

Support for young people leaving school in Summer 2020 – Covid19 update

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. The current COVID19 pandemic has changed all our lives. Midlothian's families and communities have been amazingly committed to following national health advice and we are proud of our community response under such challenging times.

It is likely that for young people leaving school this Summer that the number of job opportunities available will be fewer than would have been anticipated a few months ago when plans were being made with schools, families and partnership agencies. Many of the industries that employ and develop our young people have been affected (hospitality, retail, tourism, construction and creative industries are a few examples) and, as a result, if your child planned to leave school in summer to move into employment or training, they may now be concerned about what their future will look like.

We want to reassure you that, under these circumstances, the Council and its Community Planning Partners (Skills Development Scotland, Schools, Colleges, Universities, Training Providers and Employer organisations) are working hard together to develop and offer additional choices for pupils who planned to leave school at the end of S4, S5 or, for most young people, at the end of S6 and have not yet secured a positive destination or whose anticipated destination is no longer available to them.

We also want to reassure you that if your child has applied for and been offered a place at Edinburgh College, then this offer remains unchanged and your child's place has been secured so there is no need to alter any plans.

The accompanying leaflet outlines some of the key services that are still available to you and your child as you decide what your next steps will be. If you have any questions or concerns, it is always helpful to chat with someone who can help support you and discuss what options are available. This might be one of the partner services noted in the leaflet, or of course your child's guidance/pastoral teacher at school.

We would encourage you to make contact with the most appropriate person/partner to seek any support you may need. We look forward to hearing from you and will also be making contact with young people and families who we know may need a little extra support in these difficult times. We hope this approach will ensure we provide the best opportunities for our young people and continue to support the Midlothian community and our dynamic workforce.

Yours sincerely



Craig Biddick

Head Teacher (Acting)