

# Learning Pathways 14–19



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

What you need to know as a  
Parent/Guardian of a young person in Wales



A new approach in Wales for all 14–19 learners

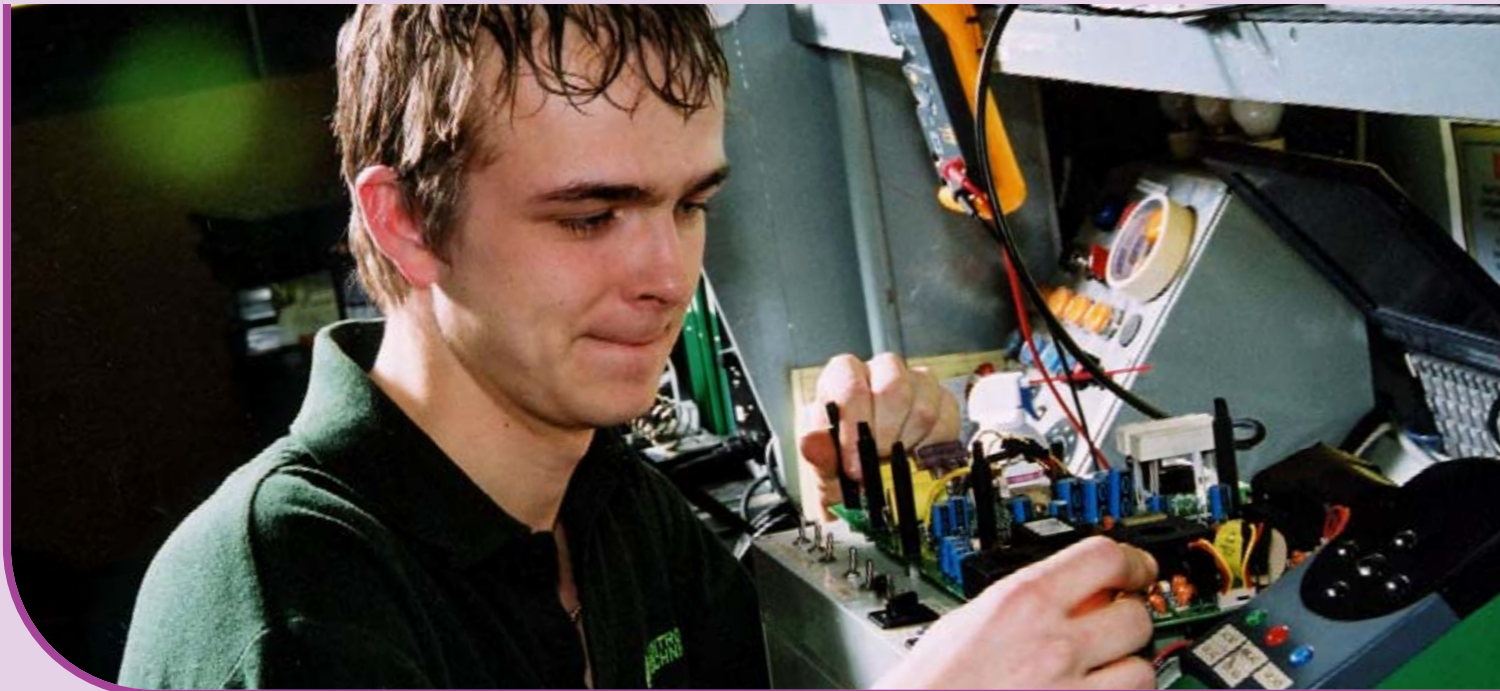
# What do we mean by Learning Pathways?

# It's about young people

They are all unique, they all act differently, think differently and they all have different talents.

So we think it makes a lot of sense to give young people a bigger say in what and how they learn. That way they can make the best use of their talents and achieve their ambitions.

**Learning Pathways** will do just that. Over the coming years all 14–19 year olds will be able to plan their own 'Learning Pathway' as they progress through school, college and training.



# It's about Choice



Learning Pathways offer a lot more choice than students had in the past. With the support of their teachers, tutors and parents/guardians they will be given the chance to design their own personal pathway to success.

**Learning Pathways** give young people the opportunity to broaden their options and provide them with a chance to study a wider range of subjects.

What's more, there will also be a range of vocational courses that may include study at their local college, with training providers and local employers.

Young people will be able to spend time out of school to gain valuable experience in a suitable working environment.

# It's about Life

Getting on in life isn't just about qualifications, important as they are, it's also about developing skills that help a young person become more confident, happy and fulfilled. So there will also be less formal programmes and opportunities on offer — such as being a member of a school council — to assist them in developing their social, communication and team working skills.



# It's about Learning

At the heart of Learning Pathways for 14–19 year olds is the Learning Core. This means that wherever a young person is learning, either in school, college or in training, they will get a mix of activities and courses that develop their key skills, their knowledge and understanding of themselves and the world around them. And that includes opportunities to undertake work-focused experience, as well.



Learning Pathways will give each young person the opportunity to get the most out of school and to leave with worthwhile qualifications under their belt. They will be able to gain recognition in a wide range of ways that will be valued by universities, colleges and employers.

And that's very important to note because it means they have real flexibility. For example, their Learning Pathway could have a mix of more practical subjects, yet they could still use their qualifications to qualify for university.

Equally, they could stick with the more traditional subjects in school but still go on to college to do a more vocational course or take up an apprenticeship. The choice will be theirs!



# It's about the Welsh Bac

The Welsh Baccalaureate (Welsh Bac) is now becoming available to more learners in Wales — through schools, colleges and work based settings. This is excellent news for young people as it means they will gain credit for the wider learning that Learning Pathways will bring to them.



It allows for more flexibility in their studies, whatever mix of courses they're following. And they will also be able to prepare for further and higher education, as well as the world of work.

As part of the Welsh Bac, they will develop the key skills considered important by employers and universities, improve their personal and social education, undertake an individual investigation, gain work experience and actively participate in a community project.

More information about the Welsh Bac can be found at [www.wbq.org.uk](http://www.wbq.org.uk)



# It's about Support

Making choices that can affect a young person's future can be hard, it's true. But making decisions about their future is also important. So don't worry — we've thought about that too!



We're also bringing in some other really important changes to make sure your child has all the help and support they need.

Probably one of the biggest changes will be the introduction of Learning Coaches. These will work alongside young people's teachers and their careers advisor to help them plan their Learning Pathway.

It is proposed that, just like a sports coach, a Learning Coach will meet with them regularly to offer advice and encouragement all through their Learning Pathway. At the moment there are 230 Learning Coaches being trained and we plan to have many more across Wales in the near future.

We also feel it is important that young people can easily access support with any problems that might get in the way of them completing their Learning Pathway.

Also, they might need help or advice on such things as bullying, health, personal relationships or other confidential issues.

We want to make sure they know who they can turn to for advice and assistance so we are establishing a Framework of Personal Support for all young people following a Learning Pathway.

This support will include a range of services and people, including Youth Workers and Information Services — for young people to contact if necessary.



# It's about Time

The Welsh Assembly Government is working with schools, colleges and trainers to introduce Learning Pathways and to make sure that “95% of young people in Wales by the age of 25 will be ready for high skilled employment or higher education in 2015”.



This is our ambition and we know that employers are backing Learning Pathways too. We are all keen to make sure that the skills young people learn at school, college or in training are the types of skills that will be most important to help them be successful in the world of work.

Learning Pathways are radically changing the way young people will be taught and trained, so it will take time for them to be introduced fully across Wales. But many of these changes are already taking place and people will look back on the launch of Learning Pathways as the time when young people, with support, were given more power to choose their own learning.

If you would like more information, please go to:

[www.wales.gov.uk/learningpathways](http://www.wales.gov.uk/learningpathways)

or e-mail:

[14-19@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:14-19@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

# Extending Entitlement

The Welsh Assembly Government wants every young person in Wales aged 11–25 to have the same rights or entitlements (things they are allowed/should have/have a right to). Rights come with responsibilities — for adults and for young people.

Find out more and get involved by visiting:

[www.wales.gov.uk/extendingentitlement](http://www.wales.gov.uk/extendingentitlement)

Below are some other useful websites to get more information about services for, and in support of, young people:

Careers Services  
[www.careerswales.com](http://www.careerswales.com)

Funky Dragon  
[www.funkydragon.org](http://www.funkydragon.org)

