

YOUR CHILDS OPTIONS

In year 9 your son and daughter will be asked by Balby Carr to seriously consider what they'd like to do after 16. Although only 14 years old, they have to make key decisions that can affect their options after 16 in the world of work and further education. Every pupil is given an option list. 5 GCSE grades are compulsory however pupils have the option to choose the equivalent of 4 GCSE's to study in year 10 and 11. This provides the total of 9 GCSEs grades.

Support

There is a wide variety of support within school to help with their choices, with career advisors, tutors and subject teachers. However it's inevitable that your child will require your opinion and support throughout the process. So how can you help?

When your son or daughter is choosing the subject you need to encourage them to think about the future and the effect their option choices could have on the future.

- Encourage them to think about the careers, which will help them develop the skills the skills they might need for the future.
- Make sure that they are not choosing a subject because it's an easy option or because their friends are taking it.
- Help them find out about the subjects they could take and see what jobs and further education they could do after GCSEs.

USEFUL RESOURCES

There are three main sources of information that can help you with your Childs choices. These are people, websites and publications. Here is a list of the latest information to raise your awareness of the world of work, study and South Yorkshire.

Publications

Publications	Information
Look Ahead 2004/05	This booklet provides essential information and exercises to support your child.
Parents and Careers Guide 2003	Essential reading to understand everything about your role and careers education.
Moving On 2003/2004	This provides essential information about destinations of school leaver in 2002 throughout South Yorkshire.

Websites	Information
www.lifetime-bdr.co.uk	Your local Careers service in South Yorkshire. Provides useful advice careers guidance.
www.connexionssy.org.uk	Supportive help for 13-19 year olds. Find out what help is available to your child.

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/highereducation/	Find out about higher education such as university and colleges.
http://www.parentcentre.gov.uk	Excellent one stop website designed specifically for parents. Includes special needs information, advice and options.
http://www.dfes.gov.uk/qualifications/	Find out about GCSE's and also all different types of qualification your child may take in the future.

People - You can contact the following people at Balby Carr School 01302 852247 or 01302 854978

Keith Old Head of Careers

APPLIED GCSE

The new GCSEs encourage your children to continue in learning with a choice of directions that build directly upon their achievements in both general and vocational qualifications on an equal footing.

They can either go on to study a combination of general and vocational subjects, focus on an area of study directly related to the new GCSE or develop interests in other subjects.

As with all GCSEs the new GCSE's can be used by students to progress to further study in School or College at a higher level e.g. AS or A level and /or AVCE (Vocational A level).

Some students may go on to study six unit Intermediate or Foundation GNVQ, an NVQ in the same or another vocationally related qualification.

Other students might start work and take a Modern Apprenticeship (MA) leading to a skilled career or management training, and later to a foundation degree or other Higher Education course.

Balby Carr in partnership with Lifetime and the Connexions Service can provide students and parents with information about the wide range of opportunities, the new GCSE's can help to provide.