



September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer and Student,

Year 11 is an incredibly important year for all students across the country, not only due to the preparation and build up to the GCSE exam season in the summer, but because important life decisions are made in this year when it comes to students deciding their 'Post-16' future.

In line with the Government's policy of Raising the Participation Age (RPA), which means that all young people in England must continue in education or training until they are 18, students at Light Hall must choose one of the following options when they leave school:

- Full-time education, such as school, college or learning provider;
- Work-based learning, such as an apprenticeship or traineeship;
- Part-time education or training if you are employed, self-employed or volunteering for 20 hours or more a week.

In order for students to fully understand their options it is important that time is spent researching the various pathways outlined above. It is vital to think further ahead and begin exploring career options, and which pathway will best enable students to reach their longer term goals.

As you may be aware, Light Hall School opened its own Sixth Form in September 2024 and we are extremely proud and excited to be able to invite parents, carers and students to consider Light Hall's Sixth Form as a choice this year. Current students will benefit greatly from the Light Hall community by knowing the staff, students and routines of school life, as well as receiving an excellent academic offering that is both broad and diverse.

To help with what can sometimes feel like an overwhelming time of decision making, I have provided links to websites which may help you understand the options and give you some insight into the various choices and careers out there:

Understanding your options

A summary of the 'Raising Participation Age' government initiative and the options for students Post-16: <https://www.gov.uk/know-when-you-can-leave-school>

Exploring subjects, further study and careers

An invaluable tool for exploring subject/career choices and advice on what to choose Post-16: <https://www.ucas.com/further-education/post-16-qualifications>

The Russell Group- a group of 24 leading universities in the UK- have created a guide to informed choices Post-16. <https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/>

The Government Careers website. Access advice, job searches, skills builders to find out more about careers and jobs: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

Head Teacher: Annette Kimblin

Hathaway Road | Shirley | Solihull | West Midlands | B90 2PZ

T: 0121 744 3835 | **F:** 0121 733 6148 | **E:** office@lighthall.solihull.sch.uk

www.lighthall.co.uk



Local sixth form and college information

Open events- please find enclosed a list of many local sixth forms and colleges and their open evenings/days.

Apprenticeships and traineeships

National website for information on apprenticeships and a search database for vacancies:
<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

A guide to apprenticeships and traineeships in Birmingham and Solihull: <https://gbstpn.org/>

In school, we will help the students in this decision-making process by giving them access to an independent careers advisor. This service has already begun, whereby students will be given either individual or paired interviews with the advisor for independent advice.

Students will have a Careers Day on Wednesday 16th October, where they will explore different routes and career paths, and be supported in how to apply to colleges and apprenticeships. In the evening, we will be joint hosting our Careers Convention, this year held at Langley School, where a range of Post-16 providers, apprenticeship and training providers will be in school to answer your questions and give you more information on the routes available. This will be on from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

Finally, if you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on the below email address.

I wish all the students the best of luck in their future career endeavours.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K Mohomed

Senior Assistant Headteacher

kmohomed@lighthall.co.uk

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