

## Important information for Parents with children in Years 9 and 10

***Raising the Participation Age (RPA) is coming into effect from summer 2013<sup>1</sup>.***

***If your son or daughter is currently in Year 10 or below this will affect them.***

### ***What is RPA?***

The Government is raising the age at which young people are required to participate in education or training. If your son or daughter is currently in **Year 10, they will have to continue in education or training until at least the end of the school year in which they turn 17** (and of course they are then able to continue beyond that if they want to). If they are currently in **Year 9 or below, they will have to continue until at least their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.**

This does not necessarily mean they will have to stay on at school after Year 11, and they will still be able to work full-time, if they choose to. They will have a choice about how they want to participate post-16, which could be through:

- Full-time education, such as school or college;
- Work-based learning, such as an Apprenticeship; or
- Part-time education or training if they are employed, self employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week.

### ***Why make this change?***

We want to give all young people the opportunity to develop the skills they need for adult life and to achieve their full potential. Participating in learning for longer means they are more likely to get the skills and qualifications that will open doors to future employment, help them make the most of their potential, and earn more over their lifetime.

Evidence shows that not being in education, employment or training at age 16-18 means young people are more likely to be unemployed, earn less, have a criminal record and suffer from poor health and depression over their lifetime.

### ***What does this mean for you?***

The legal requirement to participate will be on your son or daughter. This is because we know that, at 16, young people should be starting to make – and take responsibility for – the decisions that affect their future.

However, we also know that your children look to you for advice and support as they make these decisions. We know that you will want to do all you can to

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<sup>1</sup> RPA will take effect from the last day of the academic year in summer 2013 – young people with an offer of a place, are not expected to participate until the start date of their course i.e. in most instances the September following the Summer break.

support your children to make the right decision for them as they choose between their education and training options.

Making choices about education and training can be a challenge, so your child will receive support to help them choose well. The careers information they will receive includes options information from school, information and advice via the young people's careers helpline and online resources. Your child will receive careers advice and guidance from many people including their subject teachers, careers co-ordinators or careers advisers. This will help them to think through their ideas and weigh up the pros and cons of different options.

More information is available at

<http://education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/participation/rap>

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/14To19/OptionsAt16/index.htm>

The young people's careers helpline is available from 8.00am to 10pm, seven days a week, telephone **0800 100 900**, or for text messages on **0776 641 3219**.