

Ashford – Collaborative Post-16 Options Evenings



WHAT IS IT?

One of the gaps identified among Ashford schools was lack of awareness of the post-16 options among young people and parents. The schools, college and training providers have also been collaborating more effectively and wanted an event that demonstrated this new approach. It was decided to hold a central post-16 options evening in a local hotel, this was chosen as a neutral venue that did not favour any of the providers.

HOW DID IT WORK?

We have now successfully run three collaborative events for our Ashford post-16 providers over the last two years. Two of these events have targeted our Year 11 cohorts, with the other focused on Year 10. The aim of the events has been to provide advice and guidance to parents and students on the local offer with plenty of opportunity to meet with and discuss their child's needs and progression routes. We have also offered talks throughout the events to guide parents and students through the application process, the types of qualifications available, as well as an overview of apprenticeships and how to go about applying for these.

WHAT WAS THE IMPACT?

We have received feedback from those attending that they feel better informed about their options. There is also clearer communication about the offer between providers, and professionals now feel they have better knowledge to enable them to support young people with their choices.

NEXT STEPS

All of the events have seen high levels of demand with over 800 visitors per event. We have received excellent feedback and look forward to this becoming an annual event for our district. This year we hope to open up the event to include employers in the area who are offering apprenticeships or alternative training routes.