

Business growth and sustainability requires investment in People.



As you are aware technological change in the global economy means that it is even more imperative that staff have a broader range of work place competencies and soft skills that can complement the technical skills required in all sectors of industry. Education and training in the UK is changing in line with this to ensure that every young person has a high-quality, interesting and useful curriculum that will help them achieve their full potential and provide industry with the skills they need.

Fact:

- By 2020 there will be 5 million fewer lower skilled jobs than there are today.
- The top 10 jobs in 2010 did not exist in 2004.
- For far too long young people have left education at 16, 18 and beyond without the skills and qualities that employers say they need.

Times are changing with the introduction of the 14-19 Reforms.

"The 14-19 reforms are a welcome development. They offer young people clear and flexible routes into the working world, responding to their own interests and abilities while reflecting the different needs of employers."

Sir Alan Jones of Toyota



will mean that young people will leave school at 18 better prepared for employment & training.

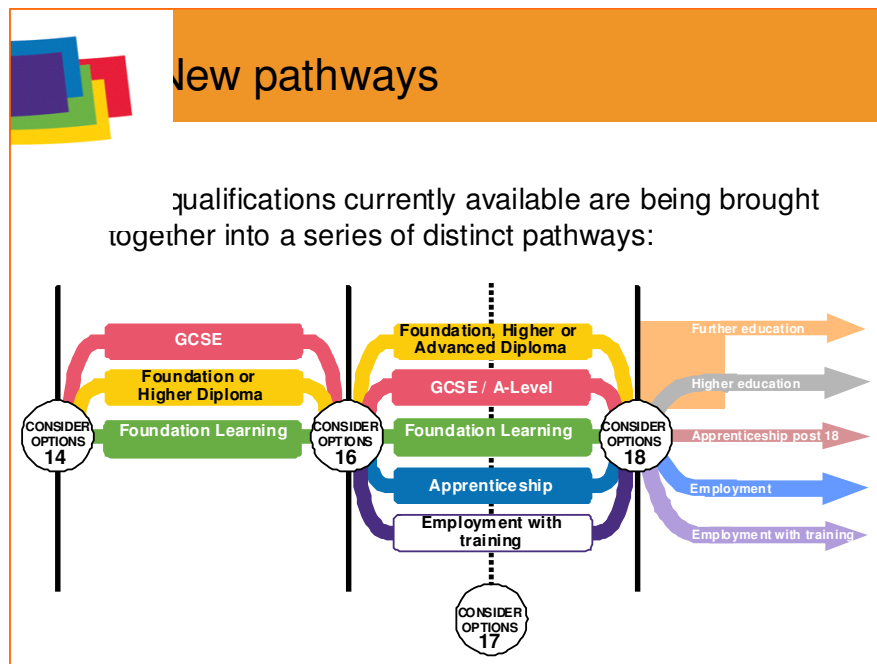
The key elements of the 14-19 reform are:

- raising the minimum age at which young people leave education or training to 17 by 2013 and to 18 by 2015
- creating new functional skills standards and qualifications in English, mathematics and ICT
- introducing the new applied Diplomas at three levels by 2013
- reforming, reviewing and updating GCSEs and A levels
- significantly expanding the number of Apprenticeships
- introducing foundation learning for young people at level 1 and below so they can progress when they are ready
- placing responsibility for education and training of all young people up to 18 with local authorities

Schools and Colleges in Colchester and Tendring are part of these reforms but they need the support of the local business community in order to make things happen. In particular they are looking to increase the opportunities that young people have in experiencing the real world of work. By supporting a local school with any of the activities listed below you could impact on the learning of a young person and their potential usefulness upon entering employment.

- Apprenticeships and Work-based Learning
- Acting as Business “Dragons”
- Business mentoring, either one to one or one to small group
- Business simulation challenge or activity i.e. Role Play days
- Business talks
- Attending Careers Fairs
- Providing Careers information
- Case study material: marketing, project management, growth & development
- Providing Company information: annual reports, accounts, marketing material, research reports, website
- Continuing Professional Development for teaching staff
- CVs & Mock interviews
- Employability Skills activities
- Joining Employer Engagement group
- Sponsorship of the Essex Employability Skills Charter
- Mentoring a member of Senior Management
- Becoming a School Governor
- Providing opportunities for Videoconferencing
- Visits to place of work
- Work experience, either regular day per week or two week block placement
- Work shadowing

What the 14-19 Curriculum will look like



Schools and Colleges are making these changes happen but they need more involvement and input with business and the people who drive the economy forward. If we are to increase our trade and rate of competitiveness in the world arena we need young

people entering the world of work more knowledgeable and work ready. The changes in the 14-19 curriculum are trying to address these issues but they can't do it on their own. Realism of the actual world of work and an opportunity to develop skills and qualities for the work place are only possible if we have the support of the people that do business i.e. you.

In Essex we have a lot of good practice to build upon but we need more. To help your business engage with the 14-19 reforms please contact Hilary Sellens, Employer Engagement Co-ordinator hilary.sellens@essex.gov.uk