

Post-16 education options for people with Tourette Syndrome



You've made it through school. Congratulations! So, what next?

There are plenty of options available to you after you leave school at 16 or 18. You don't have to go into work straight away, and you don't have to do something academic to continue studying if you don't want to. Below are some options that you might want to consider.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships give you the chance to learn - and gain nationally recognised qualifications - while getting a weekly wage.

Apprenticeships span across more than 80 industry sectors. They include accountancy, business administration, construction, engineering, manufacturing and many more. Most last between one and two years, though some take up to five. There are no fixed entry requirements for most Apprenticeships. More information can be obtained from:

- www.gov.uk/apprenticeships-guide
- www.apprenticeships.org.uk
- www.connexions-direct.com

Entry 2 Employment

If you're not ready to start an Apprenticeship, employment with training or further education after Year 11, you may benefit from an Entry to Employment (e2e) programme. To qualify, you must live in England and be aged between 16 and 18. e2e is intended to develop your motivation and confidence. It will also help you build skills that you can use in the workplace, known as 'Key Skills' and 'Skills for Life'.

e2e is tailored to your individual needs, so it does not last for a fixed amount of time. As well as working towards a qualification, you can try out different work and learning situations. If you are on an e2e programme and live in England you may be able to receive a 16 – 19 Bursary Fund which can help pay for essential education related costs. You can find more information at www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund.

If you are on an e2e programme and live in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales, you may be able to receive money in the form of an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). EMA is now closed in England.

You can find more information: www.gov.uk/education-maintenance-allowance-ema

Further study

Once you've thought about what you want to study, and the type of course that would suit you, it's time to find out where you can study.

You can choose from:

- **A school sixth form:** You may be able to study at your own school's sixth form, the sixth form of another school, or at a sixth form college. They offer a wider range of options than you've probably had to date, and the environment is usually more relaxed than in Year 11.
- **A sixth form college:** Sixth form colleges tend to be larger and more informal than school sixth forms.
- **A further education college:** Further education colleges can offer similar courses to sixth form colleges. They also vary a lot in size, and in the subjects and facilities they offer. Your fellow students may include adults of all ages as well as young people.
- **A specialist college:** Some further education colleges specialise in particular areas, such as art and design, agriculture and horticulture, or dance and drama, and some may have courses and support for students with a particular disability or learning difficulty. Going to a specialist college may involve a lot of travelling. If it's a long way from home, you may need to live there during term time. If so, you might qualify for financial help. Some courses are only available to people over the age of 18.

You can apply to more than one sixth form or college. Many colleges let you apply online through their website, or you can contact them for an application form. You should start applying for popular or specialist courses in the Autumn term of Year 11. For other courses, you normally apply in the Spring.

For advice and information on further education visit www.connexions-direct.com.

You can find out where your local further education colleges and sixth forms are from the GOV UK website www.gov.uk.

Vocational Qualifications

Vocational qualifications can range from general qualifications where you learn skills relevant to a variety of jobs, to specialist qualifications designed for a particular sector. You can take one if you are interested in learning more about a particular sector or industry. Many have been designed in collaboration with industry, so they can equip you with the skills and knowledge that employers are looking for.

BTECs and OCR Nationals are available in a wide range of subjects, including art and design, business, health and social care, information technology, media, public services, science and sport. They are usually studied full-time at college, or sometimes at school (or in collaboration between a school and college). You can also take them part-time at college. More information on vocational qualifications is available at www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk/vocational-qualifications.html.