



Learning is **CHANGING**



Raising the Participation Age



Cheshire West
and Chester

What is RPA?

By 2015 all young people will be required by law to stay in some form of education or training until they turn eighteen.

This will be phased in from 2013. If you were born on or after 1st September 1996 you will be the first to be required to continue in education or training beyond 16. If you are in year 11 you must continue learning until July 2014. If you are in year 10 or below you will continue learning until your 18th birthday.



Sept 2012	Sept 2013	Sept 2014	Sept 2015
	Age of participation rises to 17		Age of participation rises to 18
Year 11 Age 15/16	Year 12 Age 16/17		
Year 10 Age 14/15	Year 11 Age 15/16	Year 12 Age 16/17	Year 13 Age 17/18

Why?

By staying in learning you can achieve the qualifications you need to help you succeed in both work and life. You will also have more chance to develop knowledge and practical skills that employers are looking for, helping you to get a better job, with better pay and career prospects.

Plus, you can do all this very flexibly; you do not have to stay in school or college if you do not want to!



Options available to you

At 16 you can choose what, how and where you learn

- Full-time education at a school, sixth form college or further education college
- Work based learning, foundation learning or an apprenticeship with an employer that leads to a recognised qualification
- Part-time education or training if employed, self-employed or volunteering for more than 20 hours a week



Frequently asked questions

Do I have to stay on in school?

No. You may still leave school at 16 and access learning through college or work based learning.

Where can I learn?

School, sixth form, FE college, Training provider, Training with employment. Apprenticeships.

Can I get any job?

No. You can only get a job if you are also doing some accredited learning alongside it. This may be through an apprenticeship scheme, work based learning or you may work part time and attend college outside your working hours.

Can I train to do a job?

Yes. You may choose a specialist training provider. They offer work experience alongside key qualifications specific to that career. Or how about an apprenticeship where you will be employed to work and also access training either on site or at a college.

Can I do nothing?

No. The purpose of raising the participation age is to provide every young person with more time to develop skills required for a successful career and working life.

What if I don't know what I want to do after Year 11?

Don't worry there are lots of people and information around to help you...

TALK to your parents, carers, career teacher and teachers about the right path for you.

Keep your **OPTIONS** open in your subjects

WORK HARD to get the highest grades you can achieve

FIND OUT about post 16 provision and Apprenticeships in your area

SPEAK to employers about relevant skills and qualifications

VISIT various websites for further information

ATTEND career and open days/evenings at sixth form schools, FE Colleges



“Education
is the
most
powerful
weapon
which you
can use
to change
the world.”

Nelson Mandela

Further information

<https://www.gov.uk/courses-qualifications>



<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>



<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk>



Information on RPA is available at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/youngpeople/participation>



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