



The Cavendish School

17th November 2016

Dear parents and carers of Year 11 students

It is a good idea at this stage for Year 11 students to consider their plans for post-16. I am re-sending this message to give you information about the options available, and the opportunities and research that you can pursue and discuss with your son or daughter. We will be covering these topics with year 11 students on our Extended Learning Day in school on 19th December.

Key dates coming up:

23rd November in school time: Subject Fair hosted by current Sixth Form students

12th January 6pm-8pm: parents' information evening "Into Key Stage 5" for all information about joining Sixth Form and how to apply

17th January: Parents' Consultation Evening for year 11.

Unlike applying for secondary and primary school, there is no formal or single structure for applying for Post-16 places. It is up to your son or daughter to apply for possible options. Young people can apply for as many options with as many providers as they want. Every provider is likely to require a different application, and their deadlines for applications will vary. Their entry requirements (grades) will vary too. We recommend that you explore all the options and apply directly to appropriate providers or employers. It is a good idea to apply for your preferred option, and also make an insurance application too. Aim high, but be realistic.

By making an application, you are expressing a firm interest in that route, not making a commitment at this stage. Final decision time comes just after exam results are issued, when you can accept any offer you have received following your applications, subject to your results. In the meantime, you can work to achieve the best grades you can, knowing the entry targets your offers may depend on. Information on how to apply for Cavendish Sixth Form will be available in school in January.

If college is an option for you, find more information on their websites and I recommend going to visit their open days. Applications are accepted throughout the school year but early action means a better chance of accessing the course you want.

For employer (apprenticeship) offers, you will need to comply with their offer timescales. Young people are legally still at school until the end of June after their GCSEs.

What are the options?

Young people must continue in learning until their 18th birthday, and there are many ways of doing this. [Here is a broad overview of the options.](#) Elsewhere on the Youth Connexions website there is a wealth of further information.



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How can I explore the options?

1) Attend careers events and ask questions.

- [Cavendish Sixth Form](#) have a subject fair for year 11 students on 23rd November, and an Open Evening for parents on 12th January 6pm-8pm when full details about how to apply will be available. You should apply by the end of January: note that you will need to comply with minimum entry grade requirements. There is a Parents' Consultation Evening on 17th January. Other Sixth Forms have their own Open Evenings - contact the schools themselves for their dates and deadlines. Normally there is only one open event per school, but you can also arrange to visit at other times.
- The local Further Education (FE) colleges have open events each term, here are the dates for next term (more details on their websites):

West Herts College (no need to book)	25/2/17 Dacorum and Kings Langley campuses 9.30-12.30 4/3/17 Watford campus 9.30-2.30
Oaklands College (best to register online before the event, it gets very busy)	7/2/17 St Albans Campus 5-8pm 8/2/17 Welwyn Campus 5-8pm
Amersham & Wycombe College Elstree UTC Watford UTC	See their websites for their next open events

These are the more popular colleges in this area, there are other specialist colleges available too: find out about their open days on their websites.

- Go to careers events such as WorldSkills at NEC Birmingham on 17th to 19th Nov 2016 <https://www.worldskillsuk.org/> and the Skills Show at Excel London on 9th & 10th December 2016 <http://www.skillslondon2016.co.uk/> and the National Apprenticeship Show at Milton Keynes on 13th & 14th March 2017 <http://www.nationalapprenticeshipshow.org/midlands/>

2) Research online to explore career ideas, which may help when deciding on post-16 plans.

Year 11 students will cover the following websites on our Extended Learning Day later this term. These websites are free, impartial and do not have advertising.

Icould	The Buzz Quiz is a quick interactive quiz which will suggest possible careers based on your answers. Many careers articles and videos.
National Careers Service	Wide range of information and links.
Plotr	The Game is a good starting point, an interactive quiz which will produce suggested careers and further links to explore.
Get in Go far	Explore here if you are interested in apprenticeships.



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Here are two more sites, specifically aimed at parents:

Parental Guidance	Useful information to help you support your son or daughter, from several careers writers
Careers Advice for Parents	Basic overview of all the main issues in career planning for teenagers

3) Consult with [Youth Connexions Hertfordshire \(YCH\)](#)

- All Year 11 students will have the chance for a one-to-one appointment with a YCH adviser during school time, to discuss the options and help with making decisions. School pays for this service so that students have access to confidential, impartial, qualified guidance. Parents/carers can attend the meeting too (please contact me in school to arrange this).
- In addition the YCH advisers are available for students to drop in to see them at break and lunchtime on the days they are in school (see the list of dates on the YCH office door, next to the Fitness Suite).
- Outside of school, YCH advisers are available at the XC Centre, Jarman Park, Mon-Tues and Thurs-Fri 1pm-5pm (not Wednesdays). [Full information is here](#). They are open in school holidays.
- YCH also offer many other projects, services and support for young people: full information is on their website.

Post-16 planning requires research and decision-making skills: while we will be helping your son or daughter with this process in school, please take the time at home to discuss their plans with them as they take this important next step.

I realise there are many links in this letter! While these are useful sources of information, we can't take any responsibility for external website content, and web-based content is not a substitute for professional career guidance. There is a vast amount of information available, these are just starting points. If you want off-line information, please phone me on 01442 278772 (direct/voicemail).

Yours sincerely

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