

Directions

2021



updated 22 Oct 2020

**A guide to choosing
your options in Year 8 or 9**

Welcome to Directions

In Year 8 or 9 you will have to decide which subjects you want to study up to Year 11. It is important to get this decision right, so that you choose the subjects you need for the course or job you may want to do in the future.

This guide is here to give you general information about different qualifications, subjects and how to identify your skills. Once you have thought about these, go to pages 22-23 and fill out the action plan. This process can help you with the decisions you have to make. Your school will give you more detailed information about what choices they offer.

Directions includes advice about choosing options from young people, parents/carers, careers advisers, subject teachers and form tutors. You will also find activities to help you make your decision.

Key things to remember:

- you will get a lot of help to choose
- not all subjects and qualifications will be available in your school
- choose subjects that you are good at and interested in
- for most jobs you do not need to study specific subjects other than English, maths and science, which you have to take anyway.

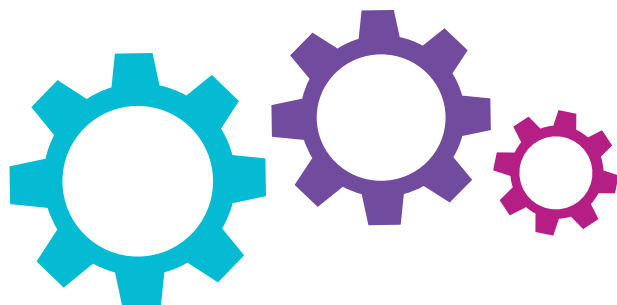
The first important thing is to do your research - start by working through this booklet which will give you some ideas of things to think about and to do!

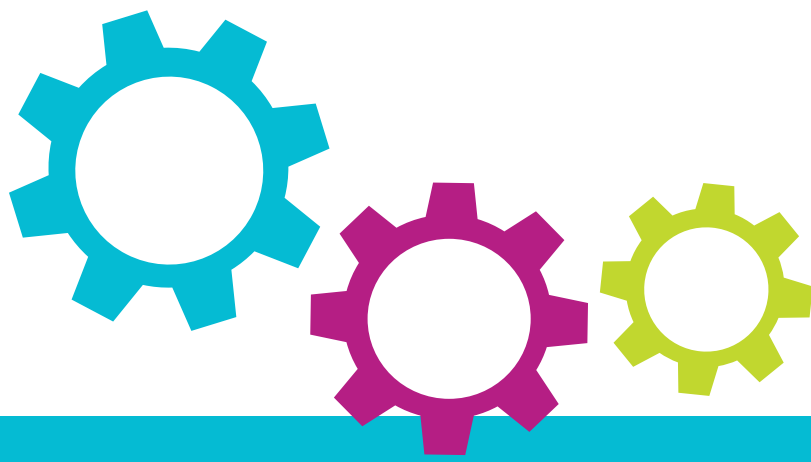
Most of the information in this booklet is relevant wherever you live in the UK. However, some of the information, such as that about qualifications, the school leaving age and post-16 options is aimed at young people who live in England.

For people living in Northern Ireland, please visit www.nidirect.gov.uk

For people living in Scotland, please visit www.myworldofwork.co.uk

For people living in Wales, please visit www.careerswales.com





What's inside

Subjects

pages
4-11

Qualifications

pages
12-15

How to choose

pages
16-27

Help with choosing

pages
28-30

Other info

pages
31-34

Answers

page
35

Subjects

Core subjects

The range of subjects you can study up to Year 11 will depend on what your school has on offer, however all schools must offer certain subjects known as 'core subjects'.

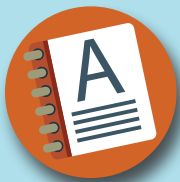
Every subject you study will give you valuable skills and knowledge for the future, but some subjects are so important that almost all students have to study them and get a qualification in them. These are English, maths and science.

You will also study computing, physical education and citizenship. These are called foundation subjects.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc is not a qualification; it measures a student's performance across a broad, balanced set of academic GCSEs. Subjects included in the EBacc are: English language and English literature, maths, history or geography, three single GCSE science subjects or the combined science GCSE worth two GCSEs, and a language.

Studying these subjects is said to provide students with a wider range of opportunities after leaving Year 11 and help improve performance in English and maths. Remember, you don't have to study all of these subjects if you don't want to, some are not core subjects.



English and maths

You don't have to decide about these subjects because you must study them. It is important that you try hard in these subjects as many courses and employers will want you to have good grades in them.



Science

You don't have to decide about studying science up to Year 11 - because you have to! However, it is very important to get the decision right about which science or sciences you take. You could take a combined science GCSE - or individual science GCSEs. If your school offers three or four separate science subjects - biology, chemistry, physics and computer science - and you want a career that is linked to science - it is a good idea to take three of these.

If you are interested in science, there are also other subjects that are linked to science that may be offered by some schools as optional subjects - such as geology and astronomy.



Optional subjects

Optional subjects are those you can choose from. It is an important decision as you will be studying these subjects for up to three years. If you have an idea of what you want to do in the future, pick the subjects useful for that job. Remember, not all schools will offer all the subjects in this section and some schools may offer other subjects that are not listed.

Some subjects are available as GCSEs and some as vocational qualifications - see page 12 for more information about different types of qualification.

To find out more about what each subject involves and what you will study, use the options information your school will give you. Most schools will encourage you to take a broad range of subjects as this will keep your options open.

You have to study some subjects at GCSE if you want to take them at A level, for example, science and languages. So, if you know you want to do a certain subject after Year 11, it's wise to choose it as a GCSE.

Learning styles

Understanding the way you learn or your learning style can help you choose subjects and courses. Different subjects may require different ways of learning. For instance, some will involve more practical work and others more theory.

Don't think that you won't be able to study or won't like a subject just because you think the learning style won't suit you. Teachers will always try and teach their subject in a variety of different ways. If you know you like a subject, you may just have to try a bit harder and adapt to that learning style (this is a very good skill to have). If you need support with learning, extra help is always available. Most people are a mixture of learning styles. If you have ever done a quiz at school, you may know what learning style suits you best.

The main learning styles are:



Auditory - you learn best when you are told how to do something or by listening.



Kinesthetic - you learn best by physically doing something.



Visual - you learn best by being shown how to do something or looking at images.

Some examples of how learning styles fit with subjects are below.

History - you would use more visual and auditory learning styles.

Design and Technology - you would use kinesthetic, auditory and visual learning styles.

Computing - you would use kinesthetic, auditory and visual learning styles.

As you can see, most subjects will use at least two different learning styles.

Creative and media

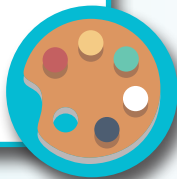
These can be GCSEs or vocational qualifications and include subjects such as art and design, graphic communication, textile design, media studies, creative media production, music, music technology, interactive media, performing arts, drama and dance.

Studying these subjects will involve practical work, but if they are studied as a GCSE they will involve at least one exam.

Art and design

You need to have some artistic skill and a talent for being creative to study this subject. Skills developed by studying this subject include:

- creating ideas visually
- drawing, designing, painting, illustrating by hand and using a computer
- developing ideas through research
- critical thinking
- creative and practical problem solving
- organising and planning
- working independently



Think about the jobs where it would be useful to have studied art and design and list them here:



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Think about the jobs where it would be useful to have studied music, drama or dance and list them here:



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Music, drama or dance

You need to have an interest in these subjects to study them. Skills developed by studying these subjects include:

- confidence
- creativity
- developing and communicating ideas
- social skills
- critical thinking
- improvisation
- discipline
- ability to work in a team
- ability to meet deadlines
- performing in public



History, geography and religious studies

These are GCSE subjects. They will involve a lot of reading and writing and you will have to sit at least one exam. Other subjects in this area include sociology, psychology, classical civilisation and film studies.

History

Studying history could mean studying any period in the past - check out which parts of history you will be studying. Are they ones you are interested in?

Skills developed by studying this subject include:

- research
- communication
- developing an argument
- finding evidence to support an argument
- organising information



Think about the jobs where it would be useful to have studied history and list them here:



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Think about the jobs where it would be useful to have studied geography and list them here:



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Geography

To study geography you need to be interested in the world around you. As well as reading and writing about the world, it is likely that you will also take part in a 'field trip' to study the landscape. Skills developed by studying this subject include:

- research
- collecting, interpreting and presenting information
- working with maps, tables and graphs
- understanding global issues
- problem solving and critical thinking
- IT



Religious studies

Religious studies is about enabling you to think for yourself about religious and moral issues.

Skills developed by studying this subject include:

- clear and logical thinking
- organising information
- communication - writing and self-expression
- understanding both sides of an argument
- negotiating and resolving conflict



Think about the jobs where it would be useful to have studied religious studies and list them here:



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Other subjects

Think about the jobs where it would be useful to have studied business and list them here:



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Business

Business can be studied as a GCSE or a vocational qualification. You study topics such as setting up a business, management, marketing and finance. Related subjects include economics, retail and travel and tourism.

Skills developed by studying this and related subjects include:

- organising and planning
- communication - writing and presenting
- interpersonal - dealing with a range of people
- appreciating different views
- reflecting - looking at what you did and why
- applying knowledge to local, national and global issues
- evaluating, analysing and interpreting research
- problem solving



Think about the jobs where it would be useful to have studied food preparation and nutrition and list them here:



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Food preparation and nutrition

Food preparation and nutrition can be studied as a GCSE. Other food-related subjects, such as hospitality and catering, can be studied as vocational qualifications.

Skills developed by studying this subject include:

- organising and planning
- analysing and evaluating
- team working
- practical cookery skills
- decision-making



Health and social care

Health and social care can be studied as a vocational qualification. This subject is for you if you have an interest in people and in caring for them.

Skills developed by studying this subject include:

- communication - written and oral
- problem solving
- working in a team and working independently
- investigating and evaluating information
- producing accurate records and making informed decisions



Think about the jobs where it would be useful to have studied health and social care and list them here:



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IT/computer science

These subjects can be GCSE or vocational qualifications.

IT is studied as a vocational qualification and computer science as a GCSE.

Computer skills are needed for nearly every job. From banking to design work and weather forecasting!

Skills developed by studying these subjects include:

- communication
- technical
- analytical and thinking
- problem solving
- organisation and planning



Think about the jobs where it would be useful to have studied IT/computer science and list them here:



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Think about the jobs where it would be useful to have studied languages and list them here:



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Languages

Languages are usually taken as GCSE qualifications.

Learning a language can be useful if you want to work in translation or communication.

They can also be great for careers in tourism, government and politics, media, publishing and journalism.

Skills developed by studying these subjects include:

- communication
- reading and writing
- problem solving
- critical thinking



Think about the jobs where it would be useful to have studied PE/sport and list them here:



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PE/sport

Physical education can be studied as a GCSE and sport as a vocational qualification. Skills developed by studying this subject include:

- health and fitness
- exploring and communicating ideas
- team working and leadership
- training and coaching
- identifying and solving problems
- tactics and strategies
- performing to your maximum



Technology

'Technology' covers many different subjects such as construction and the built environment, engineering, electronics and design and technology. Most of these subjects can be studied as GCSEs or as vocational qualifications.

Skills developed by studying these subjects include:

- designing and drawing
- making and modelling
- working with hands, machines and computers
- research
- analysis and problem solving
- team working



Think about the jobs where it would be useful to have studied technology and list them here:



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Childcare, hairdressing and beauty therapy

Some schools may offer these and other vocational subjects. These subjects are all very practical, although you will have to do some writing and may take some exams or assessments. If you think you may be interested in a job in one of these areas, taking it as a subject can be a good way of finding out whether you like it or not. But you don't need to have taken one of them to do the job in the future.

A quick guide to qualifications

The qualifications you can take will depend on what your school has on offer. In many schools, young people are told they are on a 'pathway' - often it's a colour or a letter. The pathway you are on will affect which qualifications you can take.

There are two types of qualifications: GCSE and vocational. Vocational qualifications have different names. Some of the most popular are: BTEC, City & Guilds, NCFE and WJEC.

Subjects

GCSE subjects are familiar to most people:

English
Maths
Science subjects
French
Geography

Assessment

Mostly by exams with some coursework

Grades

9 - 1
9 is the highest
1 is the lowest
4 is a pass
5 is a strong pass

Work as hard as you can, to get as many grade 4s or above.

Lots of courses and jobs need these grades.

Subjects

Mostly new subjects or more practical subjects, such as Business, Health and Social Care and Sport

VOCATIONAL

Assessment

Mostly coursework with some exams

Grades

Distinction*
Distinction, Merit
Pass

For information about qualifications at different levels, see page 33.

Which type of qualification is best for you?

Now you can see the difference between GCSEs and vocational qualifications, think about which would suit you best. What are you like at exams (GCSEs are mainly assessed by exams) or do you prefer coursework (vocational qualifications are mainly assessed by coursework)?

Think about future careers - are you considering going to university in the future? Many universities prefer GCSEs to vocational qualifications. This does not mean that you can't do vocational subjects, just check university entry requirements. For more information, talk to your careers adviser or use the websites on page 29.

Why are qualifications important?

By studying, you gain many skills that can be used throughout your life. These include, for example, learning how to work in a team on a school project, managing your time to meet homework deadlines and communication skills by listening to your teachers and answering questions.

Qualifications show that you have specific skills and knowledge that employers may be looking for in the future.

Also, if you look at the graph on page 33 you will see that, in general, the higher the level of qualification you have, the more money you earn.

Other places to study at 14

Below is information about where you can study after Year 9, although most young people stay at school.

Colleges

Some further education and sixth form colleges offer full-time education to students aged 14 +. You can leave school after Year 9 and go to college and study, for example, vocational qualifications. Only certain colleges offer study at this age.

University technical colleges

University technical colleges (UTCs) are schools for 13/14-19 year olds and are focused on ensuring students have the skills needed for growth industries. They have a special focus on construction, creative media, design, digital, engineering, health and science subjects, and combine technical, academic and practical learning which is designed to be applied in the workplace. There are currently 49 UTCs in England. See www.utcolleges.org

Studio schools

Studio schools are small schools (usually with around 300 pupils) teaching mainstream qualifications through project-based learning. Students work with local employers and a personal coach. They follow a curriculum designed to give them the skills and qualifications they need in work, or to take up further education.

Can you help?

Can you help these young people to choose their options?

Harry is very interested in the environment and his favourite subject is biology. He has already decided to take three sciences at GCSE. Circle which of the following subjects you think will help him to develop his interests further and provide a balanced course.



geography, religious studies, art

Grace wants to be a physiotherapist when she leaves school and hopes to specialise in sports injuries. She wants to take PE at GCSE but if she chooses PE she can only take combined science rather than three separate sciences. Grace thinks PE is more important than science. Circle which subjects you think Grace should take.



PE and combined science OR three sciences

Bilal doesn't know what he wants to do. His family think he should do a vocational course as this will help him to decide. What do you think?



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Jade loves anything to do with electronics and technology. She would like to take a GCSE in design and technology but her friends are taking food preparation and nutrition and think technology is for boys. What do you think?



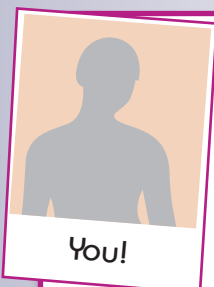
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Answers on page 35

Write about your own situation here...



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Fill in the words below and then see if you can find the words in the wordsearch!

1. Which you are on, may determine which qualifications and subjects you can take.
2. Vocational qualifications involve more than exams.
3. It is important to think about your future when deciding which qualifications to take.
4. GCSEs are mainly assessed by
5. The higher the of qualification you get, can affect the amount you
6. are a type of vocational qualification.
7. Vocational qualifications are more than GCSEs.



How to choose

When choosing your options you need to think about:

- the subjects offered by your school
- your future career ideas - are any specific subjects needed? Have you considered all possible careers - are there jobs you don't know about? Are your career ideas right for you? See page 19
- your skills and qualities. See page 20
- labour market information. See pages 24-26.

Think about YOU when making your decisions - your likes and dislikes both inside and outside school, your future career ideas, the subjects you are good at and the ones you enjoy.

Choose subjects and careers where you can use your skills and qualities and not jobs you think of as being for you because you are male or female. Because some people think of certain jobs as being for men or women this means they are not doing jobs that would suit them best.

Make your own decisions and don't follow what your friends are doing. If you let other people choose for you, you could end up studying subjects or courses that do not suit you. Answering the questions in this section will help you think about what is right for you.

Subjects

Up until now, you have probably had to study all the subjects offered by your school but now you can have some say about what you'll study next.



Find out the subjects that are being offered by your school.

Write down the subjects that you like and why you like them.



You are not allowed to say you like them because your friends like them or because you like the teacher!

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Find out if the subjects that you are studying now will be the same in Years 10 and 11. For example, PE in Years 7 and 8 may be very practical but in Years 10 and 11 may involve a lot more writing.

Write down the subjects that you DON'T like and why you DON'T like them.

You are not allowed to say you don't like them because you don't like the people in the class or because you don't like the teacher!



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Find out about any subjects that you have not studied before that are being offered by your school and what they involve. Think about if you would like them and why.

New subject

Example
Health and social care

Why it might be right for me

It's a mainly practical course - there is a small exam.
I am interested in learning about people.
I am thinking about being a social worker in the future.



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Choosing subjects for different careers

Thinking about the career path you may take when you are older can seem quite a daunting task. No one expects you to have all your career ideas planned out in Year 8 or 9 or even in Year 11. However, if you are thinking about a career in a specific area you may need to choose specific GCSEs.

Most jobs require you to have a good level (grade 4 or above) of English and maths. This is the reason they are core subjects.

Below are some jobs and specific subjects that could be useful.


<p>Electrician Combined Science</p> 	<p>Social media manager Digital Information Technology, English</p> 	<p>Vet Biology, Chemistry and Physics</p> 
<p>Psychologist Biology, Chemistry and Physics or Combined Science, Maths</p> 	<p>Web designer Biology, Chemistry and Physics or Combined Science, Computer Science, Maths</p> 	<p>Hairdresser Art, Combined Science, Maths</p> 
<p>Bricklayer Combined Science, Maths</p> 	<p>Solicitor English, History</p> 	<p>Pilot Biology, Chemistry and Physics or Combined Science, Maths</p> 
<p>Doctor Biology, Chemistry and Physics</p> 	<p>Textile designer Art, Design and Technology, Textiles Technology</p> 	<p>Interpreter English, a Modern Foreign Language (MFL) or other language</p> 
<p>Nurse Biology, Chemistry and Physics or Combined Science, Health and Social Care</p> 	<p>Graphic designer Art, Computer Science</p> 	<p>Software developer Biology, Chemistry and Physics or Combined Science, Computer Science, Maths</p> 
<p>Civil engineer Biology, Chemistry and Physics or Combined Science, Maths</p> 	<p>Accountant English, Maths</p> 	<p>Physiotherapist Biology, Chemistry and Physics or Combined Science, PE/Sport</p> 

Your career ideas

If the career(s) you are considering were not mentioned on page 18, you can find out more about your career ideas at - <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>
Use this website to check if you need any specific subjects to do the job(s) you are interested in and then fill in the table below.



Your career ideas	Useful subjects
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If you are not sure about your career ideas, try doing a career matching program. These programs match careers to ability, skills and qualities and may give you ideas about some jobs you had not thought of before. Your school may subscribe to a program such as Fast Tomato, Jed or Kudos - there are other ones too - ask your school about them.

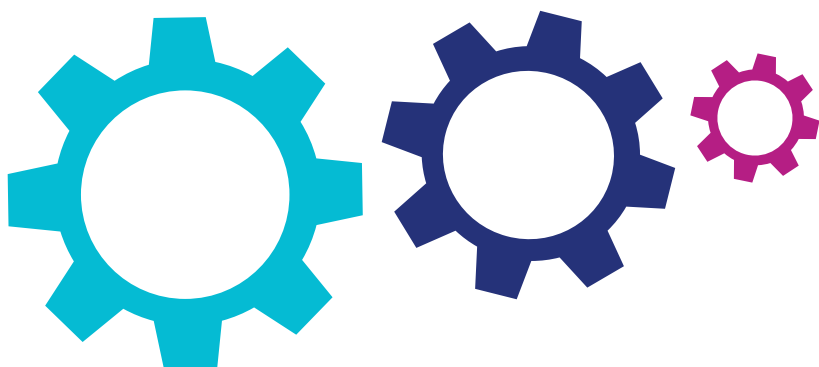
Look at <https://ckcareersonline.org.uk/career-match-tools> for free career matching programs if your school doesn't subscribe to any of those listed above.

For more useful websites see pages 29.

Work experience and employer visits

Your school may offer work experience in Year 10 or Year 11. This is a good way of finding out how companies work, gaining new skills and seeing if you enjoy the area of work you are placed in or have chosen.

Your school may also arrange for employers to come in and talk to you. If they do, make sure you ask as many questions as you can, so you can find out more about what they do, if they enjoy the job and what route they took to get into their current career.



Skills and qualities

Skills are things we can learn.


Here are some of the **key** skills employers are looking for...

- communication - listening and speaking to people
- IT - using a computer
- literacy - reading and writing English
- numeracy - working with numbers
- planning and organising
- ability to work in a team
- time management - meeting deadlines
- problem solving.

Qualities are related to what you are like as a person.

Here are some of the **key** qualities employers are looking for...

- punctual (turning up on time)
- motivated
- reliable (don't have a lot of time off)
- willing to learn new things
- honest and trustworthy
- flexible and adaptable
- helpful
- able to work under pressure
- committed and enthusiastic.



When you apply for a job you have to give examples that show you have these key skills and qualities - you can't just say you have them. Below are some things you might already do - write down the key skills and qualities you think they show.

Activity

Example

Getting to school on time

Attending school regularly

Babysitting

Playing football

Getting good grades in your maths and English GCSEs

Taking care of pets at home

Attending an after school science club

Key skills and qualities shown

Being punctual



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What else do you do that demonstrates your skills and qualities?
Write them here and the skills and qualities they show.



Activity

Skills and qualities shown

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Are there any skills or qualities you would like to develop?
How could you do this? Write your ideas here.



Skills and qualities you want to develop

How you could do this

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Look at pages 4-11 to find out which subjects might help to give you some of the skills and qualities you need.



What specific skills and qualities do you think you would need for the following jobs? If you need help finding out, have a look at: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk> and go to 'Explore careers'.



Police officer

Computer games developer

Gardener

Private practice accountant

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Use this space to put together all the things you have learnt about yourself, your goal (this can always change) and what you need to do to achieve your goal. Putting everything down in one place can really help you to see where you are and what you need to do.

Qualifications (what qualifications do I want to take?)

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Experience (what experience do I need?)

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I will research...

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End goal

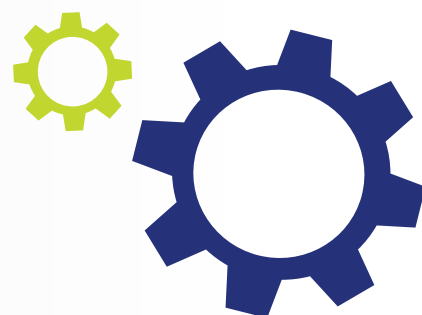
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My learning style



A green notepad with a purple pen clipped to the top right. It has three horizontal dotted lines for writing. To the right of the notepad are three interlocking gears: a large cyan one, a medium purple one, and a small yellow one.

Skills (what skills do I have?)

Four horizontal dotted lines for writing.

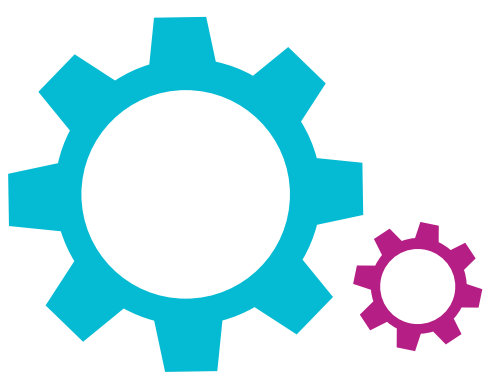
I will talk to...

Four horizontal dotted lines for writing.

Targets (what do I want to achieve by the end of the school year?)

Four horizontal dotted lines for writing.

A large, light purple circular area with five horizontal dotted lines for writing.



Labour market information (LMI)



What is LMI?

LMI is information about jobs and includes:

- which jobs are likely to be easiest or hardest to find in your area
- what skills employers are looking for and which are in short supply
- how much different jobs pay - the more skills you have that employers are looking for - the more money you are likely to earn!

Why is it important?

Looking at LMI means you can choose subjects and qualifications that give you the skills and knowledge that employers might be looking for in the future.

Think about what is happening in the world currently:



Lots of people are living longer and need caring for - this means we will need people who have the skills and qualities needed for caring.



People are concerned about the climate - this means we need more people to research into and develop green technologies.



We are using technology more - this means we need people with higher level skills to develop it.



More jobs are being automated - this means we will need less people to do some jobs - for example in factories.



More and more people have jobs that use computers. Everyone from accountants to computer games designers, nurses to engineers, retail workers to teachers, they all use computers. It is important that everyone has a good level of digital skills.



People with skills related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) tend to earn more money as their skills are in high demand.

How does this affect me?

Jobs of the future

When you are thinking about the job you want to do in the future - don't just think about the jobs you know now - research jobs that match your skills and interests. Changes in technology mean that new jobs are appearing all the time - for example, 20 years ago we had not even heard of an App Developer!

STEM

Many of the developments that happen in the world are due to the skills and knowledge of people who have studied STEM subjects. However, because not enough people are studying these subjects, employers are struggling to find people with the skills they need. Think about which subjects you could study that would give you STEM skills and knowledge.

So, if you are interested in these subjects and are good at them, it might be worth pursuing them. If these subjects don't interest you, then you don't have to worry because there will be lots of jobs linked to subjects you enjoy.



Find out which subjects your school offers that could help you develop STEM skills and knowledge.

Write your answers below.



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From the list you have made above, which subjects do you think you would enjoy?

Write your answers below.



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From this list, think about what jobs could you do after studying them?

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To find out more about STEM subjects, look at the websites on page 29.

Match the job

Below are job descriptions related to the digital and STEM sectors, some are jobs of the future. Try to match the job descriptions to the job titles at the bottom of the page.

I am involved in projects from the beginning, helping with ideas through to a product being designed, developed and launched. I work in the motor vehicle industry but other people who do a similar job work in the materials, software, the construction and the built environment industries.

A - answer:

I work for a construction company. I plan flight paths, test equipment, gather digital images and data and produce maps. This helps the company I work for decide if they can build on a specific piece of land.

B - answer:

I use accounting, auditing and investigative skills to uncover financial wrongdoing. I write reports, create spreadsheets and sometimes have to go to court.

C - answer:

I combine design skills with bioengineering to create customised human body parts.

D - answer:

I use skills in design, engineering, science and technology to make items that people use every day. I work to a plan or brief to produce new designs or improve existing ones.

E - answer:

I help to preserve and improve memory - which can be important as people get older.

F - answer:

I install, fit and test turbines using electrical, mechanical and hydraulic equipment. I work at height, in all weathers, and can be at sea or in remote rural areas.

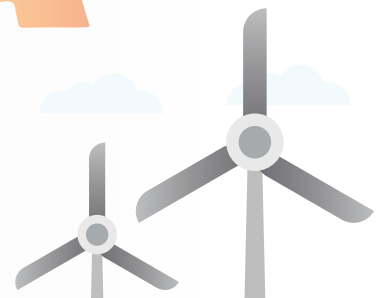
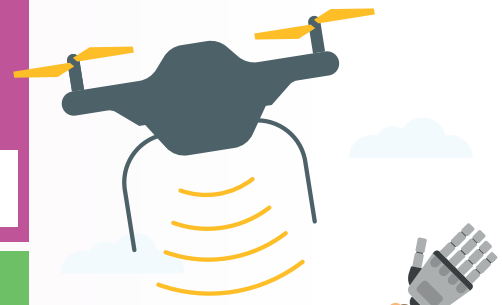
G - answer:

I farm crops upwards, rather than across flat fields, to save space.

H - answer:

I use the latest technology to produce computer generated images that are used in films, television and gaming. I need to be able to make the viewer believe that what they are seeing is real.

I - answer:



Jobsword

Complete the jobsword below to help you think about different jobs.

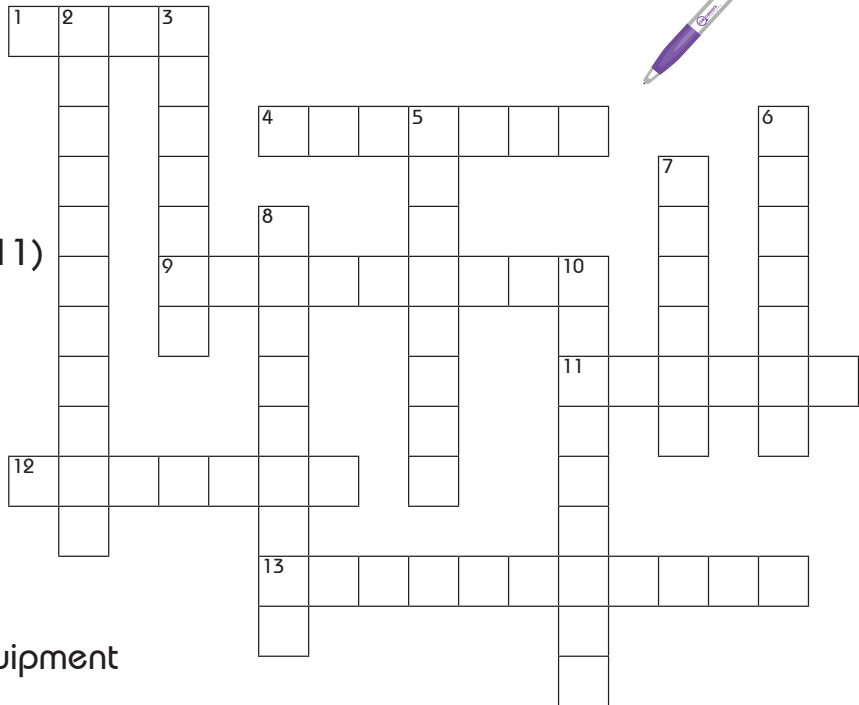
What is the job title of someone who...

Across

1. Prepares all kinds of food (4)
4. Repairs dripping taps (7)
9. Moves props around between scenes (9)
11. Checks and amends the work of writers (6)
12. Does fillings and extractions (7)
13. Installs new light fittings (11)

Down

2. Cuts and styles hair (11)
3. Arranges and sells cut flowers (7)
5. Maintains engines and exhaust systems (8)
6. Uses a scalpel during an operation (7)
7. Helps bands with their equipment when on tour (6)
8. Argues a case for the defence or the prosecution (9)
10. Advises about food and health (9)



True or false?

All the statements below are related to the information you have read in this section! Are they true or false?

1. It is important to think about your future plans when choosing courses. T/F
2. There are some jobs men should do and some jobs women should do. T/F
3. You should choose the same subjects as your friends. T/F
4. There are some jobs you will never have heard of. T/F
5. Employers want to give jobs to people they can rely on. T/F
6. All young people should study STEM subjects. T/F
7. It is important to get good grades in English and maths. T/F
8. Employers want to give jobs to people who can't meet deadlines. T/F

Answers on page 35

Help with choosing

There are lots of different sources of information and advice to help you decide which subjects to choose, so don't panic!

Options booklet

Your school will give you information about which subjects and qualifications are available in your school and what studying each subject involves.

Careers library

Your school may have a careers library or VLE with information about different careers and the qualifications required. You may also find information about where else you can get help in your school and who else can help you.

Options evening

Most schools have an options evening where you can go and talk to subject teachers with your parents/carers. Think about questions you would like to ask about each subject, for example:

How much coursework will be involved?

How many exams will there be?

Are there any trips?

Subject specific questions such as:

(For English) - what books will we be studying?

(For History) - which periods of history will we be studying?

(For PE/Sport) - how much sport do you play and how much theory is there?

(For Health and Social Care) - how many weeks work experience do we go on?

Think about other questions you might want to ask and write them here:



.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Useful websites

General careers information

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>

www.careersbox.co.uk

<https://icould.com>

www.prospects.ac.uk

go to jobs and work experience

www.ckcareersonline.org.uk/

uncategorised/93-job-trends

use the Careerometer for LMI

Art and Design, Creative and Media

www.screenskills.com

<https://ccskills.org.uk>

Childcare

www.pacey.org.uk

Construction

www.goconstruct.org

Digital and STEM

www.futuremorph.org/my-future-finder/

www.rsc.org/careers/future/what-jobs-can-i-do

www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk

www.etrust.org.uk

www.rsb.org.uk/careers-and-cpd/careers

www.mathscareers.org.uk

<https://enginuity.org>

Food and Drink

<https://tastycareers.org.uk>

Geography

www.rgs.org.uk/geography/choose-geography/careers

www.geography.org.uk/jobs-and-careers-in-geography

www.geography.org.uk/jobs-and-careers-in-geography

Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy

www.habia.org

Health and Social Care

www.healthcareers.nhs.uk

www.skillsforcare.org.uk/careers-in-care/think-care-careers.aspx

www.skillsforcare.org.uk/careers-in-care/think-care-careers.aspx

History

www.history.org.uk/student/categories/careers

www.history.org.uk/student/categories/careers

Languages

www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk

Motor Vehicle

www.autocity.org.uk

Music, Drama and Dance

<https://ccskills.org.uk>

PE/Sport

<https://careers-in-sport.co.uk>

Who can help?

Subject teachers

Speaking to subject teachers will help you find out more about what studying a particular subject involves. Remember, a subject that you like and are good at in Years 7 and 8 could be different when studied at GCSE level.



"I can tell you more about what studying my subject will involve - the topics we will cover, the amount of coursework and exams you will have and whether we will go on any trips! I can also advise if the subject might be right for you".

Form teacher

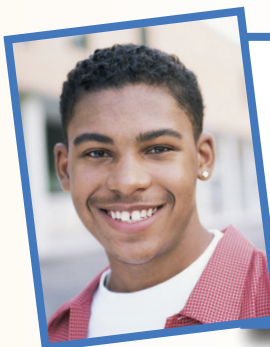
Speaking to your form teacher will help, as they are likely to know what you are like as a person.

"I have known you for a couple of years now, so I may be able to advise you on which subjects and qualifications may be right for you and how well you might do".



Students in Years 10 and 11

Speaking to students who have already started to study a subject at GCSE level may help you to find out what a subject is like - but remember they are not the same as you and it is only their opinion.



"I chose subjects I had done before, that I had enjoyed. We had assemblies at school about choosing options and information from subject tutors. I also used Jed to give me some career ideas".

Family and friends

Speaking to your friends and family may help as they know you best. Listen to what they have to say but remember it is your decision and also many things may have changed since they chose their options.

"Don't pick a subject because you like the teacher and don't do a subject because your friends are doing it. It needs to be your decision".



Careers adviser

Speaking to a careers teacher or careers adviser will help because they can offer you up-to-date information and advice on what subjects you need for a particular job.



"Think about what subjects you like and what you are good at. If you are already set on a particular career it is also a good idea to look at the A levels you will need and then which GCSEs you will need, to study those A levels. If you are unsure about your career ideas or which subjects to take, you can come and talk to me".

Other info

Part-time jobs

Getting a part-time job is something many young people do. It's great to earn some money, but you also develop new skills, meet new people and become more confident. Your employment experience will look good when you are applying for apprenticeships, jobs, college or university in the future.

The law

- You can get a part-time job when you are 13.
- The person or company you are working for will need to get a permit to allow you to work.
- There are certain jobs you can't do - for example, operating machinery.
The jobs you can and can't do change according to your age.
- There are only certain hours you can work - especially on school days.
The hours you can and can't work change according to your age.

To find out more about the rules and regulations of working part-time, go to www.gov.uk/child-employment

There are also local laws that list the jobs young people under the minimum school leaving age can't do in their local area, and restrict working hours and conditions for children. Contact your local council's education department for more information.

How to get a part-time job

The best way to get a job when you are under 16 is to ask local shops or companies if they will employ you. Think about how far you are prepared to travel, especially if it is a school day.

You could also try:

- asking friends and family if they know of anywhere looking for people
- looking out for cards in shop windows advertising vacancies.

Most big shops and companies advertise vacancies on their own websites. However, because of the restrictions on the hours and jobs you can do under 16, most larger companies will not employ you until you have reached statutory school leaving age (the last Friday in June of Year 11).

After Year 11

It's important to work hard and to do the best you can in your GCSEs. As a rule, the better your grades, the more choices you will have after Year 11.

You will have to stay in learning until you are 18. This doesn't mean you have to remain at school. You can:

- study full-time
- start an apprenticeship or traineeship
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training.

Study full-time

- You can choose to study in your school's sixth form or a different sixth form, at college, sixth form college or with a training provider.
- You can study A levels. These are available in subjects similar to those you study for GCSEs. They are a good choice if you like studying and are good at exams. You need at least five GCSEs at grade 5 or above, including maths and English to study A levels.
- You can study vocational qualifications, such as BTECs, City & Guilds and Cambridge Technicals in a wide range of subjects - from animal care to construction.
- You can study T levels. They are a new, two year, level 3 qualification the government introduced in 2020. They are the equivalent of studying 3 A levels and are a mixture of classroom learning and work experience with a 45 day industry placement. For more information look at www.tlevels.gov.uk

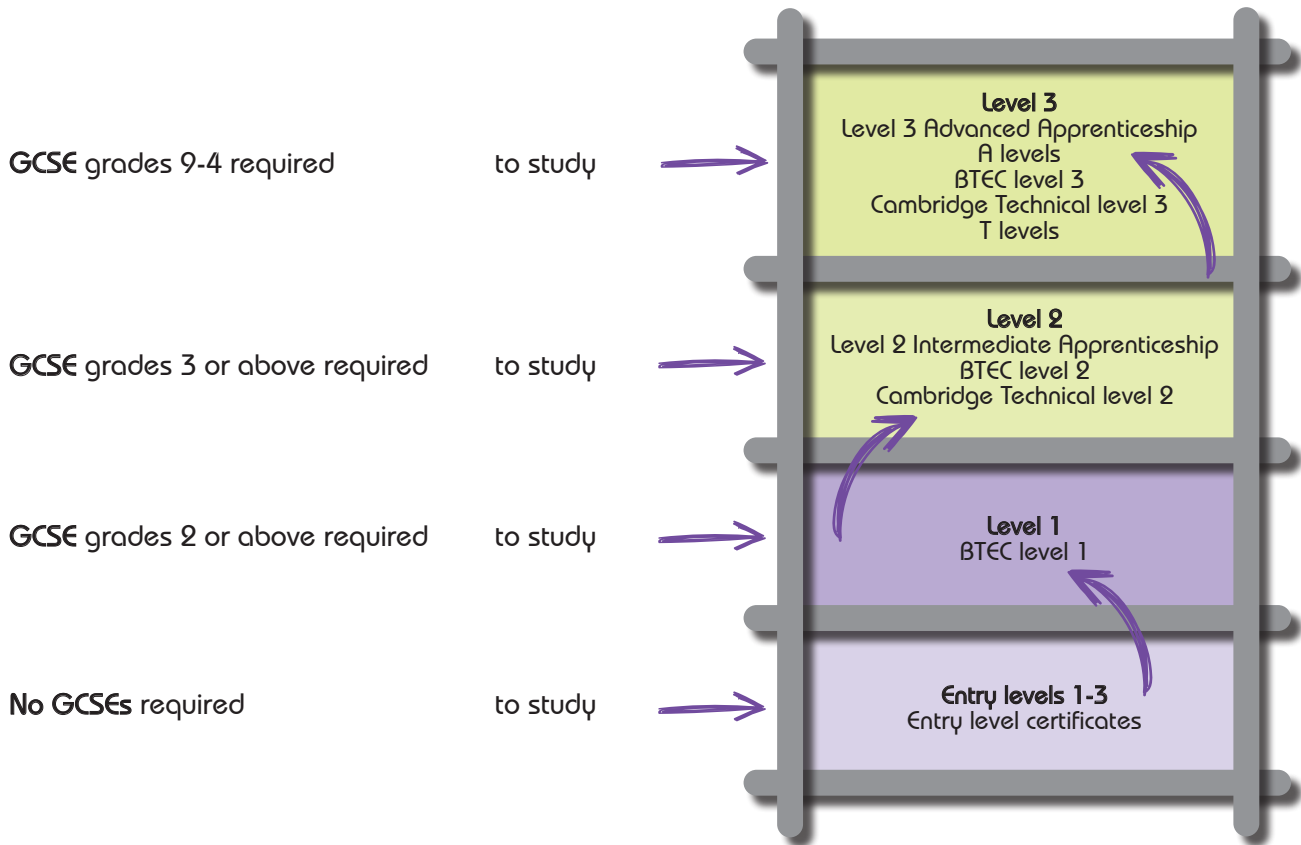
Apprenticeships and traineeships

- Apprenticeships are jobs with training.
- At 16 or 17 you usually do an apprenticeship at level 2 or level 3, depending on your GCSE grades, skills, qualities and experience.
- Apprenticeships are a route in for lots of jobs, for example in business, retail, construction, engineering, health and social care work and IT.
- This is a good choice if you like learning on the job.
- You will need good grades at GCSE for many apprenticeships.
- The minimum wage for apprentices is currently £4.15 an hour, but this is reviewed every year. Many employers pay more.
- For more information about apprenticeships go to www.apprenticeships.gov.uk
- Traineeships provide work preparation training, maths, English and the work experience needed to get an apprenticeship or job, and last up to six months. For more information about traineeships, look at www.gov.uk/find-traineeship

Full-time work (including self-employment) or volunteering

- You can work or volunteer full-time after Year 11, as long as you also do some part-time education or training.
- In recent years it has been getting harder to get a full-time job when you are under 18, and the number of 16-18 year olds doing this keeps going down.

This is a simple guide to the GCSE grades you will need to get to go onto different levels of course or apprenticeship after Year 11 and examples of the different qualifications at each level.



The GCSE grades required are only a guide. You will need to check specific requirements with sixth forms, colleges, employers and training providers.

How qualifications affect your pay

Whichever qualifications you do, it is important that you try to get the best grades you can, so you can move up to the next level of qualification. This graph shows that the higher the level of qualification you have, the more money you can expect to earn.



Level 4 and above = for example, higher national certificate or diploma, foundation degree, degree apprenticeship or degree

Level 3 = A level or BTEC National Diploma

Level 2 = 4 GCSEs grades 9 to 4 or A* to C or BTEC First

The graph above shows the average gross weekly pay of full-time employees aged 16-64 by highest qualification held as researched in Quarter 1, January to March 2020 in England.

Source: Labour Force Survey 2020.

Your options 18+

It may seem a long way off but young people have told us that they want to know about their options after they have left sixth form, college or an apprenticeship when they are 18. Here is a brief introduction to your options.

Higher education at a university or college. You can study for qualifications such as a foundation degree, HND or degree. Most degrees last for three years. Information about higher education courses, details about entry requirements and money for studying can be found at www.ucas.com

Apprenticeships don't have to end when you are 18! Many people start apprenticeships when they are older. They are also offered at higher levels - you can study for a degree whilst doing an apprenticeship. Information can be found at www.apprenticeships.gov.uk

Getting a full-time job. There are lots of websites where jobs are advertised and for most jobs you apply online. You may need a CV - which is a brief introduction to you, your skills, qualifications and contact information - usually you work on your CV in Years 10 and 11 at school.

Setting up your own business - there are organisations that specifically help young people to do this - look at www.gov.uk/set-up-business for more information.

Things to remember!

- ✓ Start thinking about your subject choices and career ideas, and doing some research.
- ✓ Speak to people about your thoughts and get their help and advice - see page 30.
- ✓ Work hard on your skills and qualities (see pages 20 and 21) - think of activities to do in school and during your spare time to improve them.
- ✓ Get the best grades you can in maths, English and science; these are key subjects whatever you decide to do after Year 11.
- ✓ The school, college, training provider or employer you go to after Year 11 will ask for a reference regarding your school work, behaviour and attendance - make sure you do all you can to get a good one.
- ✓ Don't worry if you keep changing your mind about what you want to do - just keep talking to people and finding out more about your ideas.
- ✓ If you're not sure what you want to do, make decisions that keep your options open as much as possible.

Subjects (pages 4-11)

Here are just a few ideas related to each subject - there are many more and you will have your own ideas too! If you haven't heard of some of these jobs have a look at the job information in 'Explore careers' at <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>

Art and design - sculptor, photographer, animator, window dresser, fashion designer, graphic designer

Music, drama or dance - actor, dancer, musician, teacher, youth worker, journalist, radio presenter

History - politician, librarian, museum curator, journalist, solicitor, archivist

Geography - meteorologist, countryside officer, tourist information officer, town planner, ecologist

Religious studies - teacher, lecturer, youth worker, religious minister

Business - accountant, insurance technician, marketing manager, human resources assistant, retail buyer

Food preparation and nutrition - chef, food scientist, baker, consumer scientist, nutritionist

Health and social care - care assistant, nurse, dental nurse, paramedic, social worker, nursery nurse

IT/computer science - database administrator, helpdesk technician, web designer, systems analyst, software support consultant, network manager

Languages - interpreter, translator, teacher, tourist information assistant, bilingual secretary, freight forwarder

PE/sport - police officer, leisure centre manager, sports person, teacher, yoga teacher, physiotherapist

Technology - joiner, electrician, plumber, surveyor, structural engineer, architect

Can you help? (page 14)

Harry - geography for his career choice, but he could also do one of the other subjects as a contrast.

Grace - PE is not essential if you want to be a physiotherapist, but a good level of science at GCSE definitely is needed. Don't guess, check the facts!

Bilal - if you're not sure, it's best to take a broad range of subjects to keep as many options open as possible. Choosing too many vocational courses could narrow down the options.

Jade - do not let pressure from friends influence your choices, especially when their views are really out of date. Have confidence in yourself and go for the subjects you like and enjoy.

Wordsearch (page 15)

1. pathway

2. coursework

3. career

4. exams

5. level, earn

6. BTCS

7. practical

Key skills and qualities (page 20)

Attending school regularly

Boys' club

Playing football

Taking good grades in your maths and English GCSEs

Taking care of pets at home

Attending a school science club

Specific skills and qualities (page 21)

Police officer

Calmness and the ability to react quickly in challenging situations / Friendly and able to put people at ease / IT and literacy skills for preparing reports and record-keeping / Making decisions quickly / Excellent communication and negotiation skills / The ability to work alone and as part of a team / Treat all people fairly and with respect

Computer games developer / Creative / Patient / Logical / Computer programming and knowledge of programming languages / Coding / The ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines

Gardener / Creative with an eye for detail / Practical skills to use tools / Prepared to work outdoors in all weathers / Good strength and stamina / Prepared to get dirty / Customer service skills

Private practice accountant

Analytical thinking skills / Be able to pay attention to detail / Ability to use computer systems / Initiative / Work well with others

Match the job (page 26)

A. Design engineer

B. Drone operator

C. Forensic accountant

D. Human body designer

E. Furniture designer

F. Memory augmentation surgeon

G. Wind turbine technician

H. Vertical farmer

I. VFX artist

Jobsord (page 27)

1. chef

4. plumber

9. staghound

11. editor

12. dentist

13. electrician

Down

2. hairdresser

3. florist

5. mechanic

6. surgeon

7. roofer

8. barrister

10. dietitian

True or False? (page 27)

1. T

2. F

3. F

4. T

5. T

6. F

7. T

8. F

What young people said about Directions 2020

Directions has helped me choose my options. It was fun and I liked doing the wordsearches. I showed it to my mum and it helped her understand what decisions I needed to make.

Katie, Year 9

Directions helped me decide what subjects to take and what skills and qualities I need for the career I want. I liked that there was an action plan where I could write everything down in one place.

Zach, Year 9

The booklet was really useful. It told me lots of things I didn't know. Choosing my options feels like a big decision and it helped me lots. I liked that I got to take it home.

Asif, Year 8

www.ckcareersonline.org.uk

Join the conversation:



ckcareers



@ckcareers1



Directions

Choosing your options in
Year 8 or 9

How C&K Careers
can help you...

2021

Careers advisers

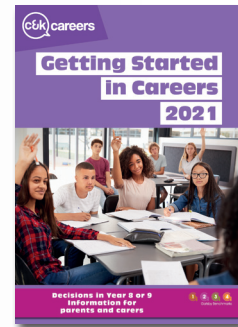
In most schools in Calderdale and Kirklees, careers advisers from C&K Careers help young people make plans for the future. Many hold drop in and group sessions each week or you can ask for a careers interview.

Careers information

C&K Careers also produces information for young people and for parents and carers which is available on our website www.ckcareersonline.org.uk You will need a code from your school to access some of the careers information on our website.

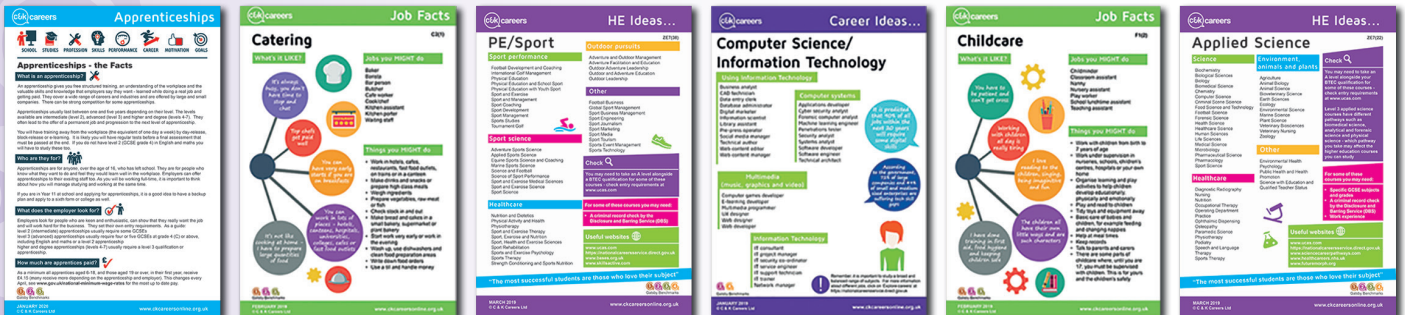
Getting Started

Getting Started is a free, 20 page guide to choosing your options in Year 8 or 9, produced by C&K Careers, aimed at your parents and carers.



Leaflets

Leaflets covering a range of subjects are available in careers libraries in schools or colleges or can be printed out from www.ckcareersonline.org.uk You will need a code to access these, which you can get from your school.



On www.ckcareersonline.org.uk you will find a career matching program called 'Job Explorer Database'. As well as a quiz to help generate career ideas, you will also find information about 700+ jobs. Click on the 'Job Explorer Database' (JED) icon on the home page and enter the code for your school.

Please note: not all schools in Calderdale and Kirklees choose to receive services and publications from C&K Careers.

Check out our website

Advice and information to help at every stage of your career
www.ckcareersonline.org.uk

Click on 'young people', 'IN YEAR 8/9' and 'Choosing your options'

Information about a wide range of careers related topics

Try the quiz to give you some career ideas

Ask your school for a code to use Job Explorer Database (Jed) and 'Careers info'

The screenshot shows the C&K Careers Online website interface. The top navigation bar includes 'home', 'our careers centres', 'young people', 'parents & carers', 'professionals', 'employers', and 'get in touch'. The main content area is divided into sections for different year groups: 'IN YEAR 7', 'IN YEAR 8/9', 'IN YEARS 10 OR 11', and 'IN SIXTHFORM AND COLLEGE'. A 'World of work' section features links to 'Job trends', 'Recruitline vacancies', and 'Job search help'. A 'Careers' section includes 'Careers websites and resources', 'careersinfo', 'Options after Year 11', and a 'Blog'. A 'Links' section provides 'News for students and parents - COVID-19', 'GetInto' (the Kirklees e-prospectus), and 'Jed' (Job Explorer Database). A search bar is located in the top right corner.

Contacting C&K Careers

Young people and/or their parents and carers can contact C&K Careers for support, advice and guidance using the Chat service - see the details below. The service is available Monday to Friday, 9.00am - 5.00pm and Thursday 9.00am - 8.00pm.

Chat

Support, advice and guidance for young people in Calderdale and Kirklees



01484 213856

@ chat@ckcareers.org.uk



Facebook messenger

On request we can provide information in other formats.
Please contact C&K Careers on 01484 242000 - speak to the operator and ask for an Information Specialist or email: enquiries@ckcareers.org.uk

HOW C&K CAREERS CAN HELP YOU

Places to study locally

Most young people will stay at their current school, however there are schools which admit pupils in Year 9 or 10 - university technical colleges (UTCs) and studio schools. See page 13 for more information.

Look at the GCSEs offered by your current school, as well as what the UTC or studio school offers, to help you decide which is the best option for you.

Below are some examples of local UTCs.

- Leeds University Technical College (UTC Leeds)
Specialisms: advanced manufacturing and engineering - you can start here in Year 10 or Year 12.
- UTC Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park
Specialisms: computing, healthcare and sport science - you can start here in either Year 9, Year 10 or Year 12.
- UTC Sheffield City Centre
Specialisms: creative and digital media and engineering - you can start here in either Year 9, Year 10 or Year 12.

Details of all UTCs can be found at www.utcolleges.org

Studio schools are similar to UTCs in that they have employer involvement in the curriculum and focus on developing skills needed for employment. In the local area we have Creative and Media Studio School, look at www.studio-school.org.uk for more information.

Locally, Leeds City College also offers an alternative to your current school at their 14+ Apprenticeship Academy - for more details visit www.leedscitycollege.ac.uk/14-apprenticeship-academy