

### **Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)**

EMAs are available for young people to continue to study post 16yrs – these are dependant on household income, but can lead to up to £30 per week. However they are dependant on the student fulfilling their obligations – ie punctuality, attendance and completion of work at college. Application forms are available from school from April, or are available online.

### **Apprenticeships**

- These are work based learning programmes that will allow the student to earn a wage whilst learning on the job. They can lead to NVQ, BTEC or City and Guilds qualifications;
- Apprenticeships can be offered at Level 2 (equivalent to GCSEs) or Level 3 (Advanced Apprenticeships are equivalent to A levels);
- The young person does need to find employment that will offer an apprenticeship – the *Connexions* service can help.

### **Useful Web Addresses:**

**EMA:** <http://ema.direct.gov.uk>

**Getting a job:** [www.cnx2jobs.co.uk](http://www.cnx2jobs.co.uk)

**Apprenticeships:** [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

**Connexions Direct:** [www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com)

# A Parent's Survival Guide ~ How to help your School Leaver

### Where to next?

- The majority of our students (99%+) continue in full time education or move on to work based learning, such as apprenticeships;
- College: students can apply for any 6<sup>th</sup> form college, college of further education, or school with a 6<sup>th</sup> form; all vary in their admission policies;
- Good starting points – websites are best and there is a link on the front page of the Trinity website

### Choosing a Course to Study

- It's important that students choose subjects to study that interest and motivate them;
- It is vital to find out what the entry requirements are for a particular course – college websites are particularly good for this. For example different science A level subjects probably have different grade requirements at GCSE;
- A rough guide is that students need to achieve at least 6 A\*-C grades to study 4 A/S levels, (5 A\*-C grades to study 3 A/S levels) including Maths and English;
- Colleges also offer Advanced BTEC courses, which are a natural progression from BTEC qualifications gained in school – some of these are popular, eg Forensic Science, Business Studies, Health and Social Care;
- Colleges also offer GCSE and other Level 2 qualifications to support students who need to have the necessary grades for A Levels or advanced courses;
- If students don't have at least a C grade in Maths or English then the college will insist that they do these courses – this might affect the number of advanced courses that they can do.

### Choosing a College

- College prospectuses (eg Loreto, Xaverian, Trafford College) arrive in school and can be picked up by students from the table outside Mr Saunders' office or can be obtained directly from the college;

- Essential: go to college open days – these are great opportunities to discuss course requirements and see what is available;
- Discuss with your child what sort of environment they would thrive in: some colleges have a '*campus*' feel, whilst others are more traditional like Trinity. Some colleges have different approaches to '*pastoral care*' and it's useful to find out about these;
- Taster days are very useful – not just to get a feel of the subjects, but also the ethos of the college;
- **Colleges have tightened up their admissions processes and have emphasised the importance of good attendance, good punctuality and good behaviour reports from schools;**
- Care must be taken over the presentation of the application form as this can influence the college's decision;
- Your child must be able to explain why they want to go to the particular college they have chosen, and it can't be just because their friends are going there.

### Schedule:

- **September/October:** During this term all students will have a Connexions interview with an adviser; College open days, college prospectuses, websites, look at courses and their requirements, collect application forms; Students prepare their Personal Statements at school;
- **November:** Taster days at many colleges, complete application forms, return them with Personal Statements to Mr Saunders at school;
- **December:** continue returning application forms with Personal Statements to Mr Saunders at school – ***remember that students can apply to as many colleges as they wish;***
- **January:** Applications processed and sent to colleges
- **February/March:** College interviews take place.