

YR 11 – SUPPORTING YOUR YOUNG PERSON WITH THEIR POST 16 APPLICATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

September / October

What are their options after GCSEs?

To support their future and boost their careers options, it is compulsory for young people to stay in education or training until they are 18 years old. But it doesn't mean they have to stay in school if it isn't right for them. Post 16 options (also known as post GCSE options) refers to all the choices available to them as they think about the next two years after their GCSEs.



There are several different qualification options your young person could study after GCSEs – such as A-Levels, T-Levels, BTECs and apprenticeships.

Spend some time with your young person researching the different options. You could start with exploring what type of learning environment each option offers and where each qualification could lead them.



Open Days take place on different dates across the year. Most are in-person, but some may be virtual. Encourage your young person to look at individual school or FEC websites to find dates and information about how to attend.

November / December

Open Days

Open Days are an opportunity for your young person to explore Sixth forms and FECs in the area to find out more about what Post-16 qualifications and courses they offer. Attending Open Days with your young person can help find the best environment for them to study and thrive in.



Your young person has a choice about **what they study**. This might be subjects they'd like to continue learning, or ones they've never studied before. Post 16 study can open doors for new and exciting options.

Your young person also has a choice about **where they study**, and they don't have to attend the sixth form or Further Education College (FEC) right on their doorstep.

If your young person has a particular subject they love and enjoy, encourage them to research if there are any Sixth Forms or FECs that specialise in that subject.

The [helpyouchoose](https://helpyouchoose.org) website (helpyouchoose.org) is a great place to start exploring what and where they could study!



It's a good idea for your young person to think of a few questions they'd like to ask at an Open Day. As a parent or carer, it's good for you to take note of any questions you'd like to ask too. You might have different questions to them and can help gather all the information they need to make an informed decision.

January / February

Post-16 applications

Once your young person has decided where they would like to go, they will need to complete an application and might have to attend an interview. Each sixth form or FEC may have a different application process, so make sure you and your young person know the deadlines and what they need to do to apply.



Applications are often first-come-first-served, so the earlier your young person submits their application, the better their chance of securing a place.

Your young person will need also need to have a backup option for their Post-16 choices. This is like a 'Plan B', in case they do not get on to their first choice. If they are using Help You Choose they will automatically be able to make multiple applications.



Most schools will have an internal deadline in December for Post 16 options. Make sure you keep track of when the deadlines are.

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