

Guide to helping you and your child make the right choices at 14, 16 and 18

When it comes to careers education, information, advice and guidance, we need to ensure that, as parents and carers, we encourage our young people to access relevant and impartial information so that they make informed choices with our guidance, but it is an ever-changing landscape.



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At the end of Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9) your child will be asked to choose their options (the subjects in which they will take terminal exams at 16). There are things you need to consider and questions you need to ask as a parent/carer to help your child make the most appropriate choices:

- Which subjects are compulsory in your child's school?
- Should your child be doing double or triple science?
- Which subjects is your child thriving in?
- Which subjects does your child enjoy?
- Which subjects are a source of anxiety and stress for your child?
- Which subject areas consistently yield strong outcomes in your child's school?
- Which subject areas have a high turnover of staff and perhaps, therefore, less successful outcomes in your child's school?
- In which subject areas is the behaviour outstanding in your child's school, so that progress and learning are evident?
- How many subjects is your child able to choose?
- Does your child's school offer GCSEs, iGCSEs, BTECs, OCR Cambridge Nationals or any other alternative?
- What is your child's preferred learning style practical subjects or theoretical?
- Does your child have a career in mind already so that they can choose subjects based on their dream job?
- Does your child know what A levels they will take aged 18 in order to guide their GCSE choice at 14?
- Is your child only choosing subjects to be with a favourite teacher or to stay with friends?
- Is your child's school offering an Options Evening to enable you to seek guidance from teachers?
- Is there someone you know doing the job to which your child is aspiring to seek advice from?
- Have you and your child fully researched the various options (recommended websites below)?



14	GCSEs in traditional subjects	GCSEs in vocational subjects The currently available GCSEs in vocational subjects are BUSINESS ICT COMPUTER SCIENCE ENGINEERING	BTECs and OCR Cambridge Nationals
Useful websites	https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/your- choices-at-14/choosing-gcses-compulsory-and-optionalhttp://www.russellgroup.ac.ukGives access to 'Informed Choices' booklet, which gives definitive information on GCSE and A-level subject choices.http://www.careersbox.co.ukGives short careers film clips.http://www.nextstep.direct.gov.ukEnables you to look at the" Job Profiles" section, and it has factual up to date information about careers.http://www.opendoorsmedia.co.ukEnables you to look at local careers information and has links to other useful sites.http://www.icould.comGives general careers advice and short careers film clips.	ELECTRONICS https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/your- choices-at-14/exploring-vocational-qualifications- alternatives-to-gcses http://www.careersbox.co.uk Gives short careers film clips. http://www.nextstep.direct.gov.uk Enables you to look at the 'Job Profiles' section and it has factual up to date information about careers. http://www.opendoorsmedia.co.uk Enables you to look at local careers information and has links to other useful sites. http://www.icould.com Gives general careers advice and short careers film clips.	https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/339607-making-the- right-choices-a-guide-for-parents-and-students.pdfhttp://www.careersbox.co.uk Gives short careers film clips.http://www.nextstep.direct.gov.uk Enables you to look at the 'Job Profiles' section and it has factual up to date information about careers.http://www.opendoorsmedia.co.uk Enables you to look at local careers information and has links to other useful sites.http://www.icould.com Gives general careers advice and short careers film clips.





At the end of Key Stage 4 (years 10 and 11), your child will be asked to choose their next stage in compulsory education – key stage 5. There are things you need to consider and questions you need to ask as a parent/carer to help your child make the most appropriate choices.

- Does your child's secondary school have a sixth form?
- Which 16-18 courses are offered in your child's school?
- Are there any other sixth form schools or colleges that your child can consider, visit and compare?
- When are their open evenings?
- Should your child be doing A levels, Applied General Qualifications, an Apprenticeship, volunteering, or looking for work?
- Before GCSE results day, ask which subjects is your child thriving in?
- On GCSE results day, what subjects did your child perform well in?
- Which subjects did your child enjoy during Key Stage 4?
- Which subjects were a source of anxiety and stress for your child during Key Stage 4?
- Which subject areas consistently yield strong outcomes in your child's school at the end of Key Stage 5?
- Which subject areas have a high turnover of staff and perhaps, therefore, less successful outcomes in your child's school at Key Stage 5?
- In which subject areas is the behaviour outstanding in your child's school, so that progress and learning are evident?
- How many subjects is your child able to choose?
- Has your child considered the amount of homework particular subjects yield to help them choose how many and which subjects to choose?

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- Does your child's school offer A levels, BTECs or any other alternative?
- What is your child's preferred learning style practical subjects or theoretical?
- Does your child have a career in mind already so that they can choose subjects based on their dream job?
- Does your child want to go to University, into an Apprenticeships or enter the world of work after Key Stage 5?
- Is your child only choosing subjects to be with a favourite teacher or to stay with friends?
- Is your child's school offering an Options Evening to enable you to seek guidance from teachers?
- Is there someone you know doing the job to which your child is aspiring to seek advice from?
- Has your child spoken to young people currently in apprenticeships, on A level courses, or on BTEC course to get feedback on the reality of each experience?
- If considering a university, has your child contacted them to see if they have pre-requisites in terms of A level or BTEC choices?
- Have you and your child fully researched the various options (recommended websites below)?

	A levels at school or college	Applied General	Level 1 or level 2 Apprenticeships	Part-time education or	Part-time education or
16		Qualifications at school		training plus	training if you are
TO		or college		volunteering for 20	employed or self-employed
				hours or more a week.	for 20 hours or more a
					week.
Useful	http://www.bestcourse4me.c	https://www.careerpilo	http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk	Voluntary work:	Paid work:
websites	<u>om</u>	t.org.uk/information/vo	Gives access to the national	https://do-it.org/	www.monster.co.uk
	Gives help with "A" level,	<u>cational-</u>	apprenticeships database and general		
	degree and career choices.	qualifications/types-of-	information.	https://lattitude.org.uk/	www.totaljobs.com/
		vocational-			
		qualifications/applied-	https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk	http://www.ncsyes.co.u	http://www.cv-
	https://my.sacu-	general-qualifications	Gives information about a range of	<u>k/</u>	library.co.uk/
	student.com/sacustudent/f?p		apprenticeships available in over 170		
	=SACU_BROWSE:331:0	https://www.careerpilo	industries.	Part-time education	www.gov.uk/jobsearch
	What A Levels do I choose and	t.org.uk/information/vo		http://findfe.com/	
	what degree course can I	<u>cational-</u>			www.jobsite.co.uk/

study with my choice of Δ	qualifications/types-of-	https://resources.amazingapprentices		
				www.jobsgopublic.com/
LEVEIS:				www.jobsgopublic.com/
		-		to be a share of the share to the
http://www.russeligroup.ac.u		apprenticeship opportunities.		www.jobs.nhs.uk/index.ht
<u>k</u>	levels			<u>ml</u>
Gives access to 'Informed		https://findapprenticeshiptraining.sfa.		
Choices' booklet, which gives		bis.gov.uk/		http://www.indeed.co.uk/
definitive information on GCSE	Link to FE colleges	A brilliant search portal for all		
and A-level subject choices.	http://findfe.com/	apprenticeships and you can search		Part-time education
-				http://findfe.com/
http://www.careersbox.co.uk		national ones will deliver in		
		Worcestershire.		
https://www.theguardian.com				
таке				
/advice/a-level-choices/six-				
things-you-need-to-know-				
before-making-your-a-level-				
choices				
	definitive information on GCSE and A-level subject choices. http://www.careersbox.co.uk Gives short careers film clips. https://www.theguardian.com /education/2016/feb/03/how- to-decide-which-a-levels-to- take https://university.which.co.uk /advice/a-level-choices/six- things-you-need-to-know- before-making-your-a-level-	Levels? http://www.russellgroup.ac.u k Gives access to 'Informed Choices' booklet, which gives definitive information on GCSE and A-level subject choices. http://www.careersbox.co.uk Gives short careers film clips. https://www.theguardian.com /education/2016/feb/03/how- to-decide-which-a-levels-to- take https://university.which.co.uk /advice/a-level-choices/six- things-you-need-to-know- before-making-your-a-level-	Levels?vocational- qualifications/technical- level-qualifications-t- levelships.com/live-broadcasts/ Live Broadcasts about potential apprenticeship opportunities.Mittp://www.russellgroup.ac.ukklevel-qualifications-t- levelshitps.com/live-broadcasts/ Live Broadcasts about potential apprenticeship opportunities.Gives access to 'Informed Choices' booklet, which gives definitive information on GCSE and A-level subject choices.Link to FE colleges http://findfe.com/https://findapprenticeshiptraining.sfa. bis.gov.uk/Link to FE colleges http://www.careersbox.co.uk Gives short careers film clips.Link to FE colleges http://findfe.com/A brilliant search portal for all apprenticeships and you can search for all providers on here, as some national ones will deliver in Worcestershire.https://university.which.co.uk /advice/a-level-choices/six- things-you-need-to-know- before-making-your-a-level-level-qualifications/technical- levelshitps.com/live-broadcasts/ Live Broadcasts about potential apprenticeship opportunities.	Levels?vocational- qualifications/technical- level-qualifications/technical- levelships.com/live-broadcasts/





At the end of Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13), your child will need to decide what their next step in life is. There are things you need to consider and questions you need to ask as a parent/carer to help your child make the most appropriate choices.

- Should your child be going to University, undertaking an Apprenticeship, volunteering, looking for paid work or taking a gap year?
- Are there any agencies in your region that can advise and help you apply for apprenticeships?
- Are they holding any open days (that may be advertised in the local newspaper)?
- Are there any companies that you can contact directly to see if they offer apprenticeships?
- Is your child better to attend University and exit with loans to repay, or better to learn and earn at the same time on an apprenticeship?
- Do you know someone in your child's desired profession that you can seek advice and guidance from?
- If you and your child are worried about the financial burden of university, can you seek advice from the student loan company or UCAS?
- If choosing university, has your child considered the employability rate of the course they are considering?
- Have you attended lots of University open days in order to compare and contrast provision?
- Have you and your child had the opportunity to talk to apprentices and/or university students to get realistic feedback about their courses/studies?
- Have you and your child fully researched the various options (recommended websites below)?

18	University	Advanced, higher or degree apprenticeship	FE College at 18 inc further education	Work with training/study	Gap year	Internships and work placements	Free online courses run by Universities	dof
Useful	http://www.bes	http://www.apprentices	https://www.no	https://www.notgoi	www.stat	https://www.no	https://www.fut	https://www.no
websites	tcourse4me.co	hips.org.uk	tgoingtouni.co.u	<u>ngtouni.co.uk</u>	ravel.co.u	tgoingtouni.co.u	urelearn.com/	tgoingtouni.co.u
	<u>m</u>	Gives access to the	<u>k</u>	The Not Going to Uni	<u>k</u>	<u>k</u>		<u>k</u>
	Gives help with	national	The Not Going	team are here to		The Not Going	https://www.co	The Not Going
	A level, degree	apprenticeships	to Uni team are	help you find	https://w	to Uni team are	ursera.org/	to Uni team are
	and career	database and general	here to help you	apprenticeships,	ww.gapye	here to help you		here to help you
	choices.	information.	find	college courses or	ar.com	find		find
			apprenticeships,	work experience to		apprenticeships,		apprenticeships,
	https://my.sacu	https://www.getmyfirstj	college courses	start building your		college courses		college courses
	± 1	<u>ob.co.uk</u>	or work	future.	http://w	or work		or work
	student.com/sa	Gives information about	experience to		ww.etrust	experience to		experience to
	<pre>custudent/f?p=S</pre>	a range of	start building	http://www.tomorro	.org.uk/th	start building		start building
	ACU_BROWSE:3	apprenticeships	your future.	wsengineers.org.uk	e-year-in-	your future.		your future.
	<u>31:0</u>	available in over 170		Gives information on	industry			
	What A Levels	industries.	http://www.to	everything to do		http://www.to		www.monster.c
	do I choose and		morrowsengine	with engineering		morrowsengine		<u>o.uk</u>
	what degree	https://resources.amazi	ers.org.uk	careers.	https://ye	ers.org.uk		
	course can l	ngapprenticeships.com/	Gives		<u>aroutgrou</u>	Gives		www.totaljobs.c
	study with my	live-broadcasts/	information on	Paid work:	p.org/	information on		<u>om/</u>
	choice of A	Live Broadcasts about	everything to do	www.monster.co.uk		everything to do		
	Levels?	potential apprenticeship	with			with		http://www.cv-
		opportunities.	engineering	www.totaljobs.com/		engineering		library.co.uk/
			careers.			careers.		
	http://www.uca	https://findapprentices		http://www.cv-				www.gov.uk/jo
	<u>s.com</u>	hiptraining.sfa.bis.gov.u	Link to FE	library.co.uk/		<u>https://www.p</u>		<u>bsearch</u>
	All university	<u>k/</u>	colleges			wc.co.uk/career		
	information and	A brilliant search portal	http://findfe.co	www.gov.uk/jobsear		<u>s/school-</u>		www.jobsite.co.
	websites.	for all apprenticeships	<u>m/</u>	<u>ch</u>		jobs/jobs/work-		<u>uk/</u>
		and you can search for				experience.html		
	http://www.to	all providers on here —		www.jobsite.co.uk/				www.jobsgopub
	morrowsengine	some national ones will				https://www.kp		lic.com/
	ers.org.uk	deliver regionally.		www.jobsgopublic.c		mgcareers.co.uk		
				<u>om/</u>		/apprenticeship		

Gives	http://www.tomorrows		s/apprenticeshi	www.jobs.nhs.u
information on	engineers.org.uk	www.jobs.nhs.uk/ind	<u>p-</u>	k/index.html
everything to do	Gives information on	<u>ex.html</u>	programmes/kp	
with	everything to do with		mg-discovery	http://www.ind
engineering	engineering careers.	http://www.indeed.c		eed.co.uk/
careers.		<u>o.uk/</u>	https://jobs.the	
			guardian.com/jo	
		Part-time education	<u>bs/internship/</u>	
		http://findfe.com/		

Another source of careers advice and guidance

The National Careers Service – for 13-18 year olds

Online through https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx

Want to speak to an adviser?

Call 0800 100 900 or use webchat 8am to 10pm, 7 days a week



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