

P↑**RENTAL**
CONSULTATION
GROUP

HINTS and TIPS

...for having those valuable conversations with your child about his/her option choices

Start small conversations early and listen to your child

Don't expect them to make a decision after just one discussion

Ask someone who has recently been through the process to chat to your child about it...they could look at the options that they are thinking of and the careers information together

Encourage your child not to tell their friends what they have decided until the forms are in, as they may find themselves in classes with children who don't have a desire to be there

Ask them to justify their choices so you know they are doing things for the right reasons. And get them to think what would benefit them in the future, either for jobs or university

Explain that choosing a subject because their friend is doing it is not the way forward. As time moves on friends change to ones they have more in common with

If your child is more comfortable speaking to an older sibling, Sport Leader or Teacher then tap into these sources

If they have no idea then encourage choices that are varied so as not to limit things later

Find out what's involved in each subject (read the subject sheets in the booklet) - do not pick a Vocational subject thinking it is an easy option - they are not easy

Ask encouraging 'open' questions and value/listen to what your child has to say

Consider the exam / coursework ratio and what is more suitable for your child

Side talk to your children to avoid confrontation. Sit them in a car or walk and talk – that way you are not directly face to face so you can chat about anything!

Reassure them they do not need to know the exact career they want now. The new wider choices mean that more career pathways are open

Get a full understanding of the process by thoroughly reading the booklet, check out websites, talk to older siblings or family members. You can do this information gathering exercise together or before sitting down to talk to your child (whichever is better for the child)

Yr 8 into 9 only:
Reassure your child that there is a chance to change their mind for year 10 and that they do not need to do the GCSE/BTECs associated with their taster pathways if they do not want to – occasionally a child changes quite a lot in a year

AND ABOVE ALL...
Do not give your child the impression that you have made the decision. They should feel that they have had a fair part in the choice

The Parental Consultation Group consists of eight parents who have been consulted on, and contributed to, this year's Option Process and who have an interest in trying to make the process as transparent and as easy for parents and their children as possible. All have current year 8 or 9 pupils at the school.