

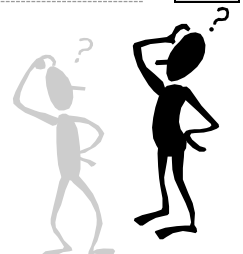
You're leaving (well nearly)

Now you are in Year 11, it will only be months before you leave school. We would like to encourage you to think about what you might want to do in the future e.g. college, training, careers etc.



CAREERS RESEARCH - So with all the options available to you, how do you decide what to do next? To help **you** to research the different career and course options available, I've listed some ideas to get you started.

	When?	✓
Book a careers interview - by speaking to your tutor, or call at the careers room ROB ' R' block	<i>From now</i>	
Speak to your family, friends etc. they know you best and may have some ideas	<i>From now</i>	
Think about your skills and qualities and try and relate them to different careers	<i>From now</i>	
Look through college prospectuses and careers information online	<i>From now</i>	
Attend college open evenings and events	<i>From now</i>	
If thinking of going to uni, check entry requirements (subjects and grades you need)	<i>From now</i>	
Try out some of the online careers packages like Fast Tomato	<i>From now</i>	
Check out some of the careers websites	<i>From now</i>	



START THINKING!!!

Here are some examples of what you should ask yourself when looking at different career options:

- What qualifications will I need to get the future career I want e.g. GCSEs, A-Levels, Degree, Masters, PHD?
- Is the industry competitive? Realistically how many jobs are there in this industry?
- Will I have to move to find employment in my chosen industry?
- What age do I have to be? (e.g. the average age to join the police is 24)
- What life experience would be useful e.g. volunteering, caring for others etc?
- What's the job like, is it active, challenging, boring, repetitive etc?
- Where will I be working e.g. in an office, abroad, on the road etc?
- What are the promotion prospects?
- Will I be working in a team or by myself?
- Will having criminal convictions stop me getting a certain job (this is especially relevant for young people interested in caring professions)?
- Want a car, house, etc. Will this job pay me enough? (UK average annual wage is around 25k)
- Do I have the right skills e.g. reading, writing, speaking in front of groups, hand/eye co-ordination etc.
- What hours will I have to work e.g. weekends, evenings, Christmas, split shifts, on-call etc?
- Do I know anyone who works in the industry; can they help me get a foot in the door?

USEFUL WEBSITES

<http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk> - The National Careers Service online careers database of information on hundreds of different jobs, what the job involves, entry and training.

www.icould.com - Ideas to make the most of your potential and talent, by showing how others have used theirs.

www.careersbox.co.uk - Online library of careers related films, news and info. The case studies show real people doing real jobs, giving viewers insights into all different careers.

www.futuremorph.org - The Science Council website designed to provide information about careers that stem from studying science and maths

www.getingofar.gov.uk - For advice on types of apprenticeship and vacancies

www.ucas.com - All you need to know about applying to university and choosing degrees. Good to check subject requirements for entry to your chosen degree/career

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk - Highlights the opportunities that exist outside of traditional university such as apprenticeships, sponsored degrees, gap years, distance learning and jobs

www.informedchoices.ac.uk - Lots of support on choosing post 16 courses and the degrees they may open up.

DECISION TIME

Now you've done your research into the different careers available, you can start to look at the routes into those professions. There are two main routes after leaving school, apprenticeships and college.

COLLEGE

After leaving school, the vast majority of young people progress onto college.

Colleges offer a huge choice of courses, from old favourites, like Maths, English, Geography, Drama, through to new subjects like Animal care, Economics, Psychology, Travel & Tourism etc.

Depending on the career you're considering, after completing your study, you can then apply to university or seek out apprenticeships/employment opportunities.

What should you be doing?	When?	✓
Start looking at college courses (these are listed in the colleges' prospectuses)	<i>Printed in Sept</i>	
Attend open evenings (dates are generally advertised in colleges' prospectuses)	<i>Events start in Sept</i>	
Submit college application(s) Note - some colleges set their own deadlines	<i>Nov to Feb</i>	
Attend college interview(s)	<i>Oct onwards</i>	
Accept college place (you generally do this when you get your GCSE results)	<i>August</i>	

Questions to ask about different college courses:

- Is the course assessed using exams or course work?
- Will the courses I'm choosing get me into uni? (entry requirements can be found on UCAS's website)
- What do I know about this subject? What is the content of the course?
- What careers and uni courses do young people who complete the course progress onto?
- Is the subject I'm choosing a hobby, or something that will genuinely help me in the future?
- Do I know anyone who has studied the course or attended the college? What do they think?
- Have you met the teaching staff? What are they like? What are their facilities like?
- How will I travel there each day, how much will it cost?
- Are there any additional costs involved for uniform, equipment, books, trips etc?
- Does the college have links with any local companies?
- What support is available if I have additional needs?
- What enrichment, work experience and personal development opportunities are available?
- What support is available to students looking to progress onto uni (especially Russell Group unis)?



APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships are for young people who have a good idea about their career direction.

You can do apprenticeships in a range of careers including administration, construction, health, engineering etc.

Apprentices earn a wage and work alongside experienced staff to gain job-specific skills. As well as doing the job, usually on a day-release basis, apprentices receive training to work towards nationally recognised qualifications.

Apprenticeships can be excellent opportunities, but they can also be very difficult to come by, **it's down to you to find an employer** willing to take you on or to register with a provider who may have some employers looking for an apprentice.

What should you be doing?	When?	✓
Complete a CV (http://www.youthnetsouthampton.org.uk/cv_creator/index.php - This is a local website with a really good CV Creator)	From Sept	
Complete a covering letter (this is sent out with your CV to explain more about you)	From Sept	
Start contacting companies about employing you as an apprentice	From Sept	
Speak to your family and friends; can any of them help you find an employer?	From Sept	
Register on the www.getingofar.gov.uk website for vacancies	From Jan	
As a back up, submit a college application, just in case you can't find an employer	Nov to Jan	

CAREERS ADVICE: *Your Careers Adviser, Linda Corry, is in school weekly - book appointments via your tutor or you can have a less formal conversation with Mrs Illsley.*