



## Support your child with their career choices – a parent's guide

It is now well established that young people are required to remain in some form of education or training until the age of 18 – but this does NOT mean your child must stay at school after their GCSEs.

Research confirms that adolescents and young people, place a high value on the opinions and views of their parents or guardians when it comes to making critical careers choices.

As a parent, starting conversations as early as possible about career choices and discouraging your child to make last-minute decisions, are proven strategies to make sure your child makes a well-informed decision about their future.

We know, however, how difficult it can be for parents to support their child when it comes to critical career decisions. With a growing number of progression routes and *weird and wonderful* technical terms, it can sometimes be difficult for some parents to feel involved in the process.

It can also be difficult to strike up a conversation with your child about their career ideas when they keep saying *"I don't know what I want to do."* In this situation it can be useful to look at all options and attend as many open evenings or taster sessions as possible or arrange some work experience so that your child can experience a particular job first-hand.

Even when your child has decided on their chosen job or career, it is worth exploring the variety of routes they could take. Some jobs might require getting qualifications at college (level 1 or 2 - equivalent to GCSEs but in a vocational course – one that directly trains you for a job, or level 3 - equivalent to A levels but again in a vocational course. Other jobs might require going to college first then doing an apprenticeship, or you might be able to do an apprenticeship straight from school. Some jobs might require a university degree so doing A levels at school or college or achieving a level 3 qualification at college would be necessary. Below is a summary of the different post-16 options your child has:

- A-levels and/or BTEC qualifications at a school 6<sup>th</sup> form or college
- Vocational and technical qualifications in a wide range of both practical and academic areas at a college.
- T Level vocational qualifications which involve academic study but also on-the job experience through a business or industry placement of approximately 45 days (315 hours).  
These are offered at some schools, colleges and by other providers.
- Apprenticeships – on the job training which you are paid for starting at about £3.90 per hour with some days spent learning at college.
- Traineeships – a course with work experience which prepares you for an apprenticeship or work and can take from 6 weeks to a year.

In order to help you find out more about these different options and routes into work, there are helpful websites on various issues in this parents' section.

If you require any further assistance after looking at any of the information listed on the pages below, please do not hesitate to contact me

Sally Ingham, assistant head and careers coordinator.

My email is [inghams@settlebeck.org](mailto:inghams@settlebeck.org) or phone me at school on 015396 20383.