

The government is changing the age at which young people can leave learning

What does this mean for your teenager?

The Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) means that:

- from September 2013 young people must continue in education or training to age 17
- from September 2015 young people must continue in education or training to age 18

So if your teenager is in this year's: (Academic year 2011 to 2012)

- year 10 - they must stay in education or training until the end of the academic year they are 17
- year 9 - they must stay in education or training until they are 18

Does this mean that your teenager has to stay on at school?

No. Here's some examples of what counts as 'staying in learning'

- full time education. This can be in school or college or educated at home.
- work-based learning. This can be with an employer or training provider. For example, doing an apprenticeship.
- part-time education or training. They will need to be employed, self employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours a week.
- starting your own business.

How will these changes help your teenager?

Jobs for school leavers are getting harder to find. There are fewer jobs for young people without qualifications or skills. So teenagers must get as much education and qualifications as they can. Staying in learning for longer will give your teenager the opportunity to get qualifications that will help them progress on to apprenticeships, go onto higher education or into employment.

Your teenager's school, local consortium of schools and local colleges are preparing to offer a wide choice of options. This is called *the post 16 offer*. You and your teenager will be given information about what will be available. Your teenager's Connexions choices adviser can help with decisions about which courses to take. Speak to your teenager's school to arrange an appointment



What did year 11 students do in 2010 in Northamptonshire?

88% stayed in full time education
 3% went into training
 2% went into employment.
 5% were not settled in full time activity
 0% went into volunteering or part-time activities

Where can you find out more information about RPA?

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk (look in the parents' section of Education and Learning)

www.4you2.org.uk/parents

Talk to your teenager's school

Talk to your teenager's Connexions choices adviser: info@connexions-northamptonshire.org.uk