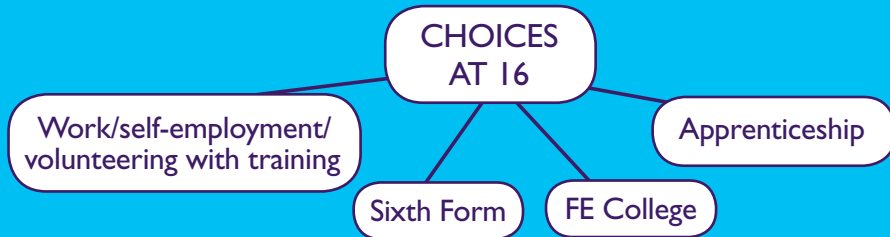


What happens at 16?



Where can I find out more?

Parent Partnership can offer you impartial information advice and support. You can contact Parent Partnership on 01752 258933 or email: parentpartnership@plymouth.gov.uk

Further information can be found at Careers South West. They offer impartial information, advice, guidance and support to your young person at the Plymouth Connexions Centre (10-12 Union Street, Plymouth, PL1 2SR). Tel: 01752 207700, email: plymouthconnexions@careerssw.org or through your school or college.

Here are some of the websites that you may find useful:

- CAREERS SOUTH WEST
www.connexions-cd.org.uk
- NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP SERVICE
www.apprenticeships.org.uk/
- CONNEXIONS DIRECT
www.connexions-direct.com
- PLYMOUTH PARENT PARTNERSHIP
www.plymouthparentpartnership.org.uk
- DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION
www.education.gov.uk
- TAMAR VALLEY CONSORTIUM
www.t-v-c.org/tvc
- HIGHER EDUCATION
www.gr8choice.org

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Raising the Participation Age (RPA)

Information for Parents and Carers



What is RPA?

From 2013 all young people will be required by law to continue in learning or training to 17 years old. From 2015 they will be required to continue in learning or training to 18 years old. This means that young people who entered year 7 in September 2008 will continue in learning or training until the end of the academic year that they turn 17 years old, whilst those who entered year 7 in September 2009 will need to continue in learning or training until at least their 18th birthday.



Why raise the participation age?

The changes to the participation age will give every young person the best chance to achieve and succeed because:

- Continuing in learning for longer brings benefits for individuals, the economy and society (young people who stay on after 16 years old are more likely to gain higher levels of qualifications, increasing their earning potential)
- The world of work is changing. Young people without higher level skills and qualifications are going to find it increasingly difficult to find and keep employment in the future
- This will improve the life chances of all young people irrespective of their ability level

Does this mean staying at school?

No, it's not just about staying on at school or college.

A wide range of learning opportunities will be available.

Your young person will either:

- Continue in full-time education
- Follow a full-time work-based learning route (e.g apprenticeship)
- Undertake part-time education or training for about one day a week if:
 - they work
 - they are self-employed
 - they volunteer for 20 hours per week

What does this mean for me as a parent/carer?

You will be able to support your young person plan their future if you have a good understanding of:

- Options that are available for your young person
- How those options work
- The support that is available to both you and your young person to help your family make informed choices