My child has applied to College/University...

If your child plans to leave school to continue in learning, arrangements are in place to award certification as normal in early August. Colleges and Universities have agreed arrangements with Scottish Government, Councils and Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) to ensure that this year’s applicants are treated fairly and equitably, with the integrity of these qualifications being maintained. Schools are currently working with SQA to ensure certification by August based on new procedures that have replaced the usual exam diet.

My child wants to get a job...

If your child chooses to leave school to seek work, (including by entering a Modern Apprenticeship) then SDS, the Council’s Communities and Lifelong Learning service and the Regional ‘Developing the Young Workforce’ partnership are here to help. The starting point for this post-school journey is continuing to engage with SDS staff.

My child needs a little extra support...

Any young person with additional support needs will be supported by the appropriate specialist staff. Young people with significant additional support needs whether in a mainstream school, in a shared placement or a full time complex needs space are contacted by specialist teachers on a weekly basis.

If you have a child with additional support needs attending shared or full time specialist provision please contact the complex needs provisions principal teacher where a multi-agency team will offer the most appropriate support directly related to your concerns.

If you have a child with additional support needs attending a mainstream provision and you are concerned about their destination on leaving school please contact the school guidance/pastoral support teacher.
Foundation Apprenticeships – Midlothian

There is an offer of Foundation Apprenticeships (equivalent to a Higher and currently offered over 2 years across S5 & S6) in the following subject areas – Childcare, Business Skills, Social Services & Healthcare and Information Technology Software Development which are organised through the Council’s Communities and Lifelong Learning service that is being delivered in Schools and Council buildings across Midlothian.

Contact your Guidance Teacher/Pupil Support Leader at school for more information

Foundation Apprenticeships - Edinburgh College

A further offer of Foundation Apprenticeships in a wider range of subjects is being delivered by Edinburgh College across its 4 campuses in Sighthill, Granton, Milton Road and Eskbank. These are available in the following subject areas – Accountancy, Civil Engineering, Creative and Digital Media (Broadcast Media), Creative and Digital Media (Graphic Design), Engineering, Financial Services, Food & Drink Technologies, Scientific Technologies.

Further information can be found here

Edinburgh College Courses

If your child is looking to leave school, then Edinburgh College has over 500 part time and full time courses at various SCQF levels, including many apprenticeships, and guarantees the offer of a place for all school leavers (n.b. this may not always be on their first choice course). The College can also arrange for funding to help study, travel, child care and other support needs. Courses are currently open for application.

Course Information and our 20/21 prospectus can be accessed here
Click here to apply or for more information you can call the course enquiry line between 10am - 4pm on 0131 297 8300.

School/College Partnerships

An existing Schools/College partnership offer allows senior phase pupils to experience learning and gain additional skills and qualifications with Edinburgh College as part of their school curriculum and supports opportunities for progression to further study or employment. There are a wide variety of SCP courses offered in partnership with the College, at various SCQF levels and varying lengths to suit different pupils’ abilities and needs’.

The general offer can be found online here
Contact your Guidance Teacher/Pupil Support Leader at school before applying

Work Place Experience

The school work experience programme has, for most pupils, been a one week opportunity in S4 as part of a ‘learning for work’ curriculum, but for some pupils a longer term option of partial school attendance and partial workplace learning has been established. Subject to the agreement of employers and appropriate matching of pupil aspirations with employer offers, it is planned to offer a part school/part work placement attendance model to pupils who choose to stay on in S5 or S6 and wish to gain work experience.

Contact your Guidance Teacher/Pupil Support Leader at school for more information

Wider Achievement Opportunities

Wider achievements beyond academic qualifications are important to young people and are valued by Colleges, Universities, vocational training providers and employers. The Council’s CLL service and individual schools offer a range of opportunities to engage in awards such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, John Muir awards, Youth Achievement awards, as well as in volunteering programmes with local charities and community organisations. Pupils choosing to stay on in school may be able to take up these options to broaden their experience before starting to seek work, or to support applications to continue in learning.

Contact your Guidance Teacher/Pupil Support Leader at school for more information
5 ways to wellbeing during the Coronavirus epidemic

1. Connect
Try to stay connected to friends and family. 
You can play a game or watch a film with the people you live with.
Stay in touch with people on social media. Remember to only talk to people you know.
Use video calls or chat while gaming online.

2. Healthy
Try to get out every day – walk the dog, ride a bike.
You can try PE classes, dance lessons or yoga sessions online.
Have a plan for your day. Get up and go to bed as usual, shower and get dressed in the morning and turn off electronic devices before bed.
Drink water and try to follow a balanced diet.

3. Learning
Your teacher will set you some school work to keep your brain active.
You can read for fun, research something you are interested in or do a virtual activity like visit a zoo online.
You can learn a new skill. Ask an adult at home to teach you baking, sewing, gardening or DIY.

4. Be Creative
Express yourself and have fun. Play games, make music, draw, paint and make things.
You can write about your experiences – some people are creating time capsules to record what is happening now. Others are taking on the 30 day Lego challenge.

5. Take notice
This is a strange and confusing time. You might have a range of emotions like anxiety, anger and boredom. All of these are normal. Sharing how you feel can help you connect to other people.
It can be helpful to take time to notice what you are feeling. If you are feeling overwhelmed it’s OK to ask for help.

Even in these strange times there is lots of support and help. If you need to talk contact:

Childline 0800 1111
www.childline.org.uk
Call or use their 1-2-1 messaging chat if you are sad, worried or unsafe Sun-midnight

Shout 85258
www.guesswhatshout.org
Free text service if you need someone to talk to 24hr a day, everyday

Listening line 0131 271 3834
www.lisensingline.org
Talk to someone local, Mon-Fri 10am - 4pm

Parentline 08000 28 22 33
www.children1st.org.uk
if parents need advice, Mon-Fri, 9am - 5pm Sat-Sun, 9am - noon
Also www.youngscot.org or www.parentline.co.uk

Midlothian Health & Social Care Partnership

Midlothian
NHS Lothian
We hope that this information is of assistance to you and your child. If your child does not yet have a destination, or the destination they planned for is now unlikely to be available, please ask them to contact their Guidance Teacher at school who will be able to support.

**Skills Development Scotland (SDS)** have Careers Advisers in every school who are available to provide advice and guidance to pupils on their next steps. They can be contacted on 0131 6637287 or by e-mailing the adviser directly:

- **Beeslack High School** – **Stephen McBroom**
- **Dalkeith High School** – **Barbara Moir**
- **Lasswade High School** – **Judy Tyler & Nicola Powell**
- **Newbattle High School** – **Alison McGeechan**
- **St David’s RC High School** – **Nicola Croft**
- **Penicuik High School** – **Caroline Steele**

The [My World of Work Website](http://www.myworldofwork.co.uk) provides online career information and advice to young people and their parents/carers.