

Raising of the Participation Age (RPA)

Your future is changing....what does this mean

Raising the Participation Age (RPA) is the Government's policy which sets out a new requirement for young people to continue in learning or training after the age of 16. This will affect:

- young people that complete Year 11 in or after 2015: it will be a requirement to remain in learning or training up to 18 years old.

RPA does not necessarily mean staying in school; young people have a choice about how they continue in learning and training.

Why?

By staying in learning and training you can gain the qualifications and skills you need to help you to succeed. Advantages include:

- Making it easier to find and stay in a job
- Having the ability to earn and give you a greater choice of career path
- Being able to compete in the future local job market
- Providing pathways to opportunities where you can develop your qualifications and skills further in order to support your future career aspirations for example: higher education (university), higher apprenticeships, setting up your own business.

You will also have a greater chance to develop the knowledge and practical skills that employers are looking for. This means you will find it easier to get a better job, with better pay and career prospects.

Choices at 16

There are a range of options you can choose in order to best meet your needs and your future career aspirations for the next steps once you complete Year 11. These include:

- full-time education which includes studying at an FE college, school sixth form or home education;
- an Apprenticeship;
- part-time education or training if you are employed or self-employed;
- Volunteering full-time (which is defined as 20 hours or more a week), whilst studying independently.

Financial Support

The Government provides additional funding to colleges and sixth forms and some learning providers to help young people in need of financial support to stay in learning post 16.

This could help with covering the costs of things such as your transport, books or equipment, costs for trips / visits etc.

More details on the 16–19 Bursary can be found on the gov.uk website or you can talk to your local provider about what financial assistance they may be able to offer you.