**Child Benefit & Tax Credits after year 11**

**Young people aged 16-18 are now legally required to remain in education or training until they are 18. If your child doesn’t attend a qualifying education or training course then child benefit and all tax credits you receive for that child will stop.**

**When does child benefit stop?**

Child benefit stops on 31st August after your child turns 16. If your child continues in education or training (not including apprenticeships) then you can continue to claim child benefit and tax credits if you are eligible.

However, you can claim the ***Child Benefit Extension Period*** which extends child benefit for 20 weeks after the official school leaving date (to mid-November). You can do this by contacting the Child Benefit office by phone or completing an online form. To claim the child benefit extension period your child must register with the Careers Service, currently operated by Positive Steps in Tameside. If you live out of Tameside you must contact your local careers service.

You can find full details of child benefit and the law on the .gov website. (Link to here [***https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit-16-19***](https://www.gov.uk/child-benefit-16-19)***)***

**What is my child’s official school leaving date?**

The official school leaving date is the last Friday in June.

**What if my child does an apprenticeship?**

If your child does an apprenticeship, this is considered to be work of over 24 hours per week and you will no longer be eligible to receive child benefit or tax credits.