95% of 16 year olds in the West of England chose full-time education, work-based training or full-time employment with training. Annual Activity Survey 2009.



*Encourage them
to consider ALL
the options.*



That's a guarantee!

There's more help if they leave school but things don't work out.

Keeping in touch with Connexions West is the best way your teenager can get the help and support they need – contact details are on the back page.

› September Guarantee

Learning is vital to future success. Under this guarantee all 16 and 17 year olds are entitled, by September 2010, to the offer of post-16 learning that meets their needs. They're also entitled to additional information and support to help them make a decision. Make sure they make the most of this help.


› January Guarantee

This guarantees the offer of a place on a Foundation Learning programme to all 16 and 17 year olds who are not in education, training or employment by January 2011. Foundation Learning programmes help young people progress to an Apprenticeship, further education or a job.

Encourage your teenager to start their research early. And make sure they use up-to-date information.

This diagram shows what young people need to think about and the resources to help them



A photograph of three young men looking upwards against a clear blue sky. The man on the left has dark, wavy hair and is wearing a black and white striped shirt. The man in the middle is a Black man with short hair, wearing a light blue and white football jersey with red numbers. The man on the right is a white man with short hair, wearing a red and yellow striped shirt. A purple semi-transparent box with a dashed orange border is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

Each section shows the best resources to use.

All the resources are explained in the A-Z list on pages 12–18.



Think ahead. Do they need to think about higher education? What qualifications and subjects will they need?

Websites, software programs and booklets to support your teenager

› Apply Yourself

Where to find jobs and Apprenticeships. How to apply for them and how to stand out from the crowd.

www.connexionswest.org.uk

› Apprenticeships

Apprentices earn as they learn, work towards recognised qualifications and gain practical skills in the workplace. There are over 190 job roles available, ranging from accountancy to floristry, engineering to veterinary nursing.

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Ask for help if your teenager can't find the answers to their questions – or if they really don't know which route to take.

› Careerscape

This online database is packed with information on careers, employment, education and training options.

- › Learn about what people do at work.
- › Find out how much people earn.
- › It has details of over 1,800 careers.
- › It has information on over 50,000 higher education courses.

Young people will need a username and password to log in. They'll get this from school.

www.connexionswest.org.uk

› Careers library/Young Person's Information Point (YPiP)/Connexions West centre

Information about education and training options, life issues, getting an Apprenticeship or job.

Careers libraries/YPiPs are available in schools and colleges. Details of Connexions West centres are on the back page of this booklet.

› Connexions West

Everything you need to know about education and training, dealing with life and finding a job or Apprenticeship.

Includes an Easy Read section for those with a learning difficulty or disability.

A Connexions personal adviser can be seen at school, at a Connexions West centre or other places young people go. Details of Connexions West centres are on the back page of this booklet.

www.connexionswest.org.uk

› Connexions Direct

Offers information on a range of topics as well as confidential advice and practical help. The advice line is open seven days a week from 8am–2am.

They can also use the chat room, message board or speak to an adviser via a web cam.

www.connexions-direct.com

Freephone: 080 800 13 2 19 (call on a mobile, an adviser will call back).

Text: 07766 4 13 2 19.

Mini-com: 080 00 968 336.

› The Diploma

This is a new qualification for students aged 14-19. It combines existing qualifications, like GCSEs and A Levels, with purpose-designed qualifications. Courses generally last two years. Learning takes place in school and in the work place. Students may also spend time in another local school or college.

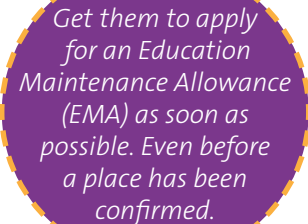
The Diploma is designed to support progression into further study at school or college, an Apprenticeship, going on to university or a job with training.

www.direct.gov.uk/diploma

› Future Finder

Search for local courses, qualifications and training opportunities.

www.futurefinder.org.uk



Get them to apply for an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) as soon as possible. Even before a place has been confirmed.

› It's Your Choice – how to choose your post-16 options

- › Get started. Get them to do the 'Which option is best for you' quiz.
- › Research ideas. Focus on qualifications. Think about what to study and where. Think about a full or part-time job.
- › Think ahead. Get ready to boost experience. Find out how employable a young person is. Think about higher education. Sharpen presentation skills.
- › Get help and support. Find out about post-16 money matters, other sources of help and action planning.
- › Case studies – see what other young people have done.

Download a copy from:
www.connexionswest.org.uk

› Jobs4U

This is an online database of practically every career. Everything they need to know including what jobs involve, qualifications and training, and salaries. There's even a section for adults. Great if you're considering a career change!

www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u

› Kudos

A computer program to help young people explore career ideas.

- › Kudos can help them plan their future.
- › They can use it to find careers that might suit them.
- › It has details of over 1,750 careers!
- › Learn what people do at work.
- › Find out how much people earn.

Young people will need a username and password to log in. They'll get this from school.

www.connexionswest.org.uk

› Life Matters

Information and advice on health, housing, money, relationships, travel, the law and young people's rights, personal development confidence building, volunteering and things your teenager could do in their spare time.

www.connexionswest.org.uk

› Money to Learn

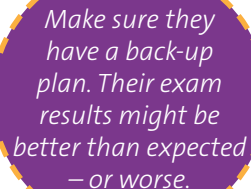
Sources of funding for 16-19 year olds. Includes information about the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

www.direct.gov.uk/moneytolearn
EMA Advice: 0800 121 8989

› Which Way Now? How to choose your Key Stage 4 options

- › Put yourself first – focus on what you want. Get them to do the quiz to find out what interests them and what makes them work hard.
- › Find out more about all the options.
- › Get ready for the world of work.
- › Confirm choices. Make an action plan.
- › Case studies – see what other young people have done.

Download a copy from:
www.connexionswest.org.uk



Make sure they have a back-up plan. Their exam results might be better than expected – or worse.

› Work Matters

Find out about the demand for skills and qualifications, who's earning what and where the jobs will be in the future.

www.connexionswest.org.uk

You might find these websites helpful too:

- › Parentline Plus
Because kids don't come with instructions.
www.parentlineplus.org.uk
- › Parents and Carers
For those with children in Years 9–11. Information you need to help your teenager make subject choices in Year 9 and career and learning choices in Year 11.
www.connexions-direct.com/parentcarer
- › ParentsCentre
Lots of information and support for parents/carers on how to help with your child's learning.
www.parentscentre.gov.uk/





Is something stopping your teenager getting on with their life?

Growing up can sometimes be tough. Life doesn't always go the way they want.

If, for whatever reason, they can't, or won't talk to you, suggest they try one of these:

- Connexions Direct
- Connexions West
- Life Matters.

Connexions centres in the West of England:

Bath and North East Somerset:

T: 01761 430 900 E: bath-enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk

Bristol: 4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST.

T: 0117 987 3700 Minicom: 0117 907 4514 E: enquiriesbristol@connexionswest.org.uk

North Somerset: 45 Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1PG.

T: 01934 644 443 E: enquiries-nsom@connexionswest.org.uk

South Gloucestershire:

21–23 High Street, Kingswood, South Gloucestershire BS15 4AA.

T: 0117 961 2760 E: enquirieskingswood@connexionswest.org.uk **and**

28 Gloucester Road North, Filton, South Gloucestershire BS7 0SJ.

T: 0117 969 8101 E: enquiriesfilton@connexionswest.org.uk **and**

Yate West Gate Centre, 21 West Walk, Yate, South Gloucestershire, BS37 4AX

T: 0117 961 2760 E: enquirieskingswood@connexionswest.org.uk

Head Office: 4 Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST.

T: 0117 987 3700 Minicom: 0117 907 4514.

enquiries@connexionswest.org.uk

www.connexionswest.org.uk

Connexions West is part of Learning Partnership West.
www.lpw.org.uk

