

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.



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	BTECs and OCR Cambridge Nationals
Useful websites	<p>https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-14/choosing-gcse-compulsory-and-optional</p> <p>http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk Gives access to 'Informed Choices' booklet, which gives definitive information on GCSE and A-level subject choices.</p> <p>http://www.careersbox.co.uk Gives short careers film clips.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>http://www.opendoorsmedia.co.uk Enables you to look at local careers information and has links to other useful sites.</p> <p>http://www.icould.com Gives general careers advice and short careers film clips.</p>	<p>The currently available GCSEs in vocational subjects are...</p> <p>BUSINESS ICT COMPUTER SCIENCE ENGINEERING ELECTRONICS</p> <p>https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-14/exploring-vocational-qualifications-alternatives-to-gcse</p> <p>http://www.careersbox.co.uk Gives short careers film clips.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>http://www.opendoorsmedia.co.uk Enables you to look at local careers information and has links to other useful sites.</p> <p>http://www.icould.com Gives general careers advice and short careers film clips.</p>	<p>https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/339607-making-the-right-choices-a-guide-for-parents-and-students.pdf</p> <p>http://www.careersbox.co.uk Gives short careers film clips.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>http://www.opendoorsmedia.co.uk Enables you to look at local careers information and has links to other useful sites.</p> <p>http://www.icould.com Gives general careers advice and short careers film clips.</p>

16

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?

- 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)?

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

	<p>study with my choice of A Levels?</p> <p>http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk Gives access to 'Informed Choices' booklet, which gives definitive information on GCSE and A-level subject choices.</p> <p>http://www.careersbox.co.uk Gives short careers film clips.</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/education/2016/feb/03/how-to-decide-which-a-levels-to-take</p> <p>https://university.which.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/six-things-you-need-to-know-before-making-your-a-level-choices</p>	<p>qualifications/types-of-vocational-qualifications/technical-level-qualifications-to-levels</p> <p>Link to FE colleges http://findfe.com/</p>	<p>https://resources.amazingapprenticeships.com/live-broadcasts/ Live Broadcasts about potential apprenticeship opportunities.</p> <p>https://findapprenticeshiptraining.sfa.bis.gov.uk/ A brilliant search portal for all apprenticeships and you can search for all providers on here, as some national ones will deliver in Worcestershire.</p>		<p>www.jobsgopublic.com/</p> <p>www.jobs.nhs.uk/index.html</p> <p>http://www.indeed.co.uk/</p> <p>Part-time education http://findfe.com/</p>
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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	Job
Useful websites	http://www.bes-tcourse4me.com Gives help with A level, degree and career choices. https://my.sacu-student.com/sacustudent/f?p=31:0 What A Levels do I choose and what degree course can I study with my choice of A Levels? http://www.ucas.com All university information and websites. http://www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk	http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk Gives access to the national apprenticeships database and general information. https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk Gives information about a range of apprenticeships available in over 170 industries. https://resources.amazingapprenticeships.com/live-broadcasts/ Live Broadcasts about potential apprenticeship opportunities. https://findapprenticeshiptraining.sfa.bis.gov.uk/ A brilliant search portal for all apprenticeships and you can search for all providers on here — some national ones will deliver regionally.	https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk The Not Going to Uni team are here to help you find apprenticeships, college courses or work experience to start building your future. http://www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk Gives information on everything to do with engineering careers. Gives information on everything to do with engineering careers. Link to FE colleges http://findfe.com/	https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk The Not Going to Uni team are here to help you find apprenticeships, college courses or work experience to start building your future. http://www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk Gives information on everything to do with engineering careers. Paid work: www.monster.co.uk www.totaljobs.com/ http://www.cv-library.co.uk/ www.gov.uk/jobsearch www.jobsite.co.uk/ www.jobsgopublic.com/	www.statravel.co.uk https://www.gapyear.com http://www.etrust.org.uk/the-year-in-industry https://yearoutgroup.org/	https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk The Not Going to Uni team are here to help you find apprenticeships, college courses or work experience to start building your future. http://www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk Gives information on everything to do with engineering careers. https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/school-jobs/jobs/work-experience.html https://www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/apprenticeship	https://www.futurelearn.com/ https://www.coursera.org/	https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk The Not Going to Uni team are here to help you find apprenticeships, college courses or work experience to start building your future. www.monster.co.uk www.totaljobs.com/ http://www.cv-library.co.uk/ www.gov.uk/jobsearch www.jobsite.co.uk/ www.jobsgopublic.com/

	Gives information on everything to do with engineering careers.	http://www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk Gives information on everything to do with engineering careers.		www.jobs.nhs.uk/index.html http://www.indeed.co.uk/ Part-time education http://findfe.com/		s/apprenticeship-programmes/kpmg-discovery https://jobs.theguardian.com/jobs/internship/		www.jobs.nhs.uk/index.html http://www.indeed.co.uk/
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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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FUTURES

© With sincere thanks to Sarah Noble and her school, Arrow Vale RSA Academy, for sharing this document with The PiXL Club Ltd. For use with our members, May 2019.

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