



connexions

WEST

Parents and Carers

[YOUR GUIDE TO *what
connexions west is all about*]

www.connexionswest.org.uk

Connexions West

Connexions offers information, help and support on all issues affecting young people's lives. We help them make a smooth transition into adulthood and working life.

"Talk to us, we are always here to help."

We work with all young people aged 13-19. If they have a learning difficulty/disability, we may see them up to the age of 25.

We work in partnership with a wide range of local organisations also dedicated to helping young people develop, mature and succeed.

Connexions is designed for young people, by young people. They are involved in management meetings, the recruitment of staff and the design of resources and our Connexions centres.



Connexions West

- > Encouraging participation.
- > Supporting progression.
- > Celebrating achievement.

What is a Connexions personal adviser?

Connexions personal advisers help young people think about and plan for the future. They can give information and advice about:

- education, training and employment options.
- life issues including health, housing, money, relationships and young people's rights.
- personal development opportunities such as volunteering and helping in the community.

All young people can speak to a Connexions personal adviser. It doesn't matter if they are in or out of school, in further or higher education, in training or work.

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

If something isn't right, Connexions West can help them plan for something better.



How you can support your son or daughter

Choosing what to do in the future is one of the most important decisions your son/daughter will ever have to make. Your role is vital.

The world of education, training and employment has changed significantly since you left school.

Get up-to-date by:

- › exploring the websites suggested in this leaflet.
- › going to parents' evenings and careers fairs.
- › talking to your son/daughter about their careers education lessons at school.

"I didn't know what to do when I left school. Connexions helped me work through my options and find the right training."



Also, encourage your son/daughter to:

- allow lots of time to research ideas. Make sure they use up-to-date information.
- consider ALL the options open to them. There are now many different ways and places to learn, train and gain qualifications.
- apply on time for all the options they are interested in. They can make a final decision when they know their results.
- apply for an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) as soon as possible. Even before a place has been confirmed.
- have a back-up plan. Their exam results might be better than expected – or worse.
- be enthusiastic about work experience and voluntary work. They can help build confidence and motivation. Employers like young people to have real world experience.
- think ahead. Do they need to think about higher education? What qualifications and subjects will they need?
- concentrate on what THEY want. Dissuade them from doing something just to be part of the crowd.
- ask for help if they can't find the answers to their questions, or if they really don't know which route to take. There's plenty of help and advice available to them – and you.

Further information

- **Connexions West**
Information to support education, training, employment and lifestyle choices. Information for parents and carers.
www.connexionswest.org.uk
- **Future Finder**
Local education and training opportunities.
www.futurefinder.org.uk
- **Got a Teenager**
Informal advice, useful information and a community of other parents dealing with the same issues as you.
www.gotateenager.org.uk
- **Jobs4U**
An online database of practically every career. Includes what jobs involve, qualifications, training and salaries. Great if you're considering a career change yourself!
www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u
- **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
- **Information to help your son/daughter make subject choices in Year 9 and career and learning choices in Year 11 and beyond.**
www.connexions-direct.com/parentcarer

Your nearest Connexions Centre

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

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

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