

Hello from Youth & Connexions

Now that your son, daughter or foster child has started Year 9 they can access free and impartial information, advice and guidance from the **Youth and Connexions Service**, part of Suffolk County Council.

Young people will often ask parents, carers or friends for advice, but sometimes they may need independent and specialist advice. This is where we can help. We have advisers and youth workers based in schools, colleges, youth clubs and out and about in your area; working together to help young people make the right choices.

What's on offer?

- Drop-in centres in Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Ipswich, Lowestoft and Stowmarket
- A wide range of youth clubs, projects and mobile youth facilities.

What's available for them?

- Chance to build up their confidence and develop new skills
- Support for further learning, finding work or career plans
- Access to specialist support from other services for young people
- Opportunity to get involved in what services provide for young people

For further information order our leaflet, **We're Here to Help**. You can contact us on freephone 0800 085 4448 or email youthandconnexions@suffolk.gov.uk

Why not check out our new website for parents and carers available from November 2009: www.youthandconnexions.suffolk.gov.uk

Working with parents and carers

We want to keep you aware of some of the main decisions faced by your son, daughter or foster child during Year 9. So in January 2010, we will send you Starting Out to help you support them while they consider their options for Years 10 and 11.

New way of learning - Diplomas

A qualification called the Diploma is being introduced as one of three main options alongside GCSE, A Levels and Apprenticeships.

There will be 17 subjects such as creative and media, engineering, construction and built environment and public services. You can view the full list of diplomas at www.direct.gov.uk./diploma

The Diploma aims to teach young people the skills needed for college, university and for their career path. For further information, we have enclosed a leaflet from the Department for children, schools and families.

Diplomas in Suffolk

From September 2010, the number of Diplomas in Suffolk will rise to over 30 courses. In January young people will be asked to consider their options for Years 10 and 11; and this could include the Diploma.

For details about Diplomas, A Levels, GCSEs or Apprenticeships in Suffolk, visit the 14-19 area prospectus at www.future4me.org.uk

Dates for your diary

- November 2009; new website: www.youthandconnexions.suffolk.gov.uk
- January 2010: Getting Started given to Year 9 students at school to help them pick their options.
- January 2010: Starting Out sent to you in the post.

Youth & Connexions
"We're here to help"