

important dates

These are events where you and your teenager can get more information and ask questions:

Sixth Form open evenings

- All Saints
4th November 2009
- High Storrs
9th November 2009
- King Ecgbert
10th November 2009
- King Edward VII
12th November 2009
- Notre Dame
11th November 2009
- Sheffield Park Academy & Sheffield Springs Academy
To be confirmed in September, check on www.applysheffield.org.uk
- Silverdale
17th November 2009
- Tapton
18th November 2009
- Birkdale (independent)
18th November 2009
- Sheffield High School (independent)
Saturday (am) 14th November 2009

The Sheffield College open evenings

- Norton College
9th November 2009
- Hillsborough College
12th November 2009
- Peaks Centre
18th November 2009
- Sheffield City College
19th November 2009

Longley Park College open evenings

- **10th November 2009** and **21st January 2010**

Skills Yorkshire and Humber, Sheffield Arena

A careers event for the Yorkshire and Humber region

- **Wednesday 7th and Thursday 8th October 2009** - school visits
- **Wednesday 7th October 2009 5pm - 7pm** - for young people, parents or carers

Connected 2 work and learning 2010, Ponds Forge

For anyone interested in further education or work-based learning

- **Tuesday 19th January 2010 5pm - 7pm** - for young people, parents or carers
- **Wednesday 20th January 2010** - school visits

REMEMBER: many courses have a closing date of 31st January 2010. Keep track of applications, with your teenager, through ApplySheffield.org.uk.

Our Personal Advisers visit your son or daughter's school regularly. If you have any concerns about their future, contact us through school or find us at:

Sheffield Futures

Star House
43 Division Street
Sheffield S1 4GE

Opening times:

Monday - Thursday 9am-5pm & Friday 10am - 4.30pm
0114 201 2800
enquiries@sheffieldfutures.org.uk



How to get in touch

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OPTIONS 2010

Parents' Bulletin

YOUR GUIDE TO CHOICES AT 16 AND BEYOND

Welcome to your bulletin about options for year 11 students

...brought to you by Sheffield Futures. It supplements the 'Options 2010' booklet, which your teenager has received from us through school, plus a letter from us, explaining our services throughout the year.

'Options 2010' and this parents' bulletin look at:

Choices at 16+

Everyone in Year 11 is guaranteed an offer of a place in learning but there are a number of ways of doing this - use our simple guide to find out more.

How you can help further

Helping you to help them; advice and further sources of help.

Money matters

Money can influence a lot of decisions; find out about the different types of financial help for learning.

Important dates

Careers events and open evenings for young people, parents and carers.

To find out more

We hope you will find this bulletin helpful. If you would like more details on any topic please refer to your teenager's 'Options 2010' booklet, which they should receive in school.

Do visit our websites if you want to know anything more, or contact us directly using our Freephone Information line on 0800 046 7244. For further information about apprenticeships visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk and www.applysheffield.org.uk.

Or view and download it from the Sheffield Futures website.



www.getconnectedsheffield.com

The Sheffield Futures website. It offers straightforward information for young people, parents and carers on all choices to do with education, training, employment, plus other issues that may affect young people, such as money, health, relationships.

ApplySheffield

The 14 to 19 learning prospectus for Sheffield
www.applysheffield.org.uk

www.applysheffield.org.uk

Your teenager can use this website to find out what to study and where they can do it. In most schools they will also use it for all their applications.

Qualifications?



Work & Training?

Money?



why learning matters

Whatever your teenager chooses to do, it's important that they carry on learning and taking qualifications. When times are hard it's tempting to take any job going but, if there's no training attached, it may not be a good deal in the long run as it could limit career prospects.

The main ways of learning at 16+ are:

Further education

Colleges and sixth forms offer a big choice of courses, to suit all abilities. Around 75% of Year 11s chose this last year.

Work-based learning (e.g. Apprenticeships, Advanced Apprenticeships and e2e)

Involves learning in a workplace and taking qualifications that relate to the job. Around 12% of Year 11s chose this last year and about half of these opportunities were 'real jobs'. (Some work-based learning is easier to get into if you're under age 18).

Employment

The number of opportunities will reflect the current local job market. Around 5% of Year 11s did this last year. It will help career prospects if the employer offers training.

Types of qualification available

General qualifications

(e.g. A-Level, Functional Skills/Key Skills e.g. Maths) These are normally academic courses that involve written work, classroom study and exams.

Work related qualifications

(e.g. Diplomas, BTEC, OCR Nationals) These prepare for a broad area of work and involve both classroom study and practical learning.

Job specific qualifications (e.g. NVQ)

These prepare for a specific job and are often taken part time, while in work-based learning or a job.

Entry Requirements

There are different levels of study to suit all abilities but young people need specific grades - or subjects - in order to take certain qualifications. It's important to apply for opportunities that match estimated grades. You can help by supporting your teenager to always check entry requirements.

What do school leavers do?

In Sheffield last year, about 9 out of 10 young people stayed in learning after Year 11. This is what they did:



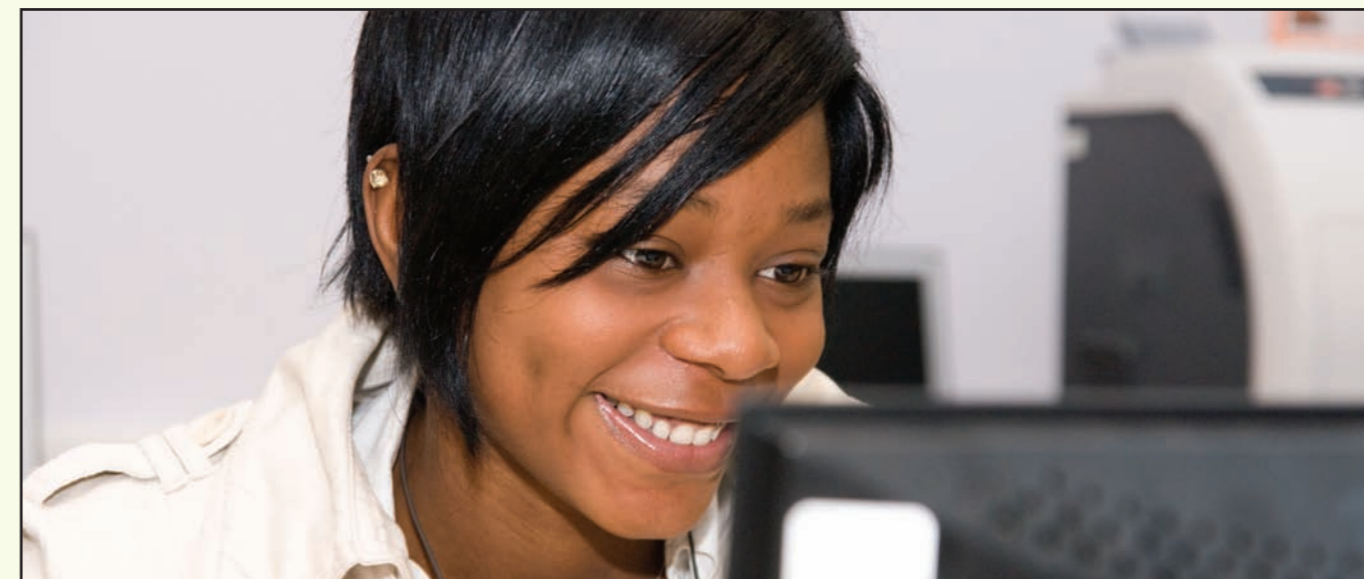
- 75% - College or sixth form (further education)
- 12% - Work-based learning (about half of these were 'real jobs')
- 3% - Jobs with training
- 2% - Jobs without training/part time jobs
- 6% - Not in education, work or training
- 1% - Moved away or did not respond

(These figures have been rounded up or down to the nearest decimal point.)

How you can help further:

- Encourage your teenager to look into any options that interest them - your support matters.
- Go to open evenings and careers events; look round, get the feel of a place and ask questions e.g. about the timetable, teaching and success rates.
- Remind your teenager that most courses and some apprenticeships want (or prefer) applications by the **end of January**.
- Log onto www.applysheffield.org.uk - most Y11 students will make applications through this website and they can use it to check their progress.
- Everyone in Year 11 has a government guarantee of an offer of place in learning by next September - make sure your teenager knows this.

money matters



Money matters...in further education

If your teenager goes on to college or sixth form, this help is available:

Child Benefit

Normally paid until age 20 and doesn't affect any other benefits that you may receive. Use www.hmrc.gov.uk/childbenefit or ring **0845 302 1444**.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

Up to £30 a week (plus bonuses) if your household income is less than £30,810 a year*. It isn't affected if your teenager has a part time job or by any benefits that you receive. Use <http://ema.direct.gov.uk> or ring **0800 121 8989**.
(*Figures are for the tax year 2008-9 so may change.)

Learner Support Funds and School Access Scheme

Can help students in need with costs such as buying equipment. Colleges and sixth forms will have more details.

Help with Travel

A reduced fare pass or, in some cases, free travel.

Money matters...in work-based learning

Some types of work-based learning pay a wage, others have allowances and benefits attached:

Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships

Pay a wage, which should be at least £95 a week.

Programme Led Apprenticeships

Attract Child Benefit plus (if household income is less than £30,810) Education Maintenance Allowance.

Entry to Employment (e2e)

Attracts the full (£30) Education Maintenance Allowance (it doesn't depend on household income) plus Child Benefit.

Child Benefit and Child Benefit Extension

Child Benefit continues if your teenager is in college, sixth form, e2e or a Programme Led Apprenticeship. Otherwise, it finishes at the end of August (or earlier if they start a job or Apprenticeship before then). If they're not fixed up at this point, you can claim Child Benefit Extension for a limited period.

Benefits

Unless there are special circumstances, or specific disabilities, young people cannot claim benefits in their own right until they're 18.

There are more details in your teenager's 'Options 2010' booklet and on www.direct.gov.uk.