

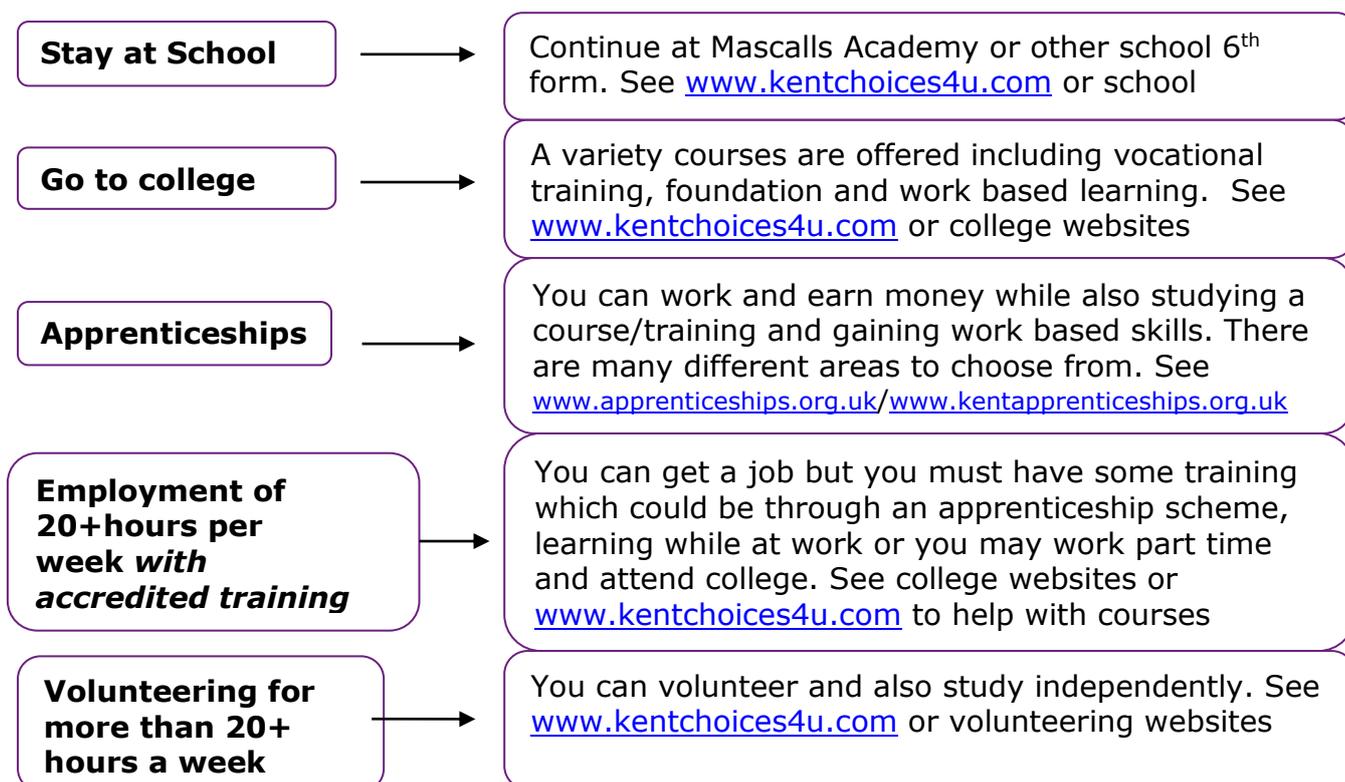
## Raising the (Education) Participation Age (RPA) Continuing in Education or Learning

(document update March 2016)

All secondary school students are required to continue with their education or learning to at least their 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

### What is "Continue Learning"?

This means that after you have completed Year 11 you must continue some form of accredited studying/training. This could be at school, college or in the work place. The different options are shown below. **It does not mean that you have to stay on at school after Year 11**



### Why was this introduced?

By staying in learning you will gain new skills and qualifications which will open up more opportunities to you in life. It will give you the chance to develop the knowledge and practical skills that employers are seeking and this will help you in your future career.

## **Help & Advice**

There are many people who can help and support you with your choices. These include advisors, teachers, careers advisors, parents and carers, family and friends. You are advised to talk through your options with someone and it is important to choose what is right for you.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ***Do I have to stay on at school?***

No, you can still leave school at 16 but you must continue learning whether this is at college or in the work place.

### ***Can I just get a job without any more learning or training?***

No, you must also complete some accredited learning alongside it, for example an apprenticeship or part-time college course.

### ***If I get a job, can I work part-time hours?***

Yes, but you must work *at least* 20 hours a week and complete an accredited course.

### ***Can I do nothing?***

No, the purpose of Raising the Participation Age is to give you the best opportunity to be successful in your future career and life by giving you more time to develop your qualifications and employability skills.

**If you have any queries or would like to discuss this in more please contact**

**Mrs Bayliss  
Careers & Business Links Manager  
Mascalls Academy**

**01892 839033**

**[bayliss@mascalls.kent.sch.uk](mailto:bayliss@mascalls.kent.sch.uk)**