



Dear Parent / Carer,

Firstly, let me congratulate your son/daughter on completing their time at Tanfield School and I hope your child is enjoying their new and exciting career pathway choices, whether it is a full time educational course or apprenticeship.

I am writing to you as this is a very important time in your child's life, as being out of education, employment or training (NEET) between the ages of 16 and 18 is an enormous waste of young people's potential and their contribution to society.

New legislation encourages young people to study and train to gain the higher skills that are needed in today's workplace. There are fewer low-skilled jobs so young people must be as well qualified and trained as possible to enter the work force. Engaging in further education will stop young people taking jobs with no prospects and there will be more options to get jobs at a better salary later in life and pursuing jobs where higher skills are increasingly required.

It may be the case that your son/daughter falls into one of the following categories:

- 1) They aren't enjoying their course / apprenticeship choice.
- 2) They didn't get accepted onto their course / apprenticeship.
- 3) They have already dropped out of their course.
- 4) Never took up their offer of acceptance.

There are three areas of education available to young people:

- 1) One option is to study full-time at school, college or with a training provider.
- 2) The second option is full-time employment or volunteering (full-time is counted as more than 20 hours a week) **but it must be combined with part-time study or training.**
- 3) The third option is an apprenticeship. Numbers of apprenticeships are increasing all the time and the government is committed to increasing the number of apprenticeships to 3 million by 2020.

If your child is not on a suitable training course presently, or is thinking about dropping out of their present one, please get in contact with Mrs Wall at Tanfield School as soon as possible and we can support your child in applying for the right course / training. We have a wide range of contacts at many training providers and can help your son/daughter get onto the right course for them. Just because they have left Tanfield School, it doesn't mean the support stops.

Kind Regards

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