Choosing a Post-16 Setting
- If you do not have an EHCP

(If you do have an EHCP, please see our separate factsheet about this)

When to start planning for your year 12 placement

- ❖ Change can be difficult, so it's important to plan early.
- ❖ Year 10 is an ideal time to visit local sixth form and further education (FE) colleges.
- ❖ If you went to a mainstream school in year 11, it's likely you'll go to a mainstream college or sixth form in year 12.
- ❖ See 'other useful information' below for a list of post-16 settings in West Sussex.
- ❖ Open evenings usually happen in September and October, and you usually need to book a place. Look at the college or sixth form websites for dates and times.
- ❖ Try to also visit during the daytime. Your parent/carer or school can help you arrange this.

Applying for a year 12 course

- ❖ Applying for college or sixth form is very different to applying for a school place.
- ❖ Many young people apply for more than one course in order to keep their options open.
- ❖ Speak to the people who know you well (e.g. your teachers, SENCO, parent/carer) before you choose a college/sixth form or a course. Consider how you will get there and back. Don't choose it just because your friends are going there!
- ❖ Once you have decided on a college/sixth form and you have chosen a course you would like to do, you will need to complete an application form. When you apply, remember to tell the college if you need additional support with your learning. If you have an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan, please see our EHCP factsheet)
- ❖ Once the college/sixth form has read your application form, you will usually be invited for an interview.
- ❖ Interviews can take place any time before the course starts but they often happen between Christmas and Easter in year 11. Some courses are very popular, so apply as soon as you can.
- ❖ Some young people choose to take their parent/carer with them to their interview, but you can go on your own if you prefer.
- ❖ After the interview, the college/sixth form will write to tell you if you have been offered a place on the course you applied for.
- ❖ You might be offered a 'conditional' place – this means that you can attend the course you have applied for if you meet the entry criteria (i.e. if you get the GCSE or other grades you need)
- ❖ If you have an 'unconditional offer' this means that you definitely have a place on the course that you have applied for.
- ❖ You can apply for as many courses as you like but you will only get funding for one, so plan carefully.

IMPORTANT POINTS for you and your parent/carer to consider:

- ❖ If you are nervous about going to college/sixth form you can ask if you can visit again during the summer holidays.
- ❖ Once you accept a place you will be invited to enrol at the beginning of September. This is when you complete an enrolment form.
- ❖ It can be difficult to change course once you've enrolled, so make sure you find out everything you need to know about the course and the college/sixth form before enrolling.
- ❖ Think about how you will get to the college/sixth form. Practise your journey over the summer holidays.
- ❖ Have a back-up plan in case you don't get the grades you need for your first choice of course.
- ❖ Don't panic on results day! if you don't get the exam results you were hoping for, contact the college or sixth form. They might be able to offer a solution, e.g. if you have applied for a level 2 course, they might offer a level 1 qualification in the same subject.
- ❖ College and sixth forms are paid for by the government's 16-19 funding, so lots of students spend three years there instead of two.
- ❖ Ask at your interview whether you will need to buy any equipment for your course. If you struggle financially, you could ask if the college offers a learner support grant.

As mentioned above, when you officially start your course in September you will attend an enrolment day. You will be asked to complete an enrolment form. This is your formal opportunity to tell the college/sixth form if you have any special educational needs and/or a disability, so that they know what type of support you may need. You can say if you want them to include your parent/carer when they send you emails, etc. about your progress. You can also tell the college/sixth form if you had additional support (known as Access Arrangements) for your year 11 exams.

Other useful information

- ❖ For a list of post-16 placements, please see our 'Post 16 Schools & Colleges' excel spreadsheet on our factsheets webpage.
- ❖ You can start thinking about your post-16 setting anytime from year 9 by talking to your parent/carer, your form tutor, or if you have additional needs, the SENCO in your school.
- ❖ Get some careers advice: your school might be able to arrange for you to speak to a careers advisor. If not, you can contact the National Careers Service instead.
- ❖ Chichester College Group is the main provider of further education in West Sussex. If you need additional support at college you can contact their Additional Learning Support team.
- ❖ West Sussex Local Offer: a directory of information about SEND provision in West Sussex. Just type a key word at the top (e.g. 'post 16 transport' or 'benefits' or 'preparing for adulthood' or 'apprenticeships') to find local information on any topic you're interested in.