

Dear Parents/Carers

As well as focussing on examinations, your son/daughter now needs to be researching options for their education from September 2017 following publication of their GCSE results.

Rules about leaving school and planning for the future beyond Year 11

In the past, students had the option to leave education after Year 11. Now they need to stay in some kind of education or training until their 18th birthday. Lots of people think these changes mean students need to stay in school. This isn't the case. There are lots of things that students can do. The main options are:

- Full time education at a school or college
- Apprenticeship or traineeship
- Training leading to an apprenticeship or traineeship.

If you have questions in relation to this please contact Eleanor Snape, Careers Adviser and Co-ordinator (see contact details later in this letter).

What your son/daughter needs to do

It is important that students try and choose what's right for them. In order to do this we strongly advise students to consider all the choices offered. This process will take time and they will need your support. It will involve:

- Knowing predicted GCSE grades and working towards the best possible results
- Researching the skills, educational requirements and availability of jobs/careers they are interested in
- Researching courses and apprenticeships
- Attending open days
- Attending interviews.

It is very common for students to apply for and accept a number of different choices. This gives them back-up options and a range of choices and enables them to make a final decision after they have their GCSE results (when plans often change).

A good start for many students is to attend the Skills Festival. You will probably have received a letter about this from the organisers and information is also available on the Careers page of the school website. The Derby event is on Wednesday 21 September 2016 and Thursday 22 September 2016 at the Roundhouse.

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Following this there will be a variety of open days which your son/daughter may choose to attend.

Belper School Sixth Form Evening on Thursday 3 November 2016

Many students will be interested in returning to Belper School to continue their studies in the Sixth Form. Belper School Sixth Form Evening is on Thursday 3 November 2016. Students can apply to Belper School Sixth Form after this date. Further information about this event will be given out later in the term.

Other Sixth Forms

Look at school websites for their on-line prospectus and information about open evenings, application processes and deadlines (in some cases these will be extremely strict). You may need to book a place at these open evenings. If you are unclear, contact the specific school directly to clarify information.

Colleges

College open day dates will be given to tutors to pass on to students when we receive this information. The colleges most popular with students in the past have been Derby College (Incorporating Joseph Wright, Broomfield, Ilkeston, Roundhouse and Johnson Building campuses) and Chesterfield. These are the nearest colleges to us. Sometimes students choose colleges which are further away in order to do a specialist course. Students will have to pay travel expenses: if you have a low family income always ask if help is available for travel and other course costs.

Apprenticeships

A large number of apprenticeships are advertised on www.apprenticeships.org.uk as well as through company websites.

Securing an apprenticeship requires a lot of determination and hard work. Students who want an apprenticeship often do not have confirmation that they have successfully gained one when they finish school in June. Students need to be clear about the type of apprenticeship they wish to secure so that employers believe they are committed to working for them.

There are also a number of commercially sponsored websites which can be useful such as:

Plotr
Not Going To Uni

Rate My Apprenticeship
My Kinda Future

Support

Students will be encouraged and supported through all of these processes by their tutors, other school staff and Eleanor Snape. Eleanor is the Careers Adviser and Co-ordinator in school and is a fully qualified Careers Adviser. There is a statutory requirement for school to provide access to impartial careers information and guidance and Eleanor works closely with school, Julie Gwyther our Local Authority Careers Adviser, local colleges, and apprenticeship/pre-apprenticeship training providers.

Students can speak to Eleanor at break, lunchtime and after school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 8.30am and 4.30pm. Eleanor is located in the school Careers Room in the Library and can also be contacted by e-mail: ers@belperschool.co.uk

Occasionally parents attend appointments alongside students and these appointments can be made for the end of the school day.

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The school website has a Careers page. This contains career guidance packages and websites which may help your son/daughter with their decisions. It is regularly updated with any news we have regarding open days and careers events. It is accessible via the **Information** or **Faculties tabs** on the school website and via the **Careers Guidance** link on the school intranet.

Apply Early

Places at some sixth forms and for some college courses can fill quickly. We therefore recommend that all students **make at least one application to a full time course by Wednesday 4 January 2017 (the end of the Christmas holidays).**

This includes students whose preferred option is an apprenticeship (as a back-up plan for their education from Sept 2017).

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

Eleanor Snape
Careers Adviser and Co-ordinator

Neil Fordham
Head of Year 11