



what's next?



2010

A parents/carers guide to
life after school for young
people with additional
learning needs

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Introduction

All young people need to plan for the time when they will leave school, and most will need some help to do this. Young people with additional learning needs – and their parents/carers – are no exception and may need extra help to understand what is available to them, so they can make informed decisions. Some parents may not be aware of any special provision after school, and for them their son's or daughter's future is a matter of great concern.

This booklet aims to provide an overview of education, training, and employment provision for young people with additional learning needs after year 11, with some details of the local area. It cannot provide information on everything that is available and may not provide all the details you need. For further information please contact a Connexions Personal Adviser either at your local Connexions centre, or visit our website www.connexions-cd.org.uk. Ask staff at your child's school about the arrangements that have been made for your Connexions Personal Adviser to visit. For young people whose homes are in Cornwall or Devon but go to special schools or colleges in another area, we will work jointly with careers services or Connexions services in that area.

Connexions provides young people aged 13 to 19 with the best possible information, advice, personal support, and guidance. Helping them in their transition to adult learning opportunities, and to work where appropriate. We can also help young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities up to the age of 25. We want to work with you to help prepare your son or daughter for their future by:

- giving you information about their choices and what these might lead to
- giving you information about the help they can get from the Connexions Service and others
- keeping you up-to-date on new initiatives for young people.

We work closely with local key partners and organisations, to support young people as they move from adolescence to adulthood. We work in partnership with:

- staff in schools, education out of school, and colleges of further education
- key agencies such as local authority services for young people, families and adults, health authorities, the Jobcentre Plus, youth offending teams, the Probation Service, the police, and community and voluntary organisations
- employers and training providers.

Transition planning

If your child has a Statement of Special Educational Needs you will be invited by the school (or local education authority in some cases) to the transition review in year 9. The review is particularly important in looking ahead to what your son or daughter may do after year 11. Parents/carers and their child's views are very important and they should be involved in all decisions made. A Connexions Personal Adviser will be at this review, and others who are likely to play an important role when your child leaves school may also be invited. Reviews may also be organised for other young people needing support.

At the review meeting your child's statement, targets, and future plans will be discussed, but this is only the start of planning for the future. The meeting should result in a transition plan, which outlines the first steps necessary in planning for your child's future. The transition plan will be updated at reviews in year 10 and year 11.

Person centred planning

Person centred planning puts the person at the centre of their choices by using a holistic approach focusing on what they want out of life. It's about other people listening and helping the person to think about what is important to them in their lives, now and in the future, and agreeing a plan with them not for them.

Family, friends, and professionals work together with the person to make their choices happen and to solve any problems together. Person centred planning helps services to know what people want and also enables people to be a part of their community and live the lives they want.

For more information about person centred planning talk to your Connexions Personal Adviser.

After year 11 – what are the choices?

An overview

You will find entries in this booklet for the most common choices at the end of year 11, those that most young people will make at this stage in their lives. These are sometimes called post-16 options or provision. You may be aware of other possibilities, which could be considered and discussed with your Connexions Personal Adviser. Some choices are merely steps on the way and not an end in themselves – they are designed to help young people progress and make the best of their own talents and abilities.

The main choices after year 11 are:

- staying on at school or moving to another school
- further education at a local college
- residential further education
- local employment and training (including additional help for those who are not yet ready for employment).

The following pages cover these choices and there is also information outlining the possible choices available to your son or daughter after they reach 18 years of age.

Staying on at school

If young people want to continue with their education after year 11 it may be possible for them to stay on at their current school. Or, if there is a more suitable course for them at another school in the area, they may be able to transfer. Some residential special schools also have post-16 provision.

At the back of this booklet you will find information about those schools in your area which provide specialist courses and/or support for young people with additional learning needs.

Local further education

Colleges of further education offer a wide range of full and part-time courses. Leaflets and prospectuses are usually produced each year with details of their courses, but you can also find the information via the online 14–19 prospectus for your area:

- Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly: www.cornwall.futures4me.co.uk
- Devon and Torbay: www.options4me.co.uk
- Plymouth: www.findacourse4me.co.uk

It is important to check out the further education colleges in your local area. Find out:

- where they are
- what courses they offer
- what support or help is available to students studying there
- if there is an age limit for students attending the course
- what travel arrangements will need to be made (note that each local authority area has its own policy on transport – ask your Connexions Personal Adviser for more information).

Colleges will support students by providing specific courses for those with additional learning needs, or giving them support on mainstream courses.

Courses for students with additional learning needs

Most local colleges offer courses specifically for young people with additional learning needs. The course titles vary between different colleges but certain features tend to be common:

- The course focuses particularly on literacy, numeracy, communication, and social skills.
- There is often the opportunity to have work experience or work tasters.
- They often act as bridging or preparatory courses, allowing students to progress to further courses, training, or work.
- General or vocational certificates can often be taken as part of the course.
- They may cater for students with learning difficulties or for students with a variety of additional learning needs.
- The courses are usually integrated into the college and give students access to other courses such as catering, hairdressing, engineering, building, etc.

Support on mainstream courses

Support is available in colleges for students with additional learning needs on mainstream courses, for example:

- in-class support for students with visual or hearing impairments, to help them to make notes, clarify terminology, or produce work
- extra help outside the classroom for students with specific learning difficulties, such as dyslexia
- specialist equipment to help both in and out of the classroom, such as hearing loops, computers with speech, spellcheckers, etc.

Most colleges of further education will have a member of staff who is responsible for dealing with assessment, support, and advice for students with additional learning needs. They may liaise with local schools, including special schools, in order to identify particular needs before a student starts a college course. This could include spending some time at the college while still in year 11 (sometimes called a link course). The Connexions Personal Adviser will also, with permission, pass on to the college an assessment of the support that your son or daughter needs. You may hear this referred to as a “Section 139A assessment”.

Disability statements

Colleges of further education are required to publish disability statements annually. These give details of the facilities provided by each college.

At the back of this booklet you will find details of courses at further education colleges for students with additional learning needs. Some training companies, voluntary organisations, and youth services also run courses, such as the ASDAN awards (described on page 11). Ask your Connexions Personal Adviser for more information.

Residential further education

For some young people appropriate opportunities for further education, social and vocational training may not be available locally. There are specialist colleges of further education which cater for students whose needs are too specialised for local further education colleges. Most offer a mix of general education, preparation for independent living, vocational training, and work experience. Medical and nursing care is often available. Most of these colleges are beyond daily travelling distance and therefore require students to be residential – indeed the residential aspect can be a vital part of the experience.

Funding for places in residential colleges (Independent Specialist Providers) may be available through the local authority and the Young People's Learning Agency although other organisations (for example, in health and/or social care) may be asked to contribute. It is important to assess the suitability of local provision before applying to residential colleges. Funding for students to attend a residential college is only possible if the local college is unable to offer a similar suitable course, or provide support for a specific learning need. Your Connexions Personal Adviser can discuss the funding process with you, including the timing of applications.

Natspec (The Association of National Specialist Colleges) produce a directory which provides a general description of its member colleges, including the college's curriculum, facilities, and geographical location. Copies of the Natspec directory can be obtained by contacting Derwen College on 01691 661234. Reference copies are also available at Connexions centres and more extensive information is available on the Natspec website – www.natspec.org.uk.

Your Connexions Personal Adviser will be able to show you a copy of the COPE Directory of post-16 residential education and training for young people with special educational needs. The directory contains details of residential colleges which provide further education and training. Reference copies are also available at Connexions centres.

Full details of the courses and admission arrangements can be obtained by contacting individual colleges and asking for a prospectus. It is always best to visit the colleges and talk to staff before applying.

Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

The EMA is a weekly payment of £10, £20 or £30, depending on your household income. It is paid directly to the student and won't make any difference to the benefits parents/carers receive. It is intended to help cover the cost of travel, books, equipment, or anything useful to help students continue learning, either at school, college, or with a training provider. There are also bonuses if they continue to do well.

For more information visit the EMA section at www.direct.gov.uk or phone the Learner Support helpline on 0800 121 8989.

Local employment and training

In Cornwall and Devon there are a number of different routes to training and employment for young people, each designed to meet their particular needs and abilities; these routes are called Work Based Learning. Help is provided for young people with additional learning needs or additional social needs, such as help with literacy and numeracy, gaining more confidence, learning what is required in the work place, or providing any specialist equipment that might be needed.

Your Connexions Personal Adviser can help young people who are thinking about going on to work and training, and will know of vacancies in your area. Connexions Personal Advisers can also advise on the qualifications that can be obtained while working, including National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs), or other qualifications that help in working towards NVQs. See the glossary on page 10 for an explanation of the more common qualifications. Training providers help those who are working towards NVQ qualifications and assess them, either at work or in a training centre. There are a number of training providers in Cornwall and Devon and your Connexions Personal Adviser can provide you with more information about where they are, and what occupational areas they cover. Alternatively, look at the work and training section on our website www.connexions-cd.org.uk.

Apprenticeships

These are available in a range of occupations, with training both on and off the job. There are different levels of Apprenticeships available, but all of them include the following:

- a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ – see glossary on page 10) at either Level 2 or 3
- key skills qualifications, e.g. working in teams, communication, information technology, problem solving and, in most cases,
- a technical certificate.

Most apprentices are employed and paid a wage (employer-led apprentices). Apprentices who are not paid a wage (programme-led apprentices) can apply for an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA – see page 7). Their parents will be able to continue to claim child benefit, tax credits, and other types of support.

Additional help

Entry to Employment (e2e)

Entry to Employment is a flexible provision that offers young people, who are not yet ready or able to progress to an Apprenticeship, further learning or employment.

Young people on e2e work towards nationally recognised qualifications, to Level 1, wherever possible. Young people on e2e can apply for an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA – see page 7) and their parents will be able to carry on claiming child benefit, tax credits, and other types of support. For more information about eligibility, ask your Connexions Personal Adviser.

For some young people it may be appropriate to spend some time on a pre-e2e programme before moving on to e2e itself.

Entry to Employment programmes vary from area to area. For further information on these and other programmes aimed at helping young people prepare for employment, training or learning, talk to your Connexions Personal Adviser.

Benefits

For advice on what benefits your son or daughter may be able to claim, contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau, Jobcentre Plus, Connexions centre, or Young People's Centre.

Devon Welfare Rights Unit offers free benefits advice for families, living in Devon, with children with special needs. The service is also open to young people with special needs or disabilities up to the age of 21. To receive a full, confidential, and independent benefit check telephone 0300 500 0404 or for further information visit their website www.dwru.org.

Torbay Disability Information Service can offer advice on benefits for people with a learning difficulty or disability who are resident in Torbay. The Torbay Disability Information Service can be contacted on 01803 546474 or dis.torbay@nhs.net.

Direct payments/individual or personalised budgets

Direct payments

People aged 16 and over with a physical disability, sensory impairment, learning disability, or mental or physical health problems, and who have been assessed as needing support to live independently, can be given money to buy the support needed. Direct payments can pay providers for support tailored to individual care needs. For more information contact your care manager or your social/key worker.

Individual or personalised budgets

People with a learning difficulty or disability who meet the relevant criteria can access an individual or a personalised budget. The person gets direct control over their agreed budget and can pay directly for equipment or support they need. For more information contact your care manager or your social/key worker.

Post-18 choices

A Disability Employment Adviser (DEA) at the Jobcentre Plus can give specialist support on employment issues to people who have a disability or health problem.

The DEA can refer people to programmes that offer additional support to help them find employment. These programmes vary from area to area and depend on the level of support a person needs to find employment. Options can include:

- working directly with the DEA to help find employment
- referrals to local training providers who can offer ongoing support to help find employment as well as completing various qualifications to enable people to develop their work skills
- referrals to Supported Employment organisations who can work on a long-term basis with people who need significant support to find employment
- referrals to residential training providers if training needs to be accessed that is not provided in their local area. A residential training course might consist of practical and directed training that is structured to give them the opportunity to develop and practice a wide range of vocational skills with support from the specialist staff.

The DEA can also ensure that the correct benefits are being claimed and can help with benefit applications.

Daytime provision for people with learning disabilities

These are a range of opportunities for people with learning disabilities, provided by local authorities and by independent organisations. The daytime activities are usually funded by local authorities but sometimes by the family or individual. A variety of activities are offered to help people develop the confidence and skills needed to live in the community.

Local authorities may also offer employment, training, and work experience opportunities at community resource centres, training units, and at other special projects.

When looking for possible opportunities it is important to check that young people meet any eligibility criteria, and as most adult provision is means tested, to check whether a contribution from the young person and/or their family will be required.

Glossary of qualifications

It is very easy to become confused by the many different qualifications, and the organisations that award or examine them. They are often only referred to by their initial letters. These are some of the more common qualifications and organisations which you might come across. For more information about qualifications, including the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), visit www.qcda.gov.uk.

1. GCSEs

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. Exams for this qualification are normally sat by 15 to 18 year olds in schools and colleges, and can be taken in over 45 subjects. There are also eight GCSEs in vocational subjects that relate to work in particular vocational areas.

2. A, AS, and A2 Levels

The A Level qualification is one level up from GCSEs and consists of two parts; the Advanced Subsidiary (AS) and the A2. The AS is a standalone qualification, normally consisting of two units, and is valued at half a full A Level. The A2 is the second half of a full A Level qualification, and also consists of two units. Some vocational subjects can be studied at AS or A2.

3. National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs)

NVQs are work related and competence-based qualifications. They are based on national occupational standards and cover all the main aspects of occupation. They are recognised by employers throughout the UK and are about doing the job, rather than just knowing how to do it. They can be taken by full-time employees or by school and college students with a work placement or part-time job. There are no age limits or special entry requirements.

NVQs are available at five levels, ranging from foundation through to management/professional.

4. Open College Network South West Region (OCNSWR)

OCNSWR is an awarding body in the south west, and accredits programmes of study across a wide area of subjects.

5. NPTC (National Proficiency Tests Council)

The NPTC Vocational Foundation Certificate covers a range of skill areas in land based and related industries, including independent living skills, agriculture, animal care, blacksmithing, equine, environmental conservation and gamekeeping, floristry, forestry and arboriculture, health and safety, horticulture, and machinery.

6. OCR (Oxford, Cambridge and RSA)

OCR is an awarding body for a number of qualifications, for example:

- Accreditation for Life and Living: aimed at developing personal, social and vocational skills to enable people with severe learning difficulties to make progress either into further education or work.
- National Skills Profile: this is aimed at students with learning difficulties and consists of twenty one skill areas. Six of the skill areas are essential – communication, numeracy, ICT, personal skills, practical work skills, and learning skills – and are tested at three different grades.

7. Qualifications in Skills for Working Life

Available from three awarding bodies – Edexcel, the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry Examinations Board (LCCIEB), and the National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC) – they are all at Entry Level. They aim to develop the skills that young people need to cope with working life. They combine general units, for example Communicate Effectively and Work with Others, with some units relating to a specific vocational sector.

8. Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network (ASDAN)

ASDAN offers a wide range of awards and qualifications for young people of all abilities. They give students the opportunity to develop personal, social and citizenship skills, work related skills, and key skills. They are flexible, activity-based programmes that can be used to motivate and encourage students and to broaden their curriculum experience. Awards are made at five levels.

9. Diplomas

This new qualification, available at selected schools and colleges, is aimed at the 14 to 19 age group. The Diploma enables students to gain knowledge, understanding, and experience of sectors that they are interested in, while putting new skills into practice.

Students cover life skills and project work, as well as functional skills in maths, English, and ICT. They also have the flexibility to pursue their personal goals.

10. Foundation Learning

Foundation Learning provides flexible learning programmes for young people and adults at Entry Level 1 and Level 1.

The programmes combine subject or vocational learning with functional skills and personal and social development. They provide learners with choice and the opportunity to specialise – and a clear path towards Level 2 qualifications or other goals.

Useful organisations – general

Citizens Advice Bureau

Website: www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Contact a Family

Helpline: 0808 808 3555 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm and Monday 5.30pm-7.30pm)

Textphone: 0808 808 3556

Website: www.cafamily.org.uk and www.makingcontact.org

Links parents of children with any medical condition to support groups nationwide.

Disability Website

Website: www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/index.htm

Provides information on all aspects of disability.

Disabled Living Foundation

Helpline: 0845 130 9177 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm)

Textphone: 020 7432 8009

Email: helpline@dlf.org.uk

Website: www.dlf.org.uk

Provides impartial information and advice about all types of daily living equipment for people with disabilities.

Maximus Limited

Freephone: 0800 028 3037

Textphone: 0800 389 7590

Website: www.wtcsLtd.co.uk

Helps people across Cornwall and Devon, who are disadvantaged in the labour market, to

gain and sustain employment. Support offered might include career advice, information on the local labour market, training courses, funding availability, assistance with CV writing and job search, or a Better Off in Work Calculation (BOIWC).

Parent Carers' Voice

Exeter and East Devon: 01392 201572

North and Mid Devon: 01392 201572

Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon: 01803 863761

Website: www.parentcarersvoice.org

Providing support to families of children with special needs in Devon. Parent Carers' Voice is also a way for parents and carers to influence the way services for their children are planned and delivered in Devon.

Parent Partnership Services

Cornwall: 01736 756037

Devon: 01392 383080

Plymouth: 01752 258933

Website: www.parentpartnership.org.uk

Provide independent information, support and training for parents and carers of children with special educational needs.

Pluss

Freephone: 0800 917 7792

Website: www.pluss.org.uk

Run a range of employment, development and training opportunities for people with disabilities across Devon, Torbay, Plymouth, and Somerset. Includes supported employment, work preparation, work placements, and other projects supporting the transition to work.

RADAR

Telephone: 020 7250 3222 (Monday-Friday 10am-5pm)

Email: radar@radar.org.uk

Website: www.radar.org.uk

The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation; provides information on all aspects of disability.

SKILL: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities

Freephone: 0800 328 5050

Telephone and Textphone: 020 7450 0620

(phone lines are open Tuesday 11.30am-1.30pm and Thursday 1.30pm-3.30pm)

Email: skill@skill.org.uk

Website: www.skill.org.uk

A national charity promoting opportunities for young people and adults with any kind of impairment in post-16 education, training, and employment.

Useful organisations – for specific difficulties

Arthritis

Arthritis Care

Freephone: 0808 800 4050 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm)

Switchboard: 020 7380 6500 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)

Email: Info@arthritiscare.org.uk

Website: www.arthritiscare.org.uk

Aspergers Syndrome

Aspergers Support Group

Telephone: 01404 813021

Email: df1.somaag@eclipse.co.uk and barbara.wilson42@bt.internet.com

Asthma

Asthma UK

Telephone: 0800 121 6255 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)

Email: info@asthma.org.uk

Website: www.asthma.org.uk

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

ADDISS (The National Attention Deficit Disorder Information and Support Service)

Telephone: 020 8952 2800 (Monday-Friday 10am-3pm)

Email: info@addiss.co.uk

Website: www.addiss.co.uk

Adders.org

Telephone: 0871 590 3693

Email: support@adders.org

Website: www.adders.org

The Hyperactive Children's Support Group

Telephone: 01243 539966 (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 10am-12.30pm and Wednesday 2.30pm-4.30pm)

Email: hacsg@hacsg.org.uk

Website: www.hacsg.org.uk

Autism

National Autistic Society

Helpline: 0845 070 4004 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm)

Email: nas@nas.org.uk

Website: www.nas.org.uk

Spectrum

Telephone: 01326 371000 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)

Email: mail@spectrumasd.org

Website: www.spectrumasd.org

Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood

CLIC Sargent

Helpline: 0800 197 0068 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)

Email: helpline@clicsargent.org.ukWebsite: www.clicsargent.org.uk**Cerebral Palsy**

Scope

Helpline: 0808 800 3333 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)

Text service: Text SCOPE plus your message to 80039

Email: response@scope.org.ukWebsite: www.scope.org.uk**Chromosome Disorders**

Unique

Telephone: 01883 330766

Email: info@rarechromo.org and rarechromo@aol.comWebsite: www.rarechromo.org**Coeliac Disease**

Coeliac UK

Helpline: 0845 305 2060

Website: www.coeliac.org.uk**Cystic Fibrosis**

Cystic Fibrosis Trust

Support helpline: 0300 373 1000

Telephone: 020 8464 7211

Email: enquiries@cftrust.org.ukWebsite: www.cftrust.org.uk**Diabetes**

Diabetes UK

Careline: 0845 120 2960 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)

Telephone: 020 7424 1000

Email: info@diabetes.org.uk and careline@diabetes.org.ukWebsite: www.diabetes.org.uk**Down's Syndrome**

Down's Syndrome Association

Helpline: 0845 230 0372 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm)

Email: info@downs-syndrome.org.ukWebsite: www.downs-syndrome.org.uk

Dyslexia

The British Dyslexia Association

Helpline: 0845 251 9002 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm and Wednesday 5pm-7pm)

Email: helpline@bdadyslexia.org.uk

Website: www.bdadyslexia.org.uk

Dyspraxia

Dyspraxia Foundation

Helpline: 01462 454986 (Monday-Friday 10am-1pm)

Email: dyspraxia@dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk

Website: www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk

Eczema

National Eczema Society

Helpline: 0800 089 1122 (Monday-Friday 8am-8pm)

Email: helpline@eczema.org

Website: www.eczema.org

Epilepsy

Epilepsy Action

Freephone helpline: 0808 800 5050 (Monday-Thursday 9am-4.30pm and Friday 9am-4pm)

Email: helpline@epilepsy.org.uk

Website: www.epilepsy.org.uk

Haemophilia

The Haemophilia Society

Freephone helpline: 0800 018 6068 (Tuesday-Friday 10am-4pm)

Email: info@haemophilia.org.uk

Website: www.haemophilia.org.uk

Head Injury

Headway – The Brain Injury Association

Freephone helpline: 0808 800 2244 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)

Email: helpline@headway.org.uk

Website: www.headway.org.uk

Hearing Difficulties

RNID

Freephone helpline: 0808 808 0123 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)

Textphone: 0808 808 9000

Email: informationline@rnid.org.uk

Website: www.rnid.org.uk

Sense

Telephone: 0845 127 0060 (Monday-Friday 9am-5.30pm)

Textphone: 0845 127 0062

Email: info@sense.org.uk

Website: www.sense.org.uk

Sense – West

Telephone and textphone: 0121 415 2720
 Email: sensewestenquiries@sense.org.uk
 Website: www.sense.org.uk

Hearing and Sight Centre, Plymouth

Telephone: 01752 201766 (Monday 2pm-5pm and Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm)
 Textphone: 01752 241087
 Email: has@hascentre.org.uk
 Website: www.plymouthguild.org.uk

Hemiplegia

HemiHelp

Helpline: 0845 123 2372 (Monday-Friday 10am-1pm and Monday 8pm-9pm – term-time only)
 Email: support@hemihelp.org.uk
 Website: www.hemihelp.org.uk

Hydrocephalus

ASBAH (Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus)

Helpline: 0845 450 7755 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm)
 Email: helpline@asbah.org
 Website: www.asbah.org

ASBAH Local Adviser, Cornwall and Devon

Telephone: 01726 861062
 Email: lynney@asbah.org

Growth Disorder

Child Growth Foundation

Telephone: 020 8995 0257
 Email: info@childgrowthfoundation.org
 Website: www.childgrowthfoundation.org

Kidney Disease

National Kidney Federation

Helpline: 0845 601 0209 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)
 Telephone: 01909 544999
 Email: nfk@kidney.org.uk
 Website: www.kidney.org.uk

Learning Disability

Mencap

Helpline: 0808 808 1111 (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-5pm)
 Telephone: 020 7454 0454
 Email: help@mencap.org.uk
 Website: www.mencap.org.uk

Mencap District Office for Cornwall and Devon
Telephone: 01208 77760 (Monday-Friday 9am-4pm)

British Institute of Learning Disabilities
Telephone: 01562 723010 (Monday-Friday 8.30am-5pm)
Email: enquiries@bild.org.uk
Website: www.bild.org.uk

Liver Disease

Children's Liver Disease Foundation
Telephone: 0121 212 3839
Email: info@childliverdisease.org
Website: www.childliverdisease.org

M.E.

Association of Young People with ME (AYME)
Helpline: 0845 123 2389 (Monday-Friday 10am-2pm)
Email: info@ayme.org.uk
Website: www.ayme.org.uk

Meningitis

National Meningitis Trust
Freephone helpline: 0800 028 1828 (24 hour, nurse-led)
Email: info@meningitis-trust.org
Website: www.meningitis-trust.org

Mental Health

MIND (National Association for Mental Health)
Helpline: 0845 766 0163 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)
Telephone: 020 8519 2122
Email: info@mind.org.uk
Website: www.mind.org.uk

YoungMinds

Parents helpline: 0808 802 5544 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm and Wednesday 6pm-8pm)
Telephone: 020 7336 8445 (Monday-Friday 9.30am-5.30pm)
Website: www.youngminds.org.uk

Muscular Dystrophy

Muscular Dystrophy Campaign
Freephone information and support line: 0800 652 6352 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)
Telephone: 020 7803 4800
Email: info@muscular-dystrophy.org
Website: www.muscular-dystrophy.org

Physical Disability

Steps – National Association for Children with Lower Limb Abnormalities

Helpline: 01925 750271 (Monday-Friday 9.30am-4pm)

Email: info@steps-charity.org.uk

Website: www.steps-charity.org.uk

Reach: The Association for Children with Hand or Arm Deficiency

Helpline: 0845 130 6225 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)

Email: reach@reach.org.uk

Website: www.reach.org.uk

Scope

Helpline: 0808 800 3333 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)

Email: response@scope.org.uk

Website: www.scope.org.uk

Prader-Willi Syndrome

The Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (UK)

Telephone: 01332 365676 (Monday-Friday 9.30am-3.30pm)

Email: admin@pwsa.co.uk

Website: www.pwsa.co.uk

Sight Difficulties

Hearing and Sight Centre, Plymouth

Telephone: 01752 201766 (Monday 2pm-5pm and Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm)

Textphone: 01752 241087

Email: has@hascentre.org.uk

Website: www.plymouthguild.org.uk

LOOK – The National Federation of Families with Visually Impaired Children

Telephone: 0121 428 5038

Email: office@look-uk.org

Website: www.look-uk.org

RNIB

Helpline: 0303 123 9999 (Monday-Friday 8.45am-6pm and Saturday 9am-4pm)

Telephone: 020 7388 1266

Email: helpline@rnib.org.uk

Website: www.rnib.org.uk

Sense

Telephone: 0845 127 0060 (Monday-Friday 9am-5.30pm)

Textphone: 0845 127 0062

Email: info@sense.org.uk

Website: www.sense.org.uk

Sense – West

Telephone and textphone: 0121 415 2720

Email: westenquiries@sense.org.uk

Website: www.sense.org.uk

The National Federation of the Blind of the United Kingdom

Telephone: 01924 291313

Email: nfbuk@nfbuk.org

Website: www.nfbuk.org

Speech Impairments

Afasic

Helpline: 0845 355 5577 (Monday-Friday 10.30am-2.30pm)

Website: www.afasic.org.uk

The British Stammering Association

Helpline: 0845 603 2001 (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm and Monday and Tuesday 7pm-9pm)

Telephone: 020 8983 1003

Email: mail@stammering.org

Website: www.stammering.org

Spina Bifida

ASBAH (Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus)

Helpline: 0845 450 7755 (Monday-Friday 10am-4pm)

Email: helpline@asbah.org

Website: www.asbah.org

ASBAH Local Advisor, Cornwall and Devon

Telephone: 01726 861062

Email: lynney@asbah.org

Spinal Muscular Atrophy

The Jennifer Trust for Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Freephone helpline: 0800 975 3100 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)

Telephone: 01789 267520

Email: jennifer@jtsma.org.uk

Website: www.jtsma.org.uk

Strokes

The Stroke Association

Helpline: 0303 303 3100 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)

Telephone: 020 7566 0300

Email: info@stroke.org.uk

Website: www.stroke.org.uk

Tourettes Syndrome

Tourettes Action

Helpline: 0845 458 1252 (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm)

Telephone: 020 7793 2352

Email: help@tourettes-action.org.uk

Website: www.tourettes-action.org.uk

Tuberous Sclerosis

Tuberous Sclerosis Association (TSA)

Telephone: 0121 445 6970 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9am-4pm)

Website: www.tuberous-sclerosis.org

TSA Specialist Adviser for South West England

Telephone: 01865 865089

Email: maureen.tossi@tuberous-sclerosis.org

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Please note that the information on courses has been provided by the schools and colleges.

Bicton College

Address: East Budleigh, Budleigh Salterton, Devon, EX9 7BY
Principal: David Henley
Tel: 01395 562400 (customer services/admissions)
Email: enquiries@bicton.ac.uk
Website: www.bicton.ac.uk

Mainstream courses

Study skills, learning support and help with funding is available for students on all courses. Talk to the learning support co-ordinator, student services manager, admissions, or course tutors about your son or daughter to ensure they get the advice and support they need.

Foundation Courses – Agriculture, Animal Care, Equine, Horticulture, Conservation, and Outdoor Leisure (Level 1)

Who is it for: 16-18 year old students who may require some support in achieving their career aims.

Course information: Students will need to demonstrate an interest in their chosen option and will learn through practical instruction, projects, portfolio, and work experience evidence. Applicants will need sound reading, writing, and numeracy skills.

Pre-foundation – Supported Learning Programmes, Skills for Working Life (Entry 2 and Entry 3)

Who is it for: 16+ students from supported mainstream and specialist provision education.

Course information: Students will work towards a basic skills qualification, as well as developing vocational and life skills linked to animal care, horticulture, and conservation.

Contact: Lydia Cherrett, learning support co-ordinator – 01395 562406

Bidwell Brook School

Address: Shinner's Bridge, Dartington, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6JU
Head teacher: Martin Dean
Tel: 01803 864120
Email: admin@bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk
Website: www.bidwellbrook.devon.sch.uk

Equals Moving On

Who is it for: 14-19 year old students with learning difficulties.

Course information: An easy to use, flexible, all-inclusive curriculum and assessment package which is appropriate for students with a range of complex learning challenges. The curriculum includes world studies, life skills, and vocational skills and is organised into five one year programmes, each covering work for one year. Units will provide evidence towards Entry 1 qualifications for Foundation Learning and can be used to accredit student's work in other subject areas such as Moving On Literacy and Numeracy.

The curriculum is also designed to develop functional skills (English, ICT, and maths) which will allow individuals to work confidently, effectively, and independently in life.

Contact: Stella Taylor, deputy head teacher

Chelfham Senior School

Address: Bere Alston, Yelverton, Devon, PL20 7EX
Head teacher: Dr John Steward
Tel: 01822 840379
Email: chelfhamseniorschool@priorygroup.com

Who is it for: Ages 16-19 plus post-19 education and residential care for socially and emotionally vulnerable boys who have complex learning difficulties including autism, often associated with challenging behaviour. Placements are residential, day, or weekly for up to 52 weeks a year depending on the individual need and are based on our Kilworthy House site.

Course information: Individual programmes of vocational studies, GCSEs, college placements, and supported work experience in addition to independent and life skills courses built around ASDAN and BTEC accreditation. Opportunities for land based studies, outdoor education, art and media studies, practical and construction skills, and mini enterprise. Basic literacy, numeracy, and IT training.

Contact: Debbie Roberts, referrals officer

City College Plymouth

Address: Kings Road, Devonport, Plymouth, PL1 5QG
Principal: Viv Gillespie
Tel: 01752 305300
Email: reception@cityplym.ac.uk
Website: www.cityplym.ac.uk

Mainstream courses

Support is available for students on all courses. Talk to learner services, admissions or course tutors about your son or daughter to ensure they get the support they need.

Foundation courses for young people

Who is it for: 16-19 year old students who want to prepare for a career.

Course information: Choose to study any of the following subjects at foundation level: catering, business, painting and decorating, bricklaying, craft masonry, public services, or wood occupations.

Skills Development programmes, PMLD – individual learning plan/Accreditation ASDAN

Who is it for: Students with profound/multiple complex learning needs who require a very high level of support.

Course information: Living skills (practical experience), personal development, creative activities, environmental awareness, citizenship, and basic skills as appropriate to the individual learners.

Skills Development Entry 1 and 2 – individual learning plan/Accreditation ASDAN, NPTC and NOCN Step-UP

Who is it for: Students with severe learning needs/disabilities who require a high level of support and need to work on improving their social and independent living skills.

Course information: Communication, number work, ICT, independent living and basic skills. If appropriate students may be offered work experience or sampling of vocational areas.

Skills Development Entry 3 Transition to F.E. – individual learning plan/Accreditation NOCN Step-UP

Who is it for: Students with moderate learning needs/disabilities who wish to develop basic skills, personal skills, and specific vocational skills.

Course information: Basic skills (ICT, number, and communication), vocational and work skills, and personal development.

Skills Development Entry 3/Level 1 Vocational Access or Independent Living Skills or Link programme to include Care/Hair/Beauty – individual learning plan/Accreditation NOCN progression and NPTC

Who is it for: Students with mild/moderate learning needs who wish to develop basic skills, personal skills, and specific vocational skills.

Course information: Key skills, work skills and work placement, personal development, vocational sampling, and the opportunity to follow individual learning interests.

Skills Development – post-19 provision

Who is it for: Students aged 19-25 with learning needs/disabilities who wish to develop their basic skills, work skills, and independent life skills.

Course information: Students will work at their own level in basic skills, work skills, and independent living skills. Accreditation C&G food studies and ASDAN.

Contact: Wendy Round – wround@cityplym.ac.uk

Clyst Vale Community College Hearing Support Centre

Address: Station Road, Broadclyst, Exeter, Devon, EX5 3AJ
Head teacher: Kevin Bawn
Tel: 01392 461407
Hearing Support Centre Tel: 01392 468587
Website: www.clyst-vale.devon.sch.uk

Mainstream courses

Who is it for: Support is available for deaf secondary aged students (includes sixth form) with Statements of Educational Needs for Hearing Impairment on all courses. Talk to the head of the Hearing Support Centre about your son or daughter to ensure they get the support they need.

Contact: Kevin Fearon, head of Hearing Support Centre

Cornwall College – Camborne

Address: Trevenson Road, Pool, Redruth, Cornwall, TR15 3RD
Head of college: Mike Lister
Tel: 01209 611611
Email: enquiries@cornwall.ac.uk
Website: www.camborne.ac.uk

Foundation Programmes, The Faculty for Continuing and Community Education

Foundation Programmes runs a range of courses for all ages and abilities, ranging from pre-16 learners to adults with mental health issues, at various locations across the county. Support is available on all courses for students who require it. Enquiries for all courses can be made through the college student enquiries department – 01209 616310.

Multi-options Entry Level 3

Who is it for: Students aged 16-19 years of age who are undecided about their future choices and would like to try a number of options in college before making a decision.

Course information: Options include art, catering, motor vehicle, built environment, public

services, sports, media, community and health, tourism, animal care, and horticulture. It also allows students who would like to improve their maths, English, and ICT skills the opportunity to do so.

Multi Options Level 1

Who is it for: Students aged 16-19 years of age working at Level 1 and those progressing from entry level qualifications, or for those moving from an academic to a vocational pathway.

Course information: Students will choose a vocational pathway; those offered are business, ICT, construction, engineering, travel and tourism, performing arts, and art and design. Students will study a range of employability and career building modules and complete English, maths, and ICT qualifications.

Options Plus

Who is it for: Open to all 16-18 year olds progressing from school, including learners who require a more sheltered course working at Entry Level.

Course information: The course will focus on life skills and independent living skills as well as giving students the opportunity to experience vocational areas such as animal care, horticulture, and catering. Opportunities to experience work placement are also available.

Connect Entry 2

Who is it for: 16-19 and 19+ year old students who experience severe and/or multiple learning difficulties and are progressing on from a school of special education.

Course information: Students follow a broad and balanced curriculum within a wide range of vocational subject options. The course focuses on independent living skills as well as increasing communication skills. Opportunities to experience work placement and enrichment activities are also available.

Connect Entry 3

Who is it for: 16-19 and 19+ year old students who experience learning disabilities/difficulties.

Course information: Students will develop their independent living skills through a variety of practical and theoretical sessions. They will also take part in developing an enterprise project as well as enrichment sessions including sport, IT, and catering. Opportunities to experience work placement are also available.

Art at Eden

Who is it for: 16-19 and 19+ young people who wish to explore and develop new and existing skills.

Course information: Students will be able to develop their artistic talents through various areas of art and design. The course is delivered at The Eden Project, St Austell. It's very practical based and will involve putting a portfolio together. Students will also have the opportunity to improve their basic skills.

Horticulture NPTC Entry Level

Who is it for: Learners who are either new to horticulture or have little or no previous experience and wish to pursue a career in this subject.

Course information: The course is very practical based and learners will experience all areas of horticulture. Opportunities to develop English, maths, and IT skills are also available. Students then have the opportunity to progress to a higher level course with the department.

Contact: Student enquiries – 01209 616310

Cornwall College – Saltash

Address: Church Road, Saltash, Cornwall, PL12 4AE
Head of college: Debbie Wilshire
Tel: 01752 850250
Email: info@saltash.ac.uk
Website: www.saltash.ac.uk

Mainstream courses

Support is available for students on all courses. Talk to admissions or course tutors about your son or daughter's needs to ensure they get the support they require. Level 1 courses are a good progression from Entry Level 3 and are available in trowel, plumbing, construction, hairdressing, childcare, and beauty therapy.

Level 1 BTEC in Vocational Studies

Who is it for: 16-19 year old students who want to prepare for Level 2 study.

Course information: This course is designed for students who are interested in building their skills in business, customer service, and IT. It is a practical course with opportunities to learn about using IT systems for work.

Contact: Kerry Jackson, programme manager

Basic Skills in Foundation Learning

Who is it for: Young people who want to study for an entry level programme developing their skills in independent living and personal and social skills.

Course information: The course will include how to manage your money, how to live a healthy lifestyle, how to deal with problems in everyday life, developing environmental awareness, developing self esteem, making the most of your leisure time, and developing social skills.

Contact: Polly Newman, course manager for foundation programme

Cornwall College – St Austell

Address: John Keay House, Tregonissey Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4DJ
Head of college: Debbie Wilshire
Tel: 01726 226622
Email: info@st-austell.ac.uk
Website: www.st-austell.ac.uk

Mainstream courses

Support is available for students on all courses. Talk to the faculty admissions or course tutors about your son or daughter to ensure they get the support they need.

Connect Entry 1, Connect-ed Entry 2, and Connect Community

Who is it for: Students with a range of learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

Course information: These courses are designed to help students develop the skills they need for independent living and the workplace. Students will also work towards literacy, numeracy, and ICT qualifications. However, no formal qualifications are necessary for entry onto these courses.

Progression Pathways Entry 3

Who is it for: Students who have no formal qualifications and are looking to gain experience in a vocational area whilst improving their literacy, numeracy, and ICT skills.

Course information: Students will study a range of options in vocational areas. The courses are tailored to the student's needs and interests helping them to progress in further education or employment.

Progression Pathways Level 1

Who is it for: Anyone over the age of 16 who is ready to study at Level 1.

Course information: Students can choose from the following vocational areas: construction, multi trades, engineering including motor vehicle, hospitality, care, hair/beauty, retail, business, travel and tourism, and creative arts. All learners will take literacy, numeracy, ICT, and PSD (personal skills development).

Contact: Heather Tabb, curriculum area manager, skills for life faculty

Curnow School

Address: Drump Road, Redruth, Cornwall, TR15 1LU
Head teacher: Dr Bob Coburn
Tel: 01209 215432
Email: head@curnow.cornwall.sch.uk
Website: www.curnow.cornwall.sch.uk

Foundation Learning

Who is it for: All KS4 and post-16 students with severe learning difficulties (SLD), profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), and students with social and communication difficulties (SCD).

Course information: The curriculum model at Curnow School has changed significantly over the past 12 months and is now called Foundation Learning.

The curriculum is a flexible package designed around each student's aspirations and destination and is appropriate to their needs in helping to further prepare them for adult life. It is made up of three parts – vocational/subject learning, functional, and personal and social development. It also incorporates a Personal Learning Plan (PLP) for each student which is directly addressed at their Transition Review.

'Next Step' targets are identified and evaluated through impact measures which are developed on a yearly basis to assist each student (and their families/carers) in their transition from Curnow to their next destination.

Accreditation for this curriculum is awarded through ASDAN – Personal Progress, ASDAN – Personal and Social Development, and EQUALS 'Moving On'.

Contact: Gina Briggs, deputy head teacher – gina@curnow.cornwall.sch.uk

Dame Hannah Rogers School

Address: Woodland Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 9HQ
Head teacher: Brian Carlyon
Tel: 01752 892461
Email: mail@damehannah.com or feoffice@damehannah.com
Website: www.damehannah.com

Who is it for: 16+ young people with physical disabilities and associated communication and learning difficulties.

Course information: The curriculum in the Further Education Department at Dame Hannah Rogers School provides a transition between school and post-19 provision. It has been developed to provide new experiences in order to ensure that students have a basis on which to make informed choices within an individualised programme.

The FE curriculum is delivered through the core skill areas of Communication, Life and Social Skills, and Health and Wellbeing. The curriculum is also designed to develop functional skills in Literacy, Communication, Numeracy, ICT, and Life skills, which includes PSHE. We offer accreditation through ASDAN Towards Independence modules and we are rolling out Entry 1 units in Personal Progress from September 2010.

The course adopts a thematic approach which emphasises activities and components which help to develop transferable skills through the core areas, enabling our students to be successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens equipped with a range of skills relevant to their future lives.

Contact: Brian Carlyon, head teacher or Lynne Taylor, head of further education

Duchy College – Rosewarne

Address: Rosewarne, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0AB
Principal: Andrew Counsell
Tel: 01209 722100
Email: rosewarne.enquiries@duchy.ac.uk
Website: www.duchy.ac.uk

Mainstream courses

Support is available for students on all courses. Please talk to admissions or course tutors about your son or daughter to ensure they get the support they need.

Pathfinder (Entry Level)

Who is it for: Students with additional learning needs who have an interest in land based subjects and wish to develop their practical and personal skills.

Course information: There are four land based areas to choose from – horticulture, animal care, agriculture, and horse care. Floristry, conservation, and woodwork options are also available. Functional skills are included as well as a wide variety of enrichment activities.

Vocational Options (Level 1)

Who is it for: Anyone who wishes to develop the skills required to be able to progress, with confidence, to a Level 1 or Level 2 course in a specific vocational area, or into employment.

Course information: Vocational learning is combined with functional skills and personal skills development. Choose from a range of options including agriculture, horticulture, conservation, animal care, horse care, and floristry. Experience a variety of enrichment activities.

Contact: Student enquiries – 01209 721321

Duchy College – Stoke Climsland

Address: Stoke Climsland, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 8PB
Principal: Andrew Counsell
Tel: 01579 372222
Email: stoke.enquiries@duchy.ac.uk
Website: www.duchy.ac.uk

Mainstream courses

Support is available for students on all courses. Talk to admissions or course tutors about your son or daughter to ensure they get the support they need.

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Vocational Options (Level 1)

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Course information: Vocational learning is combined with functional skills and personal skills development. Choose from a range of options including agriculture, horticulture, conservation, animal care, horse care, sport, early years, or public services. Experience a variety of enrichment activities.

Contact: Student enquiries – 01579 372233

Eggbuckland Community College Hearing Support Centre

Address: Westcott Close, Eggbuckland, Plymouth, PL6 5YB
Co-ordinator: Geraldine Packer
Tel: 01752 720050
Minicom: 01752 720010
Email: gpacker@eggbuckland.com
Website: www.eggbuckland.com

Mainstream courses

The Hearing Support Centre is staffed by two qualified teachers of the deaf and a team of specialist teaching assistants who ensure that students statemented for hearing loss have equal access to the mainstream courses available at the College.

Contact: Geraldine Packer, qualified teacher of the deaf

Ellen Tinkham School

Address: Hollow Lane, Pinhoe, Exeter, Devon, EX1 3RW
Head teacher: Jacqui Warne
Tel: 01392 467168
Email: admin@exeter-ellen-tinkham.devon.sch.uk
Website: www.exeter-ellen-tinkham.devon.sch.uk

Post-16 courses

Who is it for: 16+ students with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties. Usually students who have attended Ellen Tinkham School.

Course information: In FE we want our young people to make choices and to be as independent as possible. We give them the opportunity, support and encouragement to make those choices and be involved in making decisions. We also believe that the staff/student relationship is different and more informal.

We work hard to engage our students in creative activities to enrich their life and learning experience. All students will leave Ellen Tinkham after one or two years in FE.

Our commitment to a person-centred approach ensures personalised learning and individualised programmes which encompass the development of the Ellen Tinkham key skills: communication and problem solving; daily living skills; physical activity and orientation; improving your own performance; and working with the community.

Contact: Head teacher or post-16 teacher

Exeter College

Address: Hele Road, Exeter, Devon, EX4 4JS
Principal: Richard Atkins
Tel: 01392 205232 (admissions)
Email: reception@exe-coll.ac.uk
Website: www.exe-coll.ac.uk

Mainstream courses

Support is available for students on all courses. Talk to admissions or course tutors about your son or daughter to ensure they get the support they need.

Skills for living

Who is it for: Post-16 students with individual needs, who have attended specialist schools or units within mainstream provision.

Course information: Functional skills (English, maths, and ICT), community orientation, and independent living skills. A choice of various other options, tutorial, and work experience is available if appropriate.

Vocational Studies (Step-Up)

Who is it for: Designed to provide full-time education to 16-19 year old students, who have few or no qualifications.

Course information: The course aims to develop student's functional skills (English, maths, and ICT); building their confidence, ready for the next level. Students choose from a wide range of vocational options. They will have the opportunity to experience the world of work through regular placements.

Fast-Track

Who is it for: Designed to enable competent and able students who have missed out on achieving their potential within mainstream education, to access further and higher courses within the space of a year.

Course information: GCSE English, GCSE Maths, and Citizenship and one other GCSE as well as tutorial support.

Contact: Administrator – 01392 205640

Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education

Address: 50 Topsham Road, Exeter, Devon, EX2 4NF
Chief executive: Jonathan Farnhill
Director of education: Ros Way
Tel: 01392 267023
Email: info@exeterdeafacademy.ac.uk
Website: www.exeterdeafacademy.ac.uk

Mainstream courses

Professional support is available for all students on any courses they wish to do. Talk to admissions or course tutors about your son or daughter to ensure they get the support they need.

OCNSW – personal achievement and communication courses

Who is it for: Post-16 students with additional special needs and those who require considerable support to prepare for adult life.

Course information: This course offers individualised learning programmes, involving social and life skills training and experiences, and an Independent Living Skills curriculum.

OCNSW – personal independence and choices (Entry 3 and Level 1)

Who is it for: Post-16 students to help transition between school and college, to increase skills and identify a vocational direction.

Course information: This course offers work related study, vocational tasters, and basic skills.

Basic skills courses

Who is it for: All post-16 students.

Course information: Basic skills courses are available for all students at the college. Courses include literacy, IT, numeracy, British Sign Language, and personal development. Nationally recognised qualifications and different levels are offered.

Independent living skills programme

Who is it for: Residential students.

Course information: The course offers students the opportunity to learn independent living skills.

Contact: Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education – 01392 267023.

Falmouth Marine School

Address:	Killigrew Street, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 3QS
Head of Falmouth Marine School:	Tom Shaw
Tel:	01326 310310
Email:	falenquiries@cornwall.ac.uk
Website:	www.falmouthmarineschool.ac.uk

Basic skills literacy

Who is it for: 16+ students wishing to build their confidence in using language and IT to communicate with others.

Course information: Students will follow the national curriculum for literacy and will study using IT, discussion, paper worksheets, individual and group work. Students can progress to GCSE English or other Level 2 and 3 courses. They can also feel more prepared to return to work or move on to a more demanding job role.

Basic skills numeracy

Who is it for: 16+ students wishing to gain confidence in using maths in everyday situations.

Course information: Students will follow the national curriculum for numeracy and will study using various mathematical modules, ranging from checking your change in a shop to comparing mortgage interest rates. Students can progress to Level 2 or 3 courses and they can also feel more prepared to return to work or move on to a more demanding job role.

Contact: Falmouth Marine School – 01326 310310

Falmouth School

Address: Trescobeas Road, Falmouth, Cornwall, TR11 4LH
Head teacher: Sandra Critchley
Tel: 01326 372386
Email: enquiries@falmouth.cornwall.sch.uk
Website: www.falmouth.cornwall.sch.uk

Childcare – CCLD Levels 1 and 2

Who is it for: All post-16 students, including those with additional learning needs.

Course information: For students who wish to pursue a career in early years care. This qualification can only be taken if students have a suitable work placement. Support in finding a suitable placement is available. This course can be taken alongside GCSE Health and Social Care.

Construction Skills Levels 1 and 2

Who is it for: All post-16 students, including those with additional learning needs.

Course information: These Level 1 and 2 courses are for students wishing to work towards a career in a traditional trade and are ideal for those hoping to pursue an Apprenticeship or to work as a contractor. They can be linked to a work placement and the level of qualification is dependant on the progress of the individual student.

Motor Vehicle Maintenance Levels 1 and 2

Who is it for: All post-16 students, including those with additional learning needs.

Course information: Available at Levels 1 and 2 this is a practical programme in a real workshop covering vehicle maintenance, servicing, tyre fitting, and health and safety. It is suitable for those wishing to pursue an Apprenticeship or work in a fitting/motor vehicle environment. It can be linked to a suitable work placement and could lead to higher level qualifications.

Hairdressing Levels 1 and 2

Who is it for: All post-16 students, including those with additional learning needs.

Course information: This course spends time looking at customer services, hair and beauty techniques, reception, cutting, shampooing, styling, colouring, and perming. You will be expected to work on real clients to ensure you get plenty of hairdressing practice. It is also a great preparation prior to starting an Apprenticeship.

Beauty Therapy Levels 1 and 2

Who is it for: All post-16 students, including those with additional learning needs.

Course information: This course includes training in eye treatments, waxing, manicure, pedicure, and make up. It also includes customer services, reception, and health and safety in the workplace. It is ideal for those wishing to pursue a career in beauty, go on to further qualifications or to work as a salon assistant or receptionist. It is excellent preparation for an Apprenticeship.

CoPE Levels 1 and 2

Who is it for: All post-16 students, including those with additional learning needs.

Course information: On this course students will be studying for the ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (CoPE) qualification. Students will be assessed through a portfolio of evidence demonstrating their competency in key skill areas including problem solving, working with others, and oral communication.

Contact: Steve Savill, head of sixth form – sa@falmouth.cornwall.sch.uk or Dawn Lanham – dawn@combinedtrainingcentre.co.uk

Heddon College @ Lampard Community School

Address: St John's Lane, Barnstaple, Devon, EX32 9DD
Head teacher: Karen Rogers
Tel: 01271 345416
Email: admin@lvs.devon.sch.uk
Website: www.lampardschool.co.uk

Post-16 courses

Who is it for: Students at 16 plus with moderate learning difficulties and complex Special Educational Needs.

Course information: The courses are designed to offer personalised learning programmes and progression routes, in line with the Foundation Learning framework. This includes functional skills in English, maths and ICT; Personal and Social Development; Employability and access to a range of vocational courses. Course levels will be dependent on individuals but will cover the range of Entry 1 to Level 1.

Contact: Cathie Hamilton, deputy head teacher

Honiton Community College

Address: School Lane, Honiton, Devon, EX14 1QT
Principal: Glenn Smith
Tel: 01404 42283
Email: admin@honitoncollege.devon.sch.uk
Website: www.honitoncollege.devon.sch.uk

Support is available from the Pastoral Support Assistant for all students. The Learning Support department also offers support for identified students with their studies, which includes help with literacy related problems and for students whose first language is not English.

The WASSP (Work and Study Skills Programme) group is open to students with learning difficulties and is a Level 1 programme which has no special entry requirements. ASDAN bronze and silver awards and Entry Level courses are offered. This upper school group from years 10 to 13 has about 12 students.

Contact: Mrs Rosie Love, SENCO

Mayfield School

Address: Moor Lane, Watcombe, Torquay, Devon, TQ2 8NH
Head teacher: June Palmer
Tel: 01803 328375
Email: admin@mayfield-special.torbay.sch.uk
Website: www.mayfield-special.torbay.sch.uk

Who is it for: Post-16 students with severe or profound learning disabilities who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs.

Course information: A wide range of learning experiences following the Moving On curriculum, with particular emphasis on personal and social development. Students are put forward for Personal Progress Qualifications, Arts Awards, Sports Leadership Awards and INGOTS.

Contact: June Palmer, head teacher

Mill Water School

Address: Honiton Bottom Road, Honiton, Devon, EX14 2ER
Head teacher: Mr Alan Sheppard
Tel: 01404 43454
Email: admin@millwater.devon.sch.uk
Website: www.millwater.devon.sch.uk

Post-16 courses

Who is it for: Post-16 students with severe, profound, and multiple learning needs.

Course information: Individual learning programmes, communication and independent living skills, multi-sensory curriculum, PECS communication system. SLD Steps to College course (transition year to further education: practical life skills, independence skills, core skills, etc.).

Contact: Mr Alan Sheppard

Nancealverne School

Address: Madron Road, Penzance, Cornwall, TR20 8TP
Head teacher: Fiona Flindall
Tel: 01736 365039
Email: secretary@nancealverne.cornwall.sch.uk
Website: www.nancealverne.cornwall.sch.uk

OCR national skills profile and accreditation for life and living

Who is it for: Post-16 students with severe and profound multiple learning needs.

Course information: Independent living skills and work related activities, key skills, life skills, and work related.

Contact: Patrick McWilliam

Oaklands Park School

Address: John Nash Drive, Dawlish, Devon, EX7 9SF
Principal: Robert Pugh
Tel: 01626 862363
Email: admin@oaklandspark.devon.sch.uk
Website: www.oaklandspark.devon.sch.uk

Supported learning

Who is it for: 16-19 year old students who have severe learning difficulties and additional learning needs, including challenging behaviour and autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). All students have Statements of Special Educational Needs.

Course information: Students within the school will follow a carefully constructed Individual Learning Plan, following the Equals Moving On curriculum. Other accredited programmes, for example ASDAN and WJEC entry level, will be offered where appropriate. Particular emphasis is placed upon the development of social and independence skills for all students.

The school works closely with all involved around the student to support and manage the transition into adult life.

The school has a mixed residential and day facility.

Contact: Dave Adams, deputy principal

Oakwood Court College

Address: 7-9 Oak Park Villas, Dawlish, EX7 0DE
Principal: Paul Collings
Tel: 01626 864066
Email: admin@oakwoodcourt.ac.uk
Website: www.oakwoodcourt.ac.uk

Independency skills in a residential setting

Who is it for: Post-16 students with moderate and severe learning needs, including mild speech and language difficulties, autism/aspergers or associated syndromes.

Course information: Independency training is the main programme. This consists of personal skills including personal care, daily living skills, community and leisure; emotional/social development including therapies; work skills including extensive work experience;

and basic skills including embedded literacy, numeracy, communication, and information technology. Accreditation is available through internal and external qualifications. NVQ courses are available in general further education.

Contact: Paul Collings

Okehampton College

Address: Mill Road, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 1PW
Acting principal: Derrick Brett
Tel: 01837 650910
Email: admin@okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk
Website: www.okehamptoncollege.devon.sch.uk

Mainstream courses

A range of vocational options are available within the mainstream college. In addition to the chosen vocational area the vocational courses incorporate key skills, enrichment activities, and work experience. A full-time teaching assistant is assigned to the vocational programme giving support across all areas to students who need it.

Contact: Alistair Hodgson, vocational co-ordinator

Pathfield School

Address: Abbey Road, Pilton, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 1JU
Head teacher: Claire May
Tel: 01271 342423
Email: admin@pathfield.devon.sch.uk
Website: www.pathfield.devon.sch.uk

14-19 courses (Town Station is the sixth form section of Pathfield School. It is located as a separate site within the town.)

Who is it for: 14-19 year old students with severe learning difficulties, autistic spectrum disorder, and students with profound and multiple learning difficulties. Includes pupils with physical difficulties.

Course information: The emphasis is on providing individualised learning programmes according to student needs, although all students gain accreditation for their activities

through ASDAN. The courses aim to help the students develop independent living and communication skills, whilst those with more profound disabilities follow a sensory curriculum. All students are integrated into the community at every opportunity through work experience, participation in voluntary groups such as The National Trust, and through partnerships with local mainstream sixth forms. Many students also take part in accredited vocational courses at other locations in the town.

Contact: Laura Matthews

Penwith College

Address: St Clare Street, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 2SA
Principal: Jonathan Burnett OBE
Tel: 01736 335000
Email: enquiry@truro-penwith.ac.uk
Website: www.truro-penwith.ac.uk

Mainstream courses

Support is available for students on all courses. Talk to admissions or course tutors about your son or daughter to ensure they get the support they need.

Personal Progression through Practical Life Skills, Entry Levels 1 and 2

Who is it for: Post-16 students with severe and multiple learning needs.

Course information: The course offers units in: developing skills for daily life, using community facilities, using leisure time, practical project work, taking part in an enterprise activity, developing creative skills, and keeping fit and healthy.

BTEC Entry Levels 2 and 3 certificates in Skills for Working Life

Who is it for: Post-16 students who have moderate learning difficulties.

Course information: Apart from literacy, numeracy and IT, students will have the opportunity, based on their interests, to study motor vehicles, hair and beauty, leisure and tourism, health and social care, horticulture, arts and media, hospitality and catering, retail, and work placements.

BTEC Level 1-2 Certificate/Diploma in Vocational Skills

Who is it for: This course caters for a wide range of students requiring extra support.

Course information: The timetable includes literacy, numeracy and IT. Students can also choose from a range of subject areas including sport, performing arts, crafts, creative arts, ICT, transportation, motor vehicles, child development, health and social care, business, horticulture, and animal care.

Contact: Chris Holmes, team leader, foundation studies

PETROC

Barnstaple Campus

Address: Old Sticklepath Hill, Barnstaple, Devon, EX31 2BQ

Tel: 01271 345291

Tiverton Campus

Address: Bolham Road, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 6SH

Tel: 01884 235200

Principal: David Dodds

Email: info@petroc.ac.uk

Website: www.petroc.ac.uk

Foundation Learning – Entry Level and Level 1

Supported Learning Programmes for Students who need Additional Support to enable them to access their Learning Programmes

Who is it for: 16-18 year old learners with general or complex learning difficulties and/or disabilities; as well as learners who have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. 19+ adult learners with general or severe learning difficulties who wish to find voluntary, supported, or paid employment.

Course information: All potential learners will be asked to experience a taster course after which they will be invited to attend an interview. The level of individual support will be assessed prior to enrolment. Each student will be allocated a personal tutor and together they will agree a Personalised Learning Programme. Group sizes are small and learners will have additional support in the classroom.

Plymouth College of Art

Address: Tavistock Place, Plymouth, PL4 8AT
Principal: Andrew Brewerton
Learning skills team leader (FE): Rob Weston
Tel: 01752 203434
Email: support@plymouthart.ac.uk
Website: www.plymouthart.ac.uk

Mainstream courses

Support is available for students with issues relating to mental health, mobility, hearing, vision, medical conditions or any learning difficulties, on all courses.

Contact: Rob Weston – 01752 203268 or email support@plymouthart.ac.uk

Queen Elizabeth's Community College

Address: Western Road, Crediton, Devon, EX17 3LU
Principal: Richard Newton-Chance
Tel: 01363 773401
Email: reception@queenelizabeths.devon.sch.uk
Website: www.queenelizabeths.devon.sch.uk

Advanced Bridging Course

Who is it for: Post-16 students working at Level 2.

Course information: The aim of this course is to enable candidates to study to consolidate their learning at Level 2 before progressing to either Level 3 BTEC/AS programmes or moving out into work with training. The core of the Bridging course is the ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness which will enable students to develop and demonstrate a range of personal, key, and employability skills leading to personal effectiveness. In addition, all Bridging course students will complete a Level 2 project, functional skills, a Level 2 BTEC qualification, and work experience.

A Levels are also available to students with specific learning difficulties and special educational needs.

Contact: Paula Smith, head of sixth form or Jo McDade, assistant principal 14-19

South Devon College

Address: Vantage Point, Long Road, Paignton, Devon, TQ4 7EJ
Principal: Heather Maxwell
Tel: 01803 540540 (admissions)
Email: enquiries@southdevon.ac.uk
Website: www.southdevon.ac.uk

Mainstream courses

Special Opportunities (Pre-Entry)

Who is it for: Post-16 students with mild to moderate learning needs. Learners will undertake a recognised qualification.

Course information: This course provides students with the opportunity to develop many new skills and also includes communication, numeracy, information technology, independent living skills, physical education, creative development (art and multi-skills), and swimming.

Pathways to Independent Living Skills Entry Level 1

Who is it for: Post-16 students with mild to moderate learning needs.

Course information: This one year course includes a recognised qualification as well as basic skills in literacy and numeracy along with independent living skills. Students experience a range of activities (including sport, leisure, ICT, and creative activities). Tutorials, residential, and charitable events are also developed to add variety to the course.

Pathways to Work Related Studies Entry Level 2

Who is it for: For Entry 2 learners to achieve a greater knowledge of the world of work.

Course information: This one year course includes basic skills in literacy and numeracy along with independent living skills, work related knowledge, and work experience. Included within the course are sporting activities, leisure, ICT, and creative media. Tutorials, residential, and charitable events are also developed.

Pathways to Employment Entry Level 2 and 3

Who is it for: Students who want to gain the skills required to access a variety of working situations and employment opportunities.

Course information: The course includes basic skills in literacy and numeracy, independent living skills, and work related knowledge. The course includes sporting

activities, leisure, ICT, and creative media. Tutorials, work experience, residential, and charitable events are also developed.

Progression Pathways (Vocational)

Who is it for: Entry Level 3 post-16 students who need additional support to complete studies.

Course information: Students will have the opportunity to try out different kinds of vocational learning. This course includes core skills in communications, application of number, IT, life skills, and management of learning. The course can include motor vehicle, conservation, catering, building services, and childcare.

Green fingers

Who is it for: Post-16 students with moderate learning needs who wish to develop their basic skills through gardening. Entry Level 2 and 3.

Course information: This course includes basic skills in literacy, numeracy, and information technology. Gardening skills are delivered in a work related manner using the Learning Curve Garden as an outside classroom. Students will gain a nationally recognised qualification.

Contact: Stephen Hammond – 01803 540454

Stoke Damerel Community College

Address: The Vision Centre, Somerset Place, Stoke, Plymouth, PL3 4BD
Principal: Carol Hannaford
Tel: 01752 556065
Email: info@sdcc.plymouth.sch.uk
Website: www.sdcc.plymouth.sch.uk

Mainstream Courses

The aim of the Vision Centre is to ensure that young people with a visual impairment have equal access to the mainstream courses on offer at the college. Support is provided by a specialist team of inclusion assistants.

Contact: Sara Jordan or Lynn Shaw

Tamar Valley Consortium (TVC)

Address: Services for Children & Young People, Windsor House, Tavistock Road, Plymouth, PL6 5UF
TVC director: Robert Mountjoy
Tel: 01752 307146
Email: tvc@plymouth.gov.uk
Website: www.t-v-c.org

14-19 Work Related Learning Programmes

Who is it for: Learners, aged 14-19, who want to explore a particular career route and study for a recognised occupational qualification. This may be the main focus of study or to complement other qualifications. These young people will have a career route planned and can see how a vocational course fits into that plan.

Course information: The TVC provides access to over 90 different qualifications in 40 different occupational areas, and 1,800 places are available. Courses lead to QCF or equivalent qualifications. They range from Entry Level to Level 3. Pre-16 learners may study off the school site for one or more days each week and work towards an Entry or Level 1 qualification. Some may progress to Level 2. Sixth formers may progress through the levels to a Level 3 qualification.

Post-16 learners usually spend two days a week with a training provider off the school site. Some courses need a third day of linked work experience. On non-training days learners join with their peers on courses offered by their home school or community college. Pre-16 learners may take some GCSE courses and post-16 learners will join in the sixth form enrichment programmes and some may take an AS or A2 qualification. A list of all TVC courses with other helpful information is posted on the website www.t-v-c.org.

Contact: The TVC at the address given above or your head of sixth/TVC co-ordinator at your school or community college.

Truro College

Address: College Road, Truro, Cornwall, TR1 3XX
Principal: David Walrond
Tel: 01872 267000
Email: enquiry@truro-penwith.ac.uk
Website: www.truro-penwith.ac.uk

Mainstream courses

Support is available for students on all courses. Talk to admissions or course tutors about your son or daughter to ensure they get the support they need.

Edexcel Entry Level Diploma in Skills for Independence and Work

Who is it for: This course offers post-16 students the opportunity to develop a range of life, personal, and vocational skills.

Course information: An Entry Level 2 course offering students the opportunity to develop a range of life and work related skills whilst investigating a variety of vocational areas. Students will work towards PSD and functional skills qualifications (English, maths, ICT) and a work placement.

Edexcel BTEC Diploma in Vocational Studies

Who is it for: Post-16 students who have not yet decided on a career, or those who need a qualification to join other courses.

Course information: An innovative course offered at Entry 3 and Level 1 that provides students with the opportunity to experience a range of vocational sectors. In addition students will develop their functional skills (maths, English, ICT), Work Skills, PSD, and undertake work experience.

Access inclusive learning

Who is it for: Post-16 students with a range of learning needs.

Course information: Independent living skills, basic skills, recreational and vocational skills, and sheltered work placement. Subjects include basic skills (literacy, numeracy, and IT), music, art, history, film studies, environmental awareness, exercise and leisure, swimming, horticulture, enterprise, cookery, drama, sport, popular culture, and music awareness.

Access to community and education

Who is it for: Post-16 students who have profound and multiple learning needs.

Course information: An individually designed programme whereby tutors work in partnership with carers, families and significant others to devise, implement, monitor and evaluate education programmes. Each programme is tailored to individual needs and built around a multi sensory approach.

Treasures

Who is it for: Learners on the autistic spectrum.

Course information: The environment is highly structured. We use symbol, pictorial, and writer communication boards and sheets to help. We work closely with service providers, schools, and other professionals. The subjects offered, on a part-time basis, are Treasures (restoring old furniture), communication, ICT, horticulture, creative studies, relaxation, and tutorial.

Contact: Jacqui Sidwell – 01872 267196

West of England College for young people with little or no sight

Address:	Topsham Road, Countess Wear, Exeter, EX2 6HA
Director of teaching and learning:	Nina Gerrard
Tel:	01392 454219 or 454200
Email:	education@westengland.ac.uk
Website:	www.westengland.ac.uk

Who is it for: Students aged 16-24 with visual impairment which may involve additional needs.

Course information: Full range of academic and vocational courses, including A Levels. Run in conjunction with local colleges and supported by specialist staff and resources. Also in-house Highways programme for students at Pre-Entry and Entry Level.

Contact: Nina Gerrard

Westlands School a Mathematics and Computing College

Address: Westlands Lane, Torquay, Devon, TQ1 3PE
Head teacher: Mr M Stewart
Tel: 01803 400660
Email: enquiries@westlands.torbay.sch.uk
Website: www.westlandstc.com

Mainstream courses

Support is available for statemented students on all courses. Talk to the head of sixth form or the special educational needs and disability manager about your son or daughter to ensure they get the support they need.

Contact: Mrs P. Seddon, special educational needs and disability manager or Miss S. Woodyatt, head of sixth form



Under the Learning and Skills Act 2000, state schools and colleges are required to provide information to Connexions, so that we can offer support to young people throughout their teenage years to help them make the best possible transition to adulthood and working life. To do this, we hold computer and paper records for young people aged 13-19. The sort of information that is kept includes:

- name and address, and where available telephone number
- date of birth, gender and ethnicity
- parent/carer contact name
- school/college attended and current activity (e.g. in school/college, unemployed, in training, employed)
- educational statement and achievement
- other relevant information that your child may give to us when talking to one of our Connexions Personal Advisers.

We only pass information to another agency with the informed consent of your child, or you acting on their behalf, unless there is a legal requirement to do so. Your child has the right to see the information held about them. If you so wish, you have the right to instruct the school not to pass on information about your child to Connexions other than their name and address. If you would like any of this explained further, please contact Connexions on 0800 9755111 or go into your nearest Connexions centre.

To get in touch with your PA or to find your nearest Connexions centre go online to www.connexions-cd.org.uk or give us a call on 0800 9755111. Calls from a landline are free and you'll be connected to your nearest centre. Calls from a mobile may be subject to a network charge – you'll be connected to our head office, but we can redirect you to your nearest centre.

This Connexions service is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all employees and volunteers to share this commitment.

This Connexions service is committed to improving its products and services. If you have any comments or complaints please contact the Head of Quality, Contracts and Adult Services at Careers South West Ltd, Tamar Business Park, Pennygillam Industrial Estate, Launceston, PL15 7ED.

This publication can be made available in large print, Braille, tape or in languages other than English. Please contact Careers South West Ltd on 01566 777672.

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This Connexions service is managed by Careers South West Ltd.
Our purpose is to engage all of our customers in learning and work.