



connexions

WEST

A guide to education
and training options for
young people.

Choices

MATTER / 2010/11



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

Excited? Confused? Worried?

It's normal to feel this way at options time. **Don't panic!**

This is your chance to take control of your learning and shape your future.

This booklet will point you towards some of the best websites, software programs and booklets out there. They'll help you make really good decisions about your future.

The diagram on page 9 shows you what you need to think about. Each section suggests the most useful websites, software programs and booklets to use.

And all of the websites, software programs and booklets are explained in the A-Z list starting on page 10.

The participation age is changing!

If you are now in Year 9, you'll have to stay in education or training until you are 17 years old.


If you are now in Year 8 (you started secondary school in September 2009) you'll have to stay until you are 18 years old.

This change does not mean you'll have to stay in school. You'll 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 you are employed, self-employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours a week.

They'll be lots of support and information to help you make the right decision.

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.



*Apply on time
for all the options you
are interested in.
Make your final
decision when you
know your results.*



Give yourself lots of time to research your ideas. And make sure you use up-to-date information.

That's a guarantee!

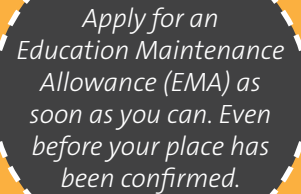
There's more help if you leave school but things don't work out.

› September Guarantee

Learning is vital to your future success. Under this guarantee you (16 and 17 year olds) are entitled, by September 2010, to the offer of post-16 learning that meets your needs. You're also entitled to additional information and support to help you make your decision. 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.



Apply for an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) as soon as you can. Even before your place has been confirmed.


Is something stopping you getting on with your life?

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

If you have a problem, or are worried about something – ask for help.

If, for whatever reason, you can't talk to family, friends or a teacher try one of these:

- › Connexions Direct
- › Connexions West
- › Life Matters.



Get to know yourself:

- › Kudos
- › Which Way Now?

Explore all the options:

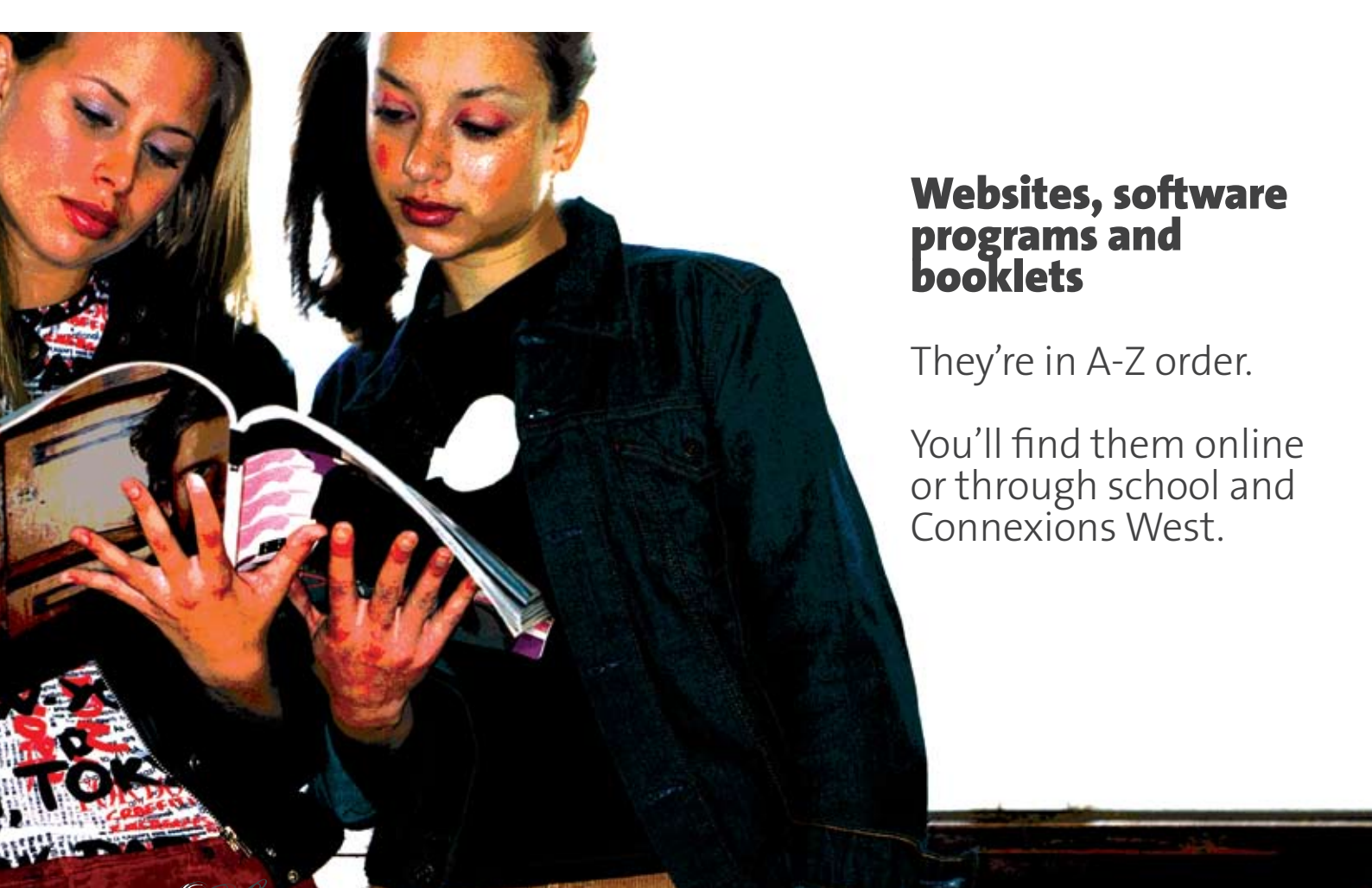
- › Connexions West
- › Future Finder
- › It's Your Choice
 - › Jobs4U
- › Which Way Now?

Think ahead:

- › Apply Yourself
- › Careerscape
- › Connexions West
- › It's Your Choice
 - › Jobs4U
 - › Kudos
- › Money to Learn
- › Which Way Now?
- › Work Matters

Set goals and action plan:

- › Connexions West
- › It's Your Choice
- › Which Way Now?



Websites, software programs and booklets

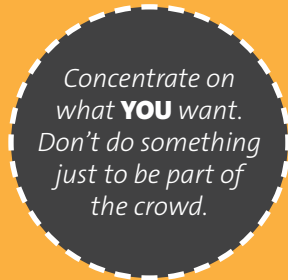
They're in A-Z order.

You'll find them online or through school and Connexions West.

› 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 from the
workplace. There are over 190 job roles
available, ranging from accountancy
to floristry, engineering to veterinary
nursing.

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

› Careerscape

Careerscape is an online database.
It's packed with information on
careers, employment, education and
training options.

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

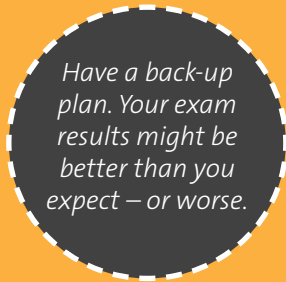
You'll need a username and password
to log in. Ask your teacher.

www.connexionswest.org.uk

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

Try any of these for 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.

You can see a Connexions personal adviser at school, at a Connexions West centre or other places young people go.

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.

You 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 you 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. You may also spend time in another local school or college.

The Diploma is designed to help you progress 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

Think ahead.

Do you need to think about higher education? What qualifications and subjects will you need?

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

- > Get started. Try the 'Which option is best for you' quiz.
- > Research your 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 your experience. Find out how employable you are. Think about higher education. Sharpen your 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:

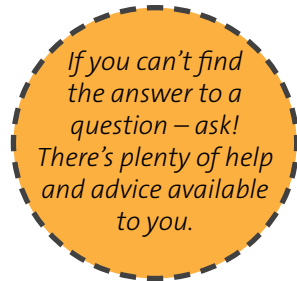
www.connexionswest.org.uk

› Jobs4U

Want to work with children? Like history? Want to travel?

Search this careers database to find the right job for you.

www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u



› Kudos

A computer program to help you explore career ideas.

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

You'll need a username and password to log in. Ask your teacher.

www.connexionswest.org.uk

› Life Matters

Sources of information and advice on health, housing, money, relationships, travel, the law and your rights, personal development confidence building, volunteering and things to do in your 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. Do the quiz to find out what interests you and what makes you work hard.
- > Find out more about your options.
- > Get ready for the world of work.
- > Confirm your choices. Make an action plan.
- > Case studies – see what other young people have done.

Download a copy from:

www.connexionswest.org.uk

› 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

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

