

# Year 8 Careers Programme

## Making Decisions

The key focus of the Year 8 careers programme is on making decisions, centred around the key stage 4 options process which takes place between Christmas and Easter. Students will decide which GCSE and BTEC subjects they would like to study in Years 9-11. To help with this process, students begin to consider how their personalities, interests and skills might suit them to different careers, and how they can make appropriate decisions about the routes they can take in the future.

Through their fortnightly STEP sessions, Year 8 students explore the following themes:

- ▶ What it means to work
- ▶ Future career options
- ▶ Introduction to post-16 routes
- ▶ Making good decisions
- ▶ Job sectors
- ▶ Knowing the local labour market

Year 8 will also have opportunities to meet local employers and find out about the routes they took into their careers. As part of the key stage 4 options process, students will have the opportunity for small group guidance meetings with one of our qualified careers advisors. A small group of Year 8 students will take part in the Future Business Magnates competition organised by Business Durham.

During Year 8, students will continue to use Unifrog to explore their interests and research career paths that might be suited to them. They will learn how to find information about the entry requirements and training routes for different careers, and how to interpret labour market information to inform their decisions.