

Information for Parents/Carers

ST. ANSELM'S COLLEGE

CAREERS INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

In Year 11 your son will naturally be focussed on his forthcoming GCSE examinations, but he also needs to give attention to his choices for the next stage of his career.

Beyond Year 11 the range of qualifications and places to study widens, but whatever route they choose encourage your son to remain in full-time learning. It is a fact that better qualifications bring improved job prospects, higher earnings and greater job satisfaction, and jobs for people without qualifications are in decline.

In brief, the choices are to:

- Continue their education full time at school or college.
- Continue learning but train at the same time by following an Apprenticeship programme.
- Start work, hopefully with a part-time learning option.

All year 11 students will have the opportunity for a 1 to 1 guidance interview with our Connexions personal adviser., and guidance will also be available at the College Sixth form options evening in January. Please take the time to come along to the options evening and explore the choices available to your son. Your son will also have the opportunity to attend 6th form taster lessons as part of our Careers Education programme.

Your son can apply to any number of colleges and schools. Most application deadlines are in the autumn or spring term of Year 11.

Alternatives to A'levels

Apprenticeships offer a practical balance between learning a trade and earning a living and there are now over 180 different Apprenticeships available. Our Connexions personal adviser can advise on these options if your son is interested.

If you require any further information regarding choices post 16, please don't hesitate to contact me (at the College) or Kim Dickson our Connexions Personal Adviser at Connexions Birkenhead office (Tel :666 4385).

Mrs G. E Cooban

(Head of Careers)

Learning pays

Knowledge, skills and qualifications are increasingly important in today's workplace. The law has changed so that teenagers can continue their education and training for longer, helping them to gain the knowledge, qualifications and confidence to get a job they enjoy or to go to university. Research shows us that young people with level 3 qualifications (e.g. A Levels) earn on average 25 per cent more over their lifetime than those without level 3 qualifications.

The Education and Skills Act 2008 raises the participation age in learning to 17 in 2013 and 18 in 2015. Continuing in learning after the age of 16 **does not** necessarily mean staying on at school. Your child can choose to learn at school, at college, or with a training provider or employer.

Getting support

Making subject and career choices is an important part of growing up. It can be a challenge, so your child will receive a lot of support to help them choose well - the St. Anselm's College curriculum includes a careers education, information advice and guidance programme from year 7 through to year 13.

If your child is disabled or has a statement of special educational needs, there may be extra help with decision-making and transition planning. Ask our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO), or the careers adviser.

Support for you

You will also receive support to help your child make choices that work for them. As decision time approaches, you will receive options information from the College and invitations to attend events to help you understand these options. If you have any queries or concerns, you should contact your child's form tutor or Head of Year.

If they cannot help, they will put you in touch with someone who can - often a subject teacher or our careers adviser.

Outside school, many organisations can offer you help and support. Most parents start with the organisations below but there are many others.

Directgov at www.direct.gov.uk

Browse the 'Parents' and 'Young people' pages to find all the information you need on young people's choices, financial support for learning and sources of help.

National Parent Partnership Network at www.parentpartnership.org.uk

This site provides details of local services which provide neutral advice and information to parents of children with special educational needs about processes and support to help meet their needs.

The Apprenticeships website at www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Browse the 'Parents' section which focuses on the different questions you may have about Apprenticeships and why they could be right for your child.

Help your child to find out as much as possible about the courses and qualifications they can do

Read the College's options information and encourage your child to go to options events and sign up for taster activities. Go with them if you can. Help them to make a list of questions about the options that interest them, where they lead and any financial help available. Check application deadlines, especially post 16, as popular options can fill up quickly.

Money matters

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) has been replaced by a **discretionary Bursary**. Bursaries will be managed by schools, colleges and training providers who will offer the fund to those students they assess as being in the greatest need, in order to help them continue in education and training post 16.

- Young people going on to university can access a mix of **grants and repayable loans to help with the costs of higher education**. The amount they get generally depends on household income.

Learning is vital to your child's future success, and money worries should not stop them from continuing their education or training.

If they are over 16, they may be able to get some financial help.

The main sources of help are given below. You can find out more at the 'Money' pages in the 'Young people' section at

www.direct.gov.uk and www.direct.gov.uk/studentsupport

Information for students includes more comprehensive information and links to many useful websites.