

Careers and Work Related Learning



Congratulations! You have reached the next stage of your education and it's time to choose your Post 16 options, for those of you who haven't already.

You are probably feeling that you have enough on your mind with what you are studying, preparing for your exams and dealing with everyday life too. Now is the time to make big decisions regarding what you want to do next year. How will you decide which option is right for YOU?

Having the right knowledge, skills and qualifications improves your job prospects and boosts your future earning power. There are different Post 16 options for you to consider.

Staying on and going into 6th Form is one option but you might be looking to continue your education or training at a college, a training provider or in the workplace via an apprenticeship.

It is important to choose something that suits your interests and abilities. What will motivate you? What will give you the best possible chance of success?

Long term trends

Economic problems around the world have put enormous pressure on the labour market. There is more unemployment and part time working. Job prospects are uncertain. Labour market information suggests that there is little change in the long term trends. So when you are deciding what to do next, you need to think about these long term trends. They show you that:

- There are very few “jobs for life” these days, you may change jobs many times during your working life
- New jobs are emerging all the time due to technological, economic, social and political changes
- All industries will recruit some new workers to replace people who retire, change jobs or swap careers
- The number of jobs for unskilled, less qualified people will continue to fall
- The number of jobs for skilled, well qualified people will continue to grow
- The number of jobs using Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) will continue to grow
- The workplace is changing quickly so employers will continue to need people who are willing to and able to learn

Using Labour Market Information

You can use labour market information to see if your career plans and ideas are realistic. You can also check that you are aiming for the qualifications that will give you the knowledge and skills you need. Research this information for career ideas that interest you.

Do they have a long term future? Is there a chance they may disappear in the next few years? What are employers looking for? You need to work towards getting the skills, qualifications and attitudes that will put you ahead of the competition. Where are the jobs? So you know where to look when you are ready

A very useful starting point is the National Careers Service (www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk) There is a wealth of information available particularly the Job Profiles section where you can look at specific areas of interest and learn more about that career, what qualifications are needed? What progression routes are available? What can it lead onto?

All students can access www.eclips-online.co.uk via the VLE which is another online library enabling you to research different career paths, routes into them, whether you need a degree or there is an apprenticeship route etc.

www.ucas.com If you are considering university Post 18 and have an idea of the courses that you might apply for, use UCAS course search function to look at current entry requirements and advice for the most suitable A level's to take. Contact individual University Admissions Offices for advice if needed, they are there to speak to you and happy to help. www.russellgroup.ac.uk have produced an Informed Choices Guide which is essential reading for students looking at Russell Group universities Post 18.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are growing and the Government has pledged for 3 million apprenticeships by 2020.

This route is available both Post 16 (after GCSE's) by way of an Intermediate or Advanced Apprenticeship **and** also Post 18 (after A levels or BTEC Level 3 Diplomas) by way of Higher and Degree Apprenticeships. A useful website to explore more is www.amazingapprenticeships.com as well as www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk – a Government website which lists apprenticeship vacancies in the local area. You will need to register with your personal information to gain further information on how to apply. These will be sent to you by email.

Also look at www.totalpeople.co.uk for more local vacancies too and local colleges also advertise vacancies on their websites too. An up to date CV is required – workshops will be available to students March onwards.

Remember, you can apply for a full time course as well as express an interest in registering for an apprenticeship. A back up plan is always recommended.