Derbyshire County Council

New Mills School

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16th November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we move through Year 11, students are beginning to make important decisions about their future education and career pathways. Choosing the right post-16 destination can be challenging, with a wide range of options available, including sixth form colleges, further education colleges, T Levels, vocational qualifications and apprenticeships.

To help you understand the opportunities available and how you can support your child through the decision-making and application process, we would like to invite you to attend our online Year 11 Post-16 Information Evening:

Date: Tuesday 24th November
Time: 7pm
Venue: Microsoft Teams https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/3393414807432090?p=q80l7vxgFtabWo71zB
Meeting ID: 339 341 480 743 209 0
Passcode: 5sy7nL32

The session will provide parents and carers with an overview of the Year 11 post-16 journey, including key dates, important deadlines and the support available through school.
Topics covered will include:

- The Year 11 timeline for post-16 applications.
- College open events and application deadlines.
- One-to-one careers guidance interviews available to all students.
- The different qualification pathways available after Year 11.
- A Levels, including subject choices, progression opportunities and entry requirements.
- T Levels and how they combine classroom learning with industry placements.
- Apprenticeships and the process of finding and applying for vacancies.
- How students can research colleges, courses and career pathways effectively.
- How parents and carers can support students in making informed decisions.

All students have access to at least one individual careers guidance interview with a qualified careers professional. These appointments help students explore their interests, strengths, aspirations and future plans, whilst developing an action plan to support their next steps.

During the evening, we will explain the differences between the main routes available after Year 11. We will discuss how A Levels can help keep options open for university and professional careers, how T Levels provide a more vocational route linked closely to industry, and how apprenticeships allow young people to earn whilst they learn through a combination of paid employment and training.

We will also outline our expectations for Year 11 students, including attendance at college open events and submitting applications to at least two post-16 providers before Christmas, ensuring that every student has a range of progression opportunities available.

Making decisions about life after Year 11 can feel daunting for both students and families. Our aim is to ensure that every student is equipped with the information, guidance and support needed to make confident and well-informed choices about their future.

We strongly encourage all parents and carers of Year 11 students to attend this important event and look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child's next steps.

Yours faithfully,

Danni Heap
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Teacher of PE and Health and Social Care