



STAYING IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING BEYOND 16

A guide for parents 2010



How to use this booklet

This is a guide to the changes which are taking place in Education and how they will affect your child.



What's changing in Education?

The government has plans to raise the school leaving age to 18 by the year 2015. At present, pupils are only legally required to stay in full time education until the age of 16, but in order to give the best possible chance of a good education and successful career, the government plans to change this.

What's the government definition of education and training?

"A young person stays at school and continues into the sixth form until the age of 18 OR leaves school at the end of Year 11 and begins employment where there is a substantial element of training that will continue to give them further qualifications".

What does this mean exactly?

This means that young people will be able to choose

- **Full time education such as in school or in college**
- **Work based learning such as an apprenticeship**
- **Part time education or training for more than 20 hours a week**

If you want more information on government changes either log on to the government web site, www.dcsf.gov.uk or log on to Connexions (Careers advice) www.connexions-tw.co.uk

This booklet is arranged in sections as follows:

Section 1: How do the changes affect my child?

Section 2: What are the choices available to my child at Churchill?

Section 3: What do I have to do as a parent?



Section 1

How do the changes affect my child?

Did your child start in September 2009?

They will currently be in Year 7

Students who joined the school in September 2009 will need to stay in education or training until the age of 18.

Did your child start in September 2008?

They will currently be in Year 8

Students who joined the school in September 2008 will need to stay in education or training until at least the age of 17.

Did your child start in September 2007 or earlier?

They will currently be in Year 9 , Year 10 or Year 11

Students who joined the school in September 2007 or earlier can still choose to leave at age 16. However, they will be strongly encouraged to continue in education or training until age 18.

Section 2

What are the choices available to my child at Churchill?

Year 7 / Year 8 (Students aged 11 to 13)

Your child will study a wide range of subjects including core subjects English, Maths, Science, RE, PE and Personal Social Citizenship Health Education plus 'enquiry based' learning which encourages your child to learn how to study independently.

In the Spring Term of Year 8, your child will choose their options for Year 9. The choices are a range of GCSEs and BTEC courses which will lead to a qualification at the end of the year.

Options available for your child to study in Year 9

Vocational Courses in 1 Year:

Art, Business Studies, Health & Social Care, Hospitality & Catering, ICT, Music, Performing Arts, Retail, Sport

GCSE courses in 1 Year:

French, Food Technology, Geography, History, Humanities, Physical Education, Product Design, Resistant Materials, Spanish,

Year 9 (Students aged 13 and 14)

This academic year builds on the learning that has taken place in Years 7 and 8. Your child will continue with the core subjects but will also study the choices they made at the end of Year 8.

In the Spring Term of Year 9, your child will make further choices, to take them into Years 10 and 11. Again a range of GCSE, BTEC and/or a Foundation/Higher Diploma courses are available to study over a two year period.

Options for your child to study in years 10 and 11

Vocational courses in 2 years: Art, Health & Social Care, Hospitality & Catering, ICT, Music, Performing Arts, Retail, Sport

GCSE courses in 2 years: Business Studies, French, Food Technology, Geography, History, Physical Education, Product Design, Resistant Materials, Spanish, Textiles

Diploma courses in 2 years (Level 1 and Level 2): IT, Society Health & Development, Engineering, Creative & Media, Construction & Built Environment, Environment & Land Based Studies, Manufacturing & Product Design, Hair & Beauty, Business Administration & Finance, Hospitality, Public Services, Sport & Active Leisure, Retail Business, Travel & Tourism, Humanities & Social Sciences, Languages, Science

Year 10/Year 11 (Students aged 14 to 16): As in Year 9 these two years build on the learning that has taken place already. Your child will continue with the core subjects plus their choices made at the end of Year 9.

Year 12/Year 13 (Students aged 16 to 18): At the start of Year 12 all students choose subjects relevant to their chosen career and have a range of options open to them.

Options

A level courses: English, Maths, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, History, Product Design, Business Studies, Textile Technology, Food Technology, Physical Education, Sociology, Psychology

Vocational Courses Level 3: Health & Social Care, ICT, Sport

Vocational Courses level 2: Sport, Travel & Tourism

Diploma Courses Level 2 and Level 3: IT, Society Health & Development, Engineering, Creative & Media, Construction & Built Environment, Environment & Land Based Studies, Manufacturing & Product Design, Hair & Beauty, Business Administration and Finance, Hospitality, Public Services, Sport & Active Leisure, Retail Business, Travel & Tourism, Humanities & Social Sciences, Languages, Science

GCSE Re-sits: English, Maths

CASE STUDIES

CHRIS

is a student in Year 8 and thinks he wants a career in Business, but is also interested in meeting people and travel. He is not certain which options to take so uses the Connexions drop-in facility at Churchill and after talking to them and with his parents, he decides to choose the following options to study in Year 9:

- **BTEC Business**
- **GCSE French**
- **BTEC Travel & Tourism**

(Chris can only do 1 GCSE in Year 9)

In Year 9 Chris will also continue with his core subjects:

- **English**
- **Maths**
- **Science**
- **PE**
- **RE**
- **PSHCE**

MICHAEL

is a student in Year 9. At the end of Year 8, he opted to study GCSE PE, BTEC Health and Social Care and OCR Nationals ICT. At the end of Year 9, Michael decided he really enjoyed BTEC Health and Social Care and opted to do a Diploma in Society, Health and Development.

The Diploma gives him the chance to spend two days a week at the Riverside Training Centre in North Shields where he is able to gain vocational experience. At the end of Year 11, Michael will gain the following qualification:
Diploma in Society, Health and Development (7 GCSEs)

Michael will also gain the following qualifications as he has to study the core GCSE subjects:

- **English**
- **English Literature**
- **Mathematics**
- **Double Award Science**
- **Philosophy and Ethics (this is the exam taken in RE)**

SHARON

is in Year 10. At the end of Year 8, she was able to make her first set of choices around the subjects she would like to study. She opted to study BTEC Art, BTEC Sport and GCSE French. At the end of Year 9, Sharon decided that she really enjoyed studying Art during Year 9 and wanted to continue this into Years 10 and 11. She also chose to study GCSE History and GCSE Resistant Materials. At the end of Year 11, Sharon will have the following qualifications:

- **BTEC Art (4 GCSEs)**
- **BTEC Sport (2 GCSEs)**
- **GCSE French**
- **GCSE History**
- **GCSE Resistant Materials**

Sharon, like all students in Years 10 and 11 has to study the core subjects and therefore will also have GCSEs in:

- **English**
- **English Literature**
- **Mathematics**
- **Double Award Science**
- **Philosophy and Ethics (this is the exam taken in RE)**

CLAIRE

is starting out in Year 12 and aims to be a nurse. At the end of Year 11 she gained the following qualifications:

- **GCSE English C**
- **GCSE English Literature C**
- **GCSE Maths C**
- **GCSE Science CC**
- **GCSE Philosophy and Ethics D**
- **OCR National ICT Pass (Equivalent to 2 GCSEs Grade C)**
- **BTEC Health and Social Care Merit (Equivalent to 4 GCSEs at Grade B)**

As it is competitive to study Nursing at University, she chooses to study BTEC 3 Health and Social Care as this gives her practical competencies as well as theory on courses which are covered in the nursing programme, such as Anatomy and Physiology, Nutrition and Communication Skills. To give her the extra edge when applying to University, she decides to study A Level Sociology to complement her Diploma course.

Claire knows that to gain a place at University she needs to gain distinction in her BTEC Level 3 Health and Social Care and a reasonable pass in her A Level.

Section 3

What do I have to do as a parent?

- Make sure you support your child in choosing the right options for them
- Make use of information and advice from teaching staff
- Attend parents evenings
- Encourage your child to attend their Connexions appointments as well as using the drop in sessions

What choices are available outside Churchill?

Apprenticeship

As employees, apprentices earn a wage and work alongside experienced staff to gain skills and qualifications.

Employment with Training

At 16 a young person can take a job, but ideally should continue to develop skills by taking a course leading to a nationally recognised qualification.

How do you get further information?

Churchill Community College will continue to keep parents informed about the changes. If further information becomes available we will let you know. If the meantime, if you want to discuss the changes further you can....

Contact your child's Learning Co-ordinator at Churchill Community College, Churchill Street, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear NE28 7TN

Telephone: **0191 2347200**

Email: churchillcollege@northtyneside.gov.uk

Get in touch with Connexions:

Telephone: **0191 2878618**

Email: ConnexionsNT@northtyneside.gov.uk

Website: www.connexions-tw.co.uk

Look at other websites:

www.dcsf.gov.uk

www.teachernet.gov.uk

www.connexions-direct.com

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

What is meant by?

Options: These are the subjects which a student chooses to study in Year 9 and beyond. These are in addition to core subjects, of which they have no choice.

Level 2: This means achievement at Grade C or above at GCSE.

Level 3: This means A level standard.

Level 4: This means Degree standard.

Core subjects:

This means subjects which continue to be studied throughout school and include English, Maths, Science, RE, PE, PSHCE.

GCSE:

A General Certificate of Secondary Education qualification involves studying the theory of a subject combined with some investigative or practical work. GCSEs are graded A*-G.

AS and A Level:

Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and A (Advanced) level qualifications focus on traditional study skills. They are one of the main routes into higher education, but they're also useful for those that want to go straight into a job, such as office administration or trainee accountancy.

The AS level can be either a free standing qualification, or be valued as the first half of the full A level. At the end of the AS year, there is the option to take the AS qualification only or continue to the second year and go for the full A level.

Vocational Qualifications:

Vocational qualifications allow young people to learn skills relevant to a variety of jobs.

Further Education

Further Education offers a wide range of courses normally for students over 16. Courses offered include GCSE, AS / A Level and Vocational qualifications.

Higher Education

This is the highest level of education offered by universities where students can obtain first degrees (undergraduate) and post graduate degrees and doctorates.

