

Many teenagers don't know at age 12, 13 and 14 what they want to do when they leave school. Taking a variety of subjects will help them to keep their options open for future career choices.

Top Tips

Encourage your teenager to make the right choices by:

- Finding out about all the options open to them.

Choosing courses that:

- help them to keep their options open for the future;
- help them to learn in the best way for them;
- they can do well in; and
- are in subjects they like.

Check out our website for young people...

www.4you2.org.uk



Where to get help

People who can help

Connexions Personal Advisers give independent advice and information on courses, training opportunities and careers and are available in your teenager's school.

Teachers - will know what options are available in your teenager's school.

Booklets

Connexions Northamptonshire provides each Year 9 student with a **Fact File**. These are sent into schools in December and they contain useful information about choosing options.

Websites

www.xplore.uk.com

Details of all the learning opportunities available in Northamptonshire for 14 to 19 year olds.

www.4you2.org.uk

Connexions Northamptonshire's website for young people - full of useful information and advice. Check the publications section for the latest copy of Which Way Now.

www.connexions-northamptonshire.org.uk/parents

For Connexions Direct Guide for Parents and Carers 2008/2009.

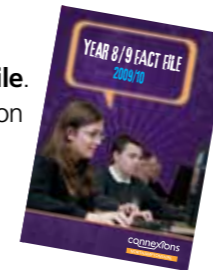
www.direct.gov.uk/diplomasandyourchild

Information on Diplomas and other qualifications.

www.northants14-19.org.uk

Information for parents on 14 to 19 changes in education and training.

Your teenager can contact
Connexions
Northamptonshire
free on **0800 73 13 2 19**



Keeping up with the Changes

in Education for young people in Years 10 and 11



"80% of teenagers turn to parents for advice on options and careers."

Do you know what choices are available?



Keep this leaflet for your teenager's parents evenings. Electronic copies can be found on:

www.4you2.org.uk

January 2010

A guide for **parents and carers** of 12, 13 and 14 year olds on changes in education

In Year 8 and 9, your teenager will be choosing courses and qualifications they want to take in Years 10 and 11.

These courses will have a bearing on their future plans.

The government is introducing a number of changes to 14-19 education to improve skills and employability of young people, so they can compete for jobs in a more challenging job market. Young people today need skills that will enable them to change jobs, if necessary, in the course of their working life. These skills are called 'transferable' skills.

These changes have been designed to give young people a wider choice of courses, so they can learn in a way that suits them and is at their level.

The 14-19 changes will mean that there is an increasing amount of choice but you will need to check what is available in your teenager's school. Ask to see their "Key Stage 4 booklet" - different schools offer different choices.



For more information on changes to 14-19 education



What's already changed?

GCSEs from September 2009

- **Less coursework in GCSEs** - There will be controlled assessments done in school or college that are teacher set and marked instead of coursework.
- **More practical GCSEs** - These may be taken as part of the Diploma or alongside other GCSEs. For example, Construction and Built Environment, Hospitality and Catering, Creative and Media and Applied PE.

What's stayed the same?

Students have to take: Mathematics, English, Science, Information Communications and Technology, Careers, Sex and Relationship Education, Work-Related Learning, Citizenship, Religious Education, and P.E.

Look at this chart to find out:

- what qualifications there are at different levels; and
- how many different ways your teenager can progress to Level 4.

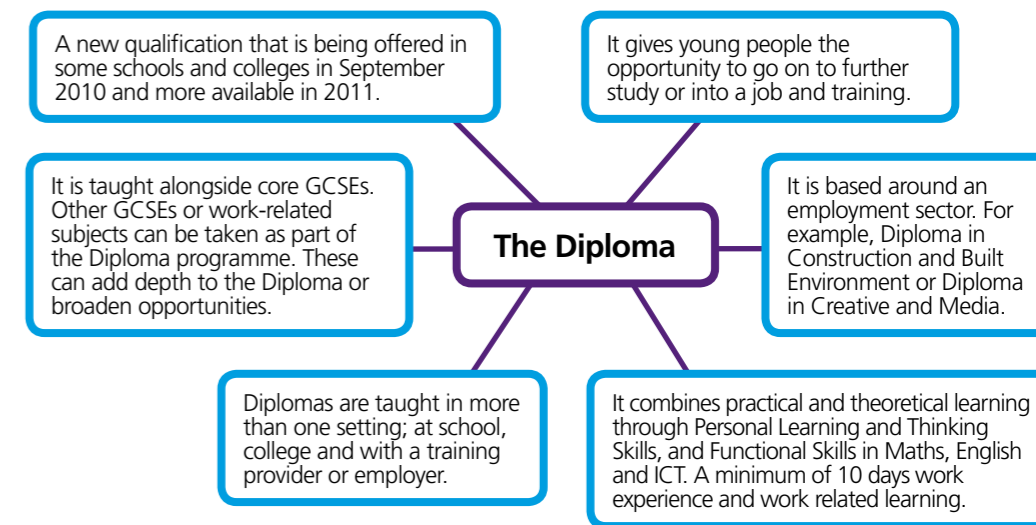
Level 2 is seen as minimum level required by employers and critical to going on to further study and higher education.

LEVELS	Traditional Route	Diploma Route	Apprenticeship Route	Other examples of qualifications
Level 4	Higher Education, Training and Employment			
Level 3	AS/A Levels	Advanced and Progression Diplomas	Advanced Apprenticeship	Key skills level 3 National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 3 Vocationally Related Qualification (VRQ) Level 3
Level 2	GCSE (A*-C)	Higher Diploma	Young Apprenticeship and Apprenticeships	Key skills level 2 National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) Level 2 BTEC Level 2
Level 1	GCSE (D-G)	Foundation Diploma	Vocational	ASDAN Level 1 Certificates Key skills level 1 BTEC Introductory NVQ and VRQ Level 1
Entry/Level 1	Foundation Learning			

Foundation Learning

There will be more options in the Foundation Learning. Qualifications at Entry Level and Level 1 are being redesigned to give learning opportunities to those teenagers who may struggle at this stage to get GCSEs. The aim is to help them move on to GCSE's or to get more qualifications at this level. See www.qcda.gov.uk for updates.

What's new and when will it happen?



Functional Skills

Functional Skills are practical skills in English, Maths and ICT.

- **From September 2010** your teenager will study these as part of GCSEs, Apprenticeships and the Diploma.

Good language, maths and ICT are essential for adult life and important to employers.

Check with your teenager's school to see what options are available!

Young Apprenticeships

There will be a wider range of and more Young Apprenticeships available for your teenager. They give young people a taste of work while they learn. Alongside doing GCSEs a teenager will spend around 2 days a week getting practical experience with an employer or training provider and gaining work related qualifications. They could progress onto an Advanced Apprenticeship. (Find out what is being offered at your teenager's school)