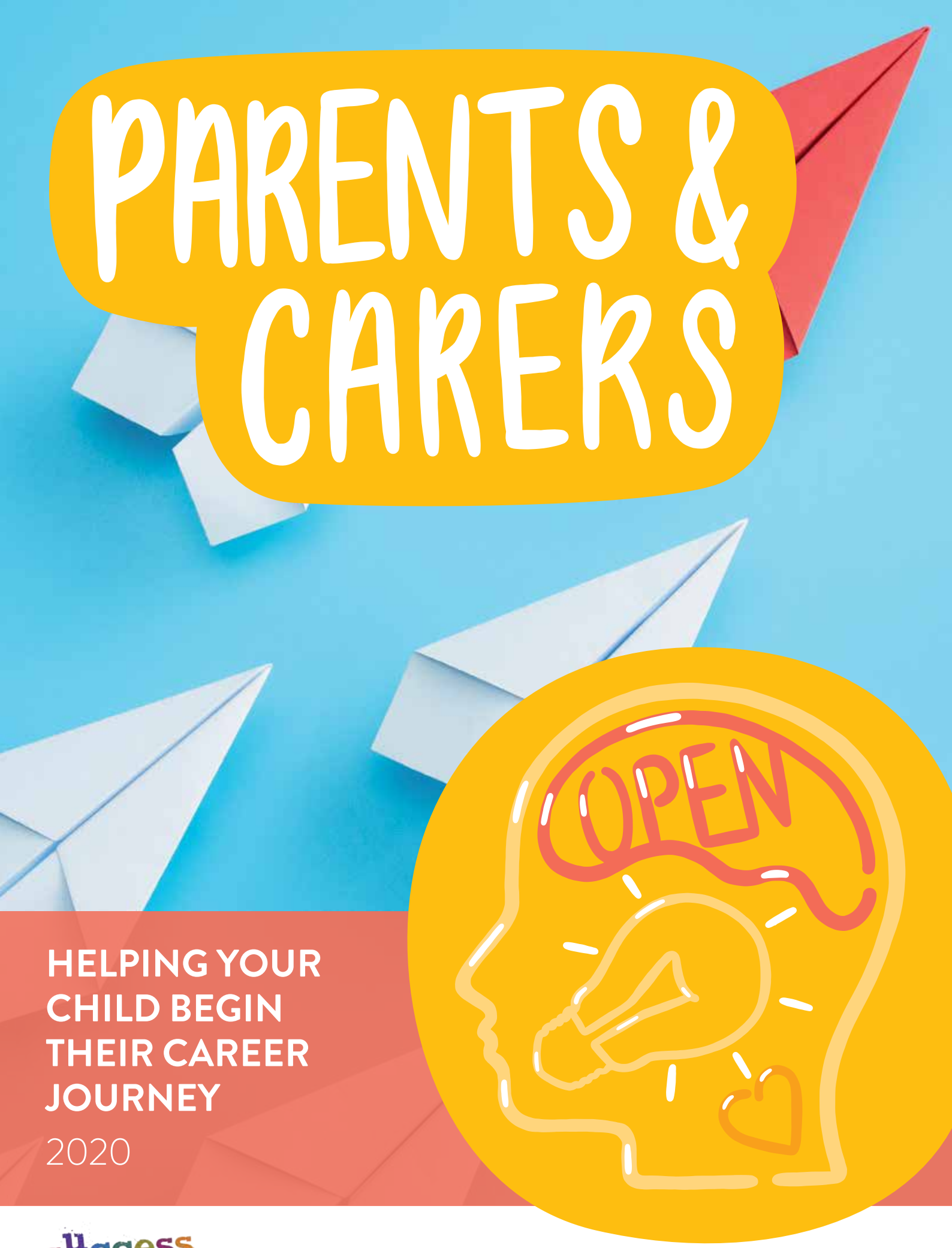
PARENTS & CARERS



HELPING YOUR CHILD BEGIN THEIR CAREER JOURNEY

2020

success at school .org
choose your next steps

J.P.Morgan

ABOUT SUCCESS AT SCHOOL

Success at School is a national careers website for students aged 11-19, as well as their teachers, careers advisors, parents and other influencers. Young people can learn about their future career options through no-nonsense careers advice related to their own experiences.

As well as covering topics such as career paths, industries, apprenticeships, university and employability skills, we connect schools and students to employers and universities through opportunities on our site and our interactive forums. Millions of young people and their influencers have visited our site for advice and information to help them plan for the future.

Go to **successatschool.org** for more information.

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FOREWORD

As our children progress through school and start looking ahead to a life after education, it can be difficult for parents and carers to know how to help them navigate the confusing world of career options. For many of us, the ultimate challenge is knowing how to offer support without projecting our own career aspirations onto our children. And with so much change – from new apprenticeship schemes, emerging technologies, political and environmental upheaval and the coronavirus crisis – parents can feel in need of a guiding hand themselves.

Here at Success at School, we've developed lots of resources to help careers advisors and teachers at schools and colleges. But according to research, parents have by far the biggest influence on young people's career choices. We've created this guide to help you take a positive role in your child's career journey. We cover all the basics – from university, apprenticeships and other pathways into work, to work experience and employability skills. We outline job roles linked to each major school subject as well as exploring the jobs of the future.

We have also made this guide practical, so you can use it as a tool to help your child prepare for their future. You'll find a step-by-step guide to help them focus on career paths connected to their skills and interests. We've even included a worksheet they can work through – or which you can even complete together – so that you have made tangible progress as a result of working through this guide.

You'll also find at the end of this guide a list of links to resources on our site which will help you support your child's careers development from home during the coronavirus crisis.

If you like the guide, there's plenty more resources on our website, where every week we're adding new articles written especially for parents and carers. We also have an email newsletter for parents which you can register for to get tailored advice straight to your inbox.

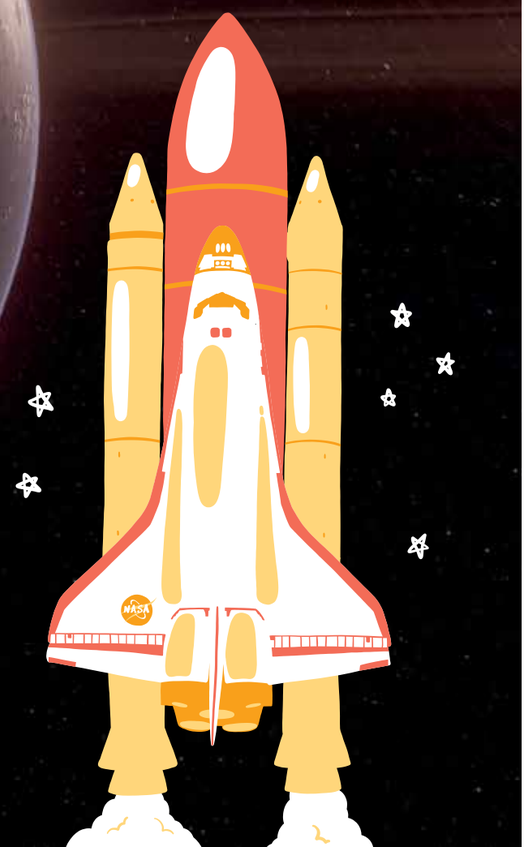
We hope you find this guide useful and wish you and your child all the best in their future career journey.

Success at School Team

CHOOSING A CAREER PATH

There is a world of opportunity out there – but for many young people, narrowing down all the options can be a challenging task in itself.

We've created a step-by-step process you and your child can follow to help them focus on the careers that are right for them. It is designed to help you find that sweet spot where skills and interests overlap, before figuring out how this connects up with possible career paths.



1. WORK OUT YOUR CHILD'S SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Sit down together with two pieces of A3 paper and a Sharpie.

On one piece of paper write down as many of your child's interests as you can think of together. Use these questions as prompts for your child:

- What hobbies do you have? What do you like to do in your spare time?
- What extracurricular activities do you do?
- If you could pick one thing to do right now, what would it be?
- What would you do on your ideal weekend?

On the second sheet, write down as many of your child's skills as you can think of, with these questions as prompts:

- What are your favourite school subjects?
- What are your personal qualities? E.g. are you a good listener? Do people come to you for advice?
- In your most recent school report, what did your teachers say you excelled at?
- What are your talents? What things can you "just do"? E.g. cooking, coming up with ideas, art.

2. LINK INDUSTRIES TO SKILLS AND INTERESTS

The next step is to find out about industries and the jobs within them.

Take another sheet of A3. Browse the Career Zones section of the Success at School website and write down those which catch you and your child's eye because they contain roles which appeal to their skills and interests.

When you have a "short list" of industries that fit in with your child's skills and interests, take a closer look. Write down jobs underneath the industry name and note the skills they involve and how they connect with your child's interests (e.g. VFX artist – design skills – movie buff).

Go to: successatschool.org/careerzones

3. IDENTIFY THREE FAVOURITE JOBS

Look through the list of jobs you have written down and pick three that really appeal to your child.

One way of doing this could be to go through all the roles and give them a rating out of 5, then pick those with the top rating and repeat the process to narrow them down to 3.

Once you have picked out your final 3 you can start looking in more detail at the different routes into these career paths.

4. PLAN OUT CAREER PATHS FOR THESE JOBS

Take a separate sheet of A3 for each job and write the job title at the top of the sheet.

Use the Success at School site and the internet to research the steps needed to pursue these career paths and also the different ways into them. Have a look at the How to become... articles on the Success at School website for detailed guides to entering a whole range of career paths.

Use these questions as prompts:

- What qualifications are needed? This includes the subject (e.g. English, maths) and level (e.g. GCSE, A-level, degree).
- What experience is required? Are there work experience programmes available through employers or will your child have to be proactive to get a placement?
- Are there apprenticeships available?
- Is there a university route into the profession?

Go to: successatschool.org/advice/how-to-become

5. WRITE OUT THE THREE "NEXT STEPS" YOUR CHILD WILL TAKE

Using step 4 to guide you, come up with some next steps your child can take to help them on their career journey (what they do next will depend on what stage of their education they're at).

For example, they might commit to contacting employers to find out whether they can visit on a work experience placement. Alternatively, they might decide to visit particular subject stalls at their school/college's GCSE or A-level choices event.

Once they have completed these next steps, you should have another discussion together to work out the next set of steps.

PATHWAYS INTO WORK

The first years of work are a confusing place for parents trying to help their children begin a successful career which fits in with their strengths and interests.

Opportunities for school and college leavers are changing. In the old days, the co-existence of polytechnic colleges alongside the universities meant that high-skilled vocational and more heady professions were accessible to many school/college leavers through different routes.

Then the government started focusing more on university education as the way to create a high-skilled workforce.

Now, this is changing. Apprenticeships have been developed as an exciting alternative route which offers added benefits to many school leavers. University is still a way into certain professions and is better suited to those of a more academic nature who want to study a certain discipline for love of the subject.

UNIVERSITY

University is a good choice for your child if they:

Want the "uni experience"

Living semi-independently, making new friends with very different people, joining clubs and societies – these are all things that university can offer.

Love their subject

If your child wants to throw themselves into their studies because they love their chosen subject and want to know everything there is to know about it, university is a good choice.

Want to go into a profession only accessible via university

There are many career paths which have been opened up to the apprenticeship route (see below) but certain careers are currently only accessible via a university degree (or only widely accessible this way). This includes medicine, veterinary medicine, teaching and architecture.

A record 34.1% of 18-year-olds entered university in 2019

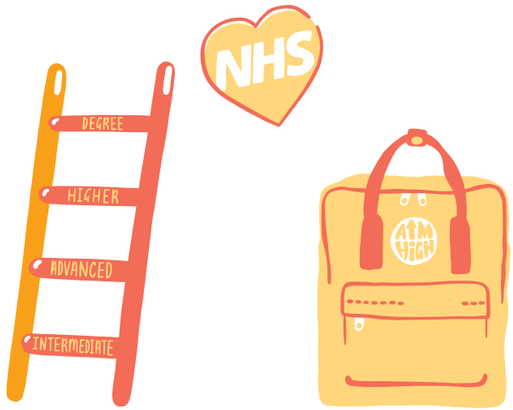
Over half of 18-30 year-olds have taken part in higher education

APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships are a job with pay, training and the chance to gain professionally relevant qualifications. After a revamp over the last few years, they are now a route into high-skilled professions such as civil engineer, solicitor, scientist and nurse.

There are four types of apprenticeship:

- **Intermediate:** Equivalent to 4 GCSEs
- **Advanced:** Equivalent to 2 A-levels
- **Higher:** Equivalent to a foundation degree or higher
- **Degree:** Equivalent to a bachelor's or master's degree



VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

There are many other vocational options your child could pursue through a college course at age 16 or 18.

Different qualification "brands"

- Including BTEC, NVQ, OCR Cambridge National or Diploma, each one with a slightly different slant.

Available at different levels

- Qualification levels represent different standards of expertise. Level 3 qualifications (equivalent to A-levels) are typically taken at age 16 while level 4+ require a level 3 qualification so aren't usually taken before age 18.

Study through a college course

- Can be taken via a full-time or part-time college course. Often, they are included as part of an apprenticeship programme, sometimes alongside other qualifications.
- Study on-the-job.
- The option to study for vocational qualifications is often offered by employers to enable employees to improve their theoretical understanding of their work.

PATHWAYS INTO WORK

GAP YEAR

If your child is unsure of what they want to do, a gap year could be a good choice. A gap year can give your child chance to think about what they want to do with their time – whether that be work, further study or a mixture.

What does a gap year involve?

- A job at home.
- Work experience outside the UK.
- A volunteering placement overseas.
- An opportunity to travel.
- A break from work or study.

Why?

- A work-free gap year is a short respite from a life of work and study.
- A chance to build life experience through travel and exposure to new cultures.
- An opportunity to build up funds and money-management skills through work.
- The chance to gain work experience and employability skills in a job.
- Time to think about what they would like to do next.

GETTING A JOB

Another option for your child is to apply for a job immediately upon leaving school/college.

Why?

One reason could be that your child hasn't made up their mind about what they would like to do next but would also like to gain experience and earn a wage while they think about what is best for them.

What are the benefits?

Starting an entry-level job can itself be the beginning of a young person's career path. If it is a job they care about – or develop an enthusiasm for – they could soon apply for a promotion and progress within the workplace

Can they still progress?

They may have the chance to work towards relevant qualifications or could choose later to begin an apprenticeship related to the role.

T-LEVELS

The T-level is a new qualification which is being phased in as an alternative to A-levels over the next few years. T-levels combine classroom learning with "on-the-job" training and, like A-levels, lead to UCAS points which can be taken into account in higher-education applications.

3 courses will be on offer from 2020: design, surveying and planning for construction, digital production, design and development and education and childcare. These will be offered at selected colleges across the UK. More courses will be introduced from 2021.

The launch of these new courses may be affected by coronavirus. You can find more information on the Gov.uk website: **https://tinyurl.com/UK-T-levels**

UNIVERSITY

University is the most popular next step for school and college leavers, and with so much attention focused on higher education, it can feel like it's the only route open to your child.

University is the best choice for many students. But it's important to understand who it is right for and why, so you can help your child make an informed decision.

Why go to university?

There are many good reasons for your child to go to university. But if you think it is an essential step on the path to career success, you'd be wrong. With more apprenticeships and school leaver programmes available than ever before, this simply isn't true anymore.

Likewise, if your child is drawn to university because "that's what everybody does", "because all my friends are going" or because "it looks like fun", encourage them to think again.

Here are some good reasons to go to university:

1. To gain essential qualifications

If your child needs a degree to follow their chosen career path, they're on the right track. Jobs such as teacher, lawyer and doctor generally require you to have a degree, so university is the logical choice for you.

If they haven't already, your child should investigate what kind of degree they need to enter that profession.

They should also look at whether they can gain a degree without going to university, through a higher or degree apprenticeship. That way, they can work towards a university degree while getting paid a salary and gaining work experience. This option is available for some professions, such as solicitor and software engineer.

2. To pursue their interests through further study

Some people go on to university because they're passionate about a certain subject and want to know everything there is to know about it. A love of learning is one of the best reasons to go to university.

This doesn't mean they can't plan for their career as well. Flick back to the chapter "Choosing a career path". Find other ways to give yourself a career boost through volunteering, doing a summer internship or another kind of work experience placement.

Shouldn't every student go to uni?

No. University isn't for every student, and students should not feel that university is the only route to a high-skilled career.

For some students, an apprenticeship is better because it is more practical, allowing them to earn and gain work experience.

For others who want to study an academic qualification full time within an academic setting, or experience some of the other things university can offer, university may be the better option.

PROS ✓

of going to university

1. **Students can become experts in the subject they love** – through 3+ years of intense, focused study.
2. **University can prepare you for a specific career path –** although many higher/degree apprenticeships now offer training for graduate careers.
3. **Graduates earn more** – but they can graduate with a higher/degree apprenticeship and earn while they study.
4. **Uni gives students time to gain work experience** – during the long summer vacations.
5. **Students get a taste of independence** – by living away from home in student halls or rented accommodation.
6. **Students gain high-level transferable skills** – such as analysis, critical thinking, communication and problem-solving.
7. **It can broaden the mind** – by exposing students to new people, ideas and places.

CONS ✗

of going to university

1. **Students may not gain technical skills** – many courses are theoretical instead of practical.
2. **Students may not get employability skills** – although they can gain these on work experience during the vacations.
3. **Contact time is less than at school** – with more of a focus on independent, self-driven study.
4. **Students graduate with a lot of debt** – 2018 graduates left university with £36,000 of debt on average.
5. **Students commit 3+ years of their life** – so your child should consider whether 3 more years of education is for them.
6. **Students are not guaranteed a graduate job** – many graduates end up in temporary or entry-level jobs not graduate roles.
7. **Lifetime earnings can be higher with an apprenticeship** – those with a level 5+ apprenticeship typically earn more than traditional university graduates.

APPRENTICESHIPS

An apprenticeship is a job with training and the chance to gain qualifications. As with any job, an apprentice gets paid, but they also take part in formal on-the-job training and study for relevant qualifications linked to their role. Qualifications are paid for by the employer. Apprentices do not pay anything towards their qualifications.

INTERMEDIATE APPRENTICESHIPS

- Worth the same as five GCSEs graded 4+.
- Functional skills in English and maths are needed (students with grade 4+ GCSEs have these).
- What qualifications can I get? Level 2 NVQ, National Diploma, National Certificate.

ADVANCED APPRENTICESHIPS

- Worth the same as 2 A-levels.
- 5 GCSEs grade 4+, including English and maths, are needed.
- What qualifications can I get? Level 3 NVQ, National Certificate, BTEC.

HIGHER APPRENTICESHIPS

- Equivalent to a level 4, 5 or 6 qualification.
- 2 A-levels grade C+ are needed.
- What qualifications can I get? Foundation degree, Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, Level 4-7 NVQ, Higher National Diploma.

Facts and figures:

- Some higher apprentices earn as much as £500 per week.
- 90% stay in work or training after their programme.
- 65% remain with the same employer.
- Typical course length: 1-6 years.
- 30+ hours per week at work.

Some of the areas apprentices can work in:

- Accountancy
- Construction
- Engineering
- Healthcare
- IT
- Law
- Management
- Manufacturing
- Childcare
- Marketing and communications
- Cyber security
- Software development
- Digital marketing
- Public relations

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

- Equivalent to a level 6 or 7 qualification.
- 2 A-levels grade C+ needed.
- Foundation degree, Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, Level 4-7 NVQ, Higher National Diploma.

Facts and figures:

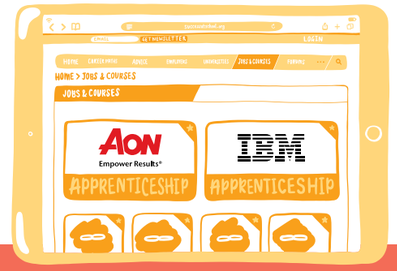
- 90% stay in work or training after their programme.
- 65% remain with the same employer.
- Half of parents would encourage their child to start one.
- 71% of parents believe they provide a better chance of getting a job.
- Typical course length: 3-6 years.

Degree apprentices gain skills employers really want:

- Problem-solving
- Creative thinking
- Communication
- Teamwork
- Leadership
- Project management
- Research and analysis

Some of the areas apprentices can work in:

- Finance
- Construction
- Engineering
- Law
- Management
- Software development
- Accountancy



You can find an apprenticeship by visiting the Jobs & Courses page on our website at successatschool.org

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

To succeed in the world of work, employers will expect your child to have certain basic employability skills (sometimes called "key skills").

These are skills which are needed in virtually every job, regardless of the industry or role – as well as in everyday life. There are plenty of ways your child can develop these skills at school or in their home life, even if they don't have a part-time job.

What are employability skills?

There is no authoritative list but there is a lot of overlap in what skills employers say they want as a bare minimum when taking on a new member of staff.

This is a list of key employability skills we recommend your child is able to demonstrate when they start applying for work:

SKILL	WHAT IS THE SKILL?	HELP YOUR CHILD DEVELOP THIS SKILL BY ENCOURAGING THEM TO:
Communication	Good communication is the ability to express yourself clearly, verbally and in writing. It also includes the ability to listen to others and process information accurately.	• Get a Saturday/evening job. • Write a blog on their favourite topic. • Join a debating society or reading group.
Teamwork	Teamwork is the ability to work together with others towards a common goal, making the most of the group's different strengths and abilities.	• Join a sports team or other club/society. • Take on a creative project with their friends. • Join an orchestra, band or ensemble.
Initiative	Initiative is being proactive, taking responsibility and making decisions for yourself to get things done, rather than waiting to be told what to do. Initiative is gained by trying new things outside our comfort zone.	• Take a leading role in a club or society. • Start a music, art or drama project with their friends.
Problem-solving	Overcoming problems using creativity and logic is an absolute must for every employer. Problem-solving doesn't just feature in subjects such as maths – problems include conceptualising a design in art or interpreting a poem in English.	• Reflect on how different subjects involve problem-solving. • Break down tasks into manageable chunks.
Computer / IT skills	Young people have grown up surrounded by technology, but there are a whole host of apps and software that can aid our everyday work by automating tasks or helping us organise our workload. Students are quick learners when it comes to tech, but it's important that they know how to find new software to help them at work.	• Practise using Google to answer questions in their home or school life. • Find new apps to help with everyday problems such as scheduling events or managing tasks. • Become more familiar with IT hardware by asking them to set up new tech equipment for the household.

Organisation	Good organisation means being able to plan ahead, using techniques to manage your own and others' work, ensuring that deadlines are met and making sure that plans turn out successfully with every detail catered for.	• Develop a revision plan for their next set of exams. • Plan one family event per month. • Save appointments to their phone calendar and set reminders.
Leadership	Good leaders motivate others through an inspiring vision, by taking responsibility for decisions and taking ownership of problems. They also promote good teamwork, are effective communicators and reflect on themselves and others.	• Take on a leadership role within a school club or society. • Ask others to share their opinions when carrying out group tasks in class.
Hard work and dedication	Hard workers commit themselves to their work and keep going through tough problems. They know how to motivate themselves when they're at a low ebb.	• Set a work timetable for the evening. • Take regular breaks during study periods. • Reward themselves when they complete a set number of hours of study or revision.
Creativity	Creativity skills, also known as creative thinking skills, essentially means being able to come up with something new. It means looking at things in a new way.	• Take on a small but unfamiliar creative task such as making birthday cards for the family or doing a craft project. • Create a vlog (video blog) on a topic they're interested in and upload to YouTube. • Sit down to write 500 words... and see what comes out.
Numeracy	Numeracy is confidence with numbers enabling employees to analyse, interpret and use numerical information.	• Learn one new technique for adding and subtracting (they can find techniques by searching on Google). • Add up prices in their head instead of using a calculator. • Create a budget for their pocket money/ wages.
Reliability	Reliability means being dependable. Reliable workers turn up to work every day, deliver on deadlines, are trustworthy and keep their word.	• Commit to a certain amount of study time each night and reward themselves for sticking to it. • Take on a Saturday/evening job with a set timetable.

WORK EXPERIENCE

The skills and experience students pick up during work experience give your child an edge when it comes to applying for jobs, showing employers they have practical expertise related to the role they're applying for.

They will gain a host of transferable skills they can apply across a range of professional fields as well as technical skills which are specifically relevant to the role.

Gaining physical work experience is impossible at the current time but it is important to think ahead to the time when physical-distancing measures have eased.

What are the main benefits?

Gain knowledge and practical skills

Nowadays, having relevant qualifications, although essential, is only half of the equation. If a potential employer can see that an applicant has the knowledge and practical skills to fulfil their role, they have an advantage over someone who only knows the theory.

Provides a taste of the industry

Work experience is a good way for you to get a taster of what it's like to work in a specific industry. Because placements are temporary arrangements, work experience students are not committing themselves to working for a company forever, giving your child the opportunity to refine what it is that they're looking for from employment.

Meet influential people

Work experience gives students the opportunity to build up a network of contacts who may be able to help them secure a job in the near future.

By showing employers that they are enthusiastic and can step up to challenges, your child can also earn themselves good references for future roles.

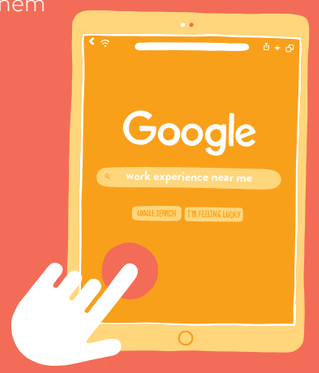
Improve chances of gaining employment

Research shows that encounters with employers reduce a young person's chances of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). In some cases, a placement can lead directly to a job offer - if there's a position available with the employer.

How to make the most of work experience

Work experience is just that – an experience, a taster of the workplace. It doesn't last long so it's important that your child seizes any opportunities that come their way. They should approach their placement with a broad mind and be prepared to get stuck into anything. Encourage them to ask for opportunities to develop their skills and gain new ones. Together, research the organisation they'll be working for so they know what to expect and can focus on areas of interest or importance to them.

Getting to know the team is a fantastic way for your child to build a network to help them find job opportunities, internships or apprenticeships in future. Encourage them to ask for feedback on their work so they can continually improve.



How to find a placement

To find a work experience placement, your child should:

1. Follow their passions

Whatever it is that gets your child out of bed on Saturday mornings could be the very thing that they'd love to do on a work experience placement. What are they interested in? If they're a music fan, maybe their perfect work experience placement would be in a music shop? If they're an animal lover, they could contact the local farm, zoo or stables for opportunities.

2. Know where to find out about work experience opportunities

Start your search by looking for companies in your local area that do the kind of work that your child would like to try. A general Google search should give you enough information to get them started. Your child should also be prepared to proactively contact employers who don't advertise work experience as they may also be able to accommodate them.

Your child should also have a meeting with their school careers advisor. Some careers advisors will have a list of contacts they can provide, or they'll be able to point you and your child in the direction of the best places to look.

3. Apply to work experience programmes

Look out for companies that run formal work experience programmes. A lot of the larger companies in the UK offer structured work experience placements to school students; however, competition can be tough. Most of these placements require applicants to complete an application form, so work with your child on this and check their application for spelling and grammar mistakes.

4. Focus on popular industries for work experience

Look at some of the most common industries for school students to do work experience in.

These include:

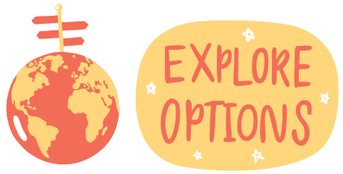
- Professional and financial services
- Teaching
- Marketing and public relations (PR)
- Media
- Fashion
- Art and design

GAP YEARS

What's a gap year all about?

Gap years are often associated with travelling, but there's so much more your child can do. Gaining work experience can be really valuable. Students can do this by volunteering on projects overseas, or finding internships and paid jobs closer to home. If your child isn't sure whether to go on to university or go straight into work after school, a gap year can be a good chance for them to explore their options.

A traditional gap year may not be possible this year due to coronavirus – we don't yet know what the next academic year might look like for school and college leavers. However, if your child will be leaving school following future academic years, you will get something out of this section.



Why should your child consider taking a gap year?

A gap year isn't just a chance to take some time off and explore the globe. It can be an important opportunity to gain work experience, whether that's as a volunteer working on projects abroad or finding internships and paid jobs at home.

Who can help your child plan their gap year?

There are a range of gap year providers which offer organised travel, work and volunteering programmes, as well as useful planning tools. Frontier, Real Gap and Gap Year Association are just some of the sites to look at. We've also got loads of helpful guidance in the gap year section of Success at School, covering everything from what your child should take with them to how they can plan your travels.

How long does a gap year last?

Gap year work and study programmes can last anywhere from two weeks to 12 months, so your child can choose a period of time to suit them. If they want to take a break between school and university, they'll need to wait until the following September to join the next intake of students. However, they may be able to enrol in a summer school before their course starts.

Your child can find out about these direct from your local university or the university they're heading to. If they're going into work or training your child can probably be more flexible, but make sure they confirm their start date before they head off anywhere!

So what can your child do on their gap year?

It's key that they use their time well and make a plan to give the year structure. Travelling is a popular choice, but there are lots of other options. Gap Year Association is a good website to explore to find out what's on offer. Some even allow students to travel and gain valuable experience: win-win!

It's also worth bearing in mind that there are plenty of green options that don't involve flying – an Interrail pass is a cost-effective way for a young person to travel all over Europe.

Volunteering

Volunteering opportunities come in all shapes and sizes. If your child is looking for voluntary work in the UK, websites like Do-it and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations are good places to start the search. Your child can find opportunities where they can use the skills they've developed by studying English to make a difference.

There are also plenty of volunteering opportunities overseas. Gap year providers like Real Gap, Travellers Abroad and Frontier are good places to look at what's available. Whatever voluntary work your child is doing, it's also a good idea to set up a personal blog. It's simple to create a blog using the likes of WordPress, Wix, Tumblr or Blogger. This way your child can showcase their written communication skills.

Paid work

There are lots of places your child can find paid work during a gap year. If they want to travel, teaching English as a foreign language is a great option. To get paid for this, they'll need to take a short TEFL qualification first. If they don't want to teach, they should take a look at the overseas internships available through Go Overseas. They'll find jobs in areas such as marketing, communications, journalism, digital media and public relations. This will allow them to travel to and work in countries including Australia, South Africa and Spain.

If your child would rather have an internship or summer job in the UK, they should sign up to a website like StudentJob. For students and graduates at UK universities, websites like e4s and RateMyPlacement are also useful. Many top companies advertise paid placements, internships and graduate schemes on these platforms.

Study

Travelling and studying is also an option. Forum Nexus is one provider that offers a summer programme of studying and travelling. Students can visit various European cities on its Ultimate Summer in Europe programme and study at top universities along the way. There are financial aid and scholarship options too.

Go Overseas also lists various study abroad opportunities, with courses in everything from journalism to marketing on offer. In the UK, the Sutton Trust runs summer schools in various subjects through 13 UK universities. They're designed for students who are aged 17 or 18, and are free, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

HOW TO FUTURE-PROOF YOUR CHILD'S CAREER

We've entered the **Fourth Industrial Revolution**, which according to the World Economic Forum means "both huge promise and potential peril". Automation and artificial intelligence (AI) will lead to the disappearance of some jobs while creating many more in the tech sphere.

Bus drivers, builders and even accountants could be replaced by computers and robots, while new roles such as AI engineer, human-machine interaction designer and process automation specialist will all emerge. Whatever implications changing technology has for the world of work, most experts agree that this new revolution shows all the signs of being even more dramatic than the first three.

Humanity also faces the unprecedented challenge of the **climate and ecological emergency.** Although this presents a huge threat, it will also create all sorts of jobs across every area of society. Fields to look out for include renewables and energy, housing, agriculture, health and transport. Our response to climate change will also create jobs across the Civil Service and local government.

SUBJECT JOURNEYS

Art and Design

A background in art and design will equip your child for work in a huge and varied range of industries, paving the way to careers in illustration, special effects design, gaming, fine art, graphic design or gallery curation.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Augmented reality/virtual reality designer

Augmented reality is about overlaying fictional digital elements onto real environments – like in Pokémon Go – while virtual reality is an entirely computer-generated world. It is revolutionising not only the world of gaming but also tourism, medicine, education and many other areas of work and life. Combined with technical skills, art and design students could use their creativity in this role to imagine the worlds we will occupy in these new augmented realities.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Public Sector & Government › Community arts worker

Salary: £16,000 – £30,000

Career: Community arts workers use their artistic skills to engage people in the local community, promoting artistic activities to groups and individuals in order to improve their quality of life. They tend to deal with social problems – for example, with young offenders or homeless people.

EDUCATION

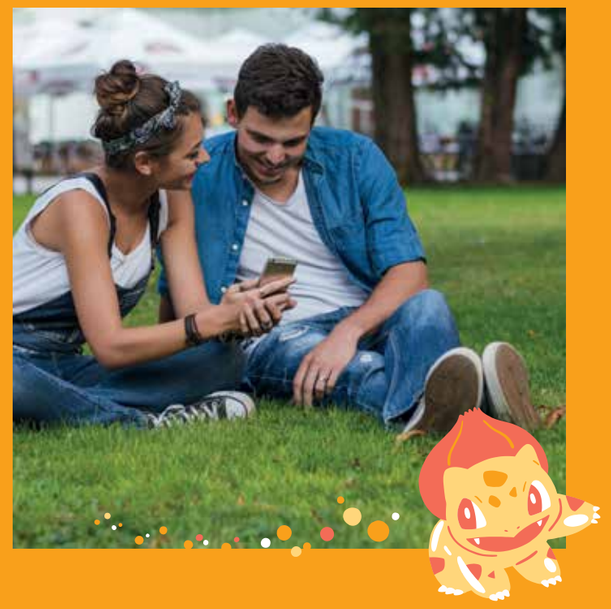
At 14: GCSE Choose art and design
At 16: A-level / equivalent
Choose art and design A-level
At 18: Apply for an art-related degree or directly to a job – most employers consider experience and skills to be more important than formal qualifications

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

English language, psychology

EMPLOYERS

Self-employment
Local government › councils, arts groups
Museums and galleries



5 skills art and design will give your child

1. **Drawing**
2. **Research**
3. **Confidence**
4. **Independence**
5. **Creativity**

Jobs directly linked to art and design:

- 3D artist

Common career paths for art and design students:

- Illustrator
- Commercial art gallery manager

Career paths you might not have thought of:

- Interior designer
- UX/UI designer

Biology

The study of biology provides a solid foundation for a wide range of careers, with key skills such as problem-solving, analysis and communication being very transferable.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Antibiotic Engineering
The widespread and sometimes reckless use of antibiotics to treat human and animal disease means that some bacteria are becoming resistant to the drugs we use to kill them. We need to create new antibiotics to replace the old ones to avoid a return to the pre-antibiotic days when routine infections could lead to death. Microbiologists create antibiotics by testing newly discovered chemical compounds to see if they can provide resistance to bacteria, so biology students' analytical and lab skills leave them well-placed to pursue a career in antibiotic engineering.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Agriculture & Environment › Ecologist
Salary: £17,000 – £29,000
Career: Ecologists study the relationship between living things and the environment they live in. This includes the way human activity impacts organisms. The study of biology provides all of the foundational knowledge needed to do this job, as well as many of the practical skills required to carry out research.

EDUCATION

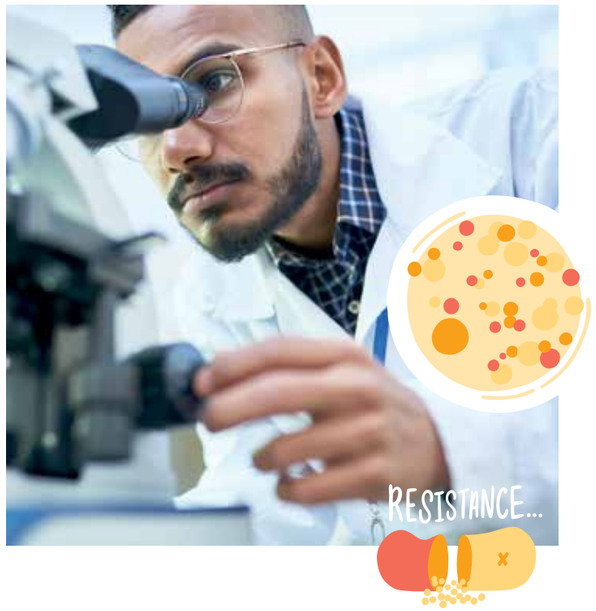
At 14: GCSE Single sciences
At 16: A-level / equivalent Biology
At 18: Degree in biology, ecology, environmental science, zoology etc.
After university: Graduate job in ecology / Postgraduate qualification in ecology

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

Chemistry, geography

EMPLOYERS

Charity & non-profit › Wildlife Trust, WWF, RSPB
Public sector & government › DEFRA, Natural England, Forestry Commission, Environment Agency



5 skills biology will give your child

1. Curiosity
2. Organisation
3. Analysis
4. Communication
5. Critical thinking

Jobs directly linked to biology

- Biomedical scientist

Common career paths for biologists:

- Plant scientist
- Environment officer

Career paths you might not have thought of:

- Epidemiologist
- Science policy advisor

Business

Studying business prepares students for many jobs, providing an understanding of leadership and people skills as well commercial awareness and problem-solving.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Automation implementation specialist
Automation poses a number of issues for businesses. On the one hand it can make them more efficient and therefore profitable; on the other it's expected to lead to job losses. Managing the transition to greater automation will need specific skills. Businesses need to understand the new technology and how best to use it for their company. Automation implementation specialists need to manage people carefully, which might include retraining or upskilling workers who will lose existing jobs due to automation.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Various industries › Business development manager
Salary: £25,000 – £60,000
Career: This role focuses on growing a business, which might be through attracting new customers, or encouraging existing customers to buy more. It also involves building relationships with suppliers and other partners. People skills are an asset and being able to think critically and strategically is a must as well.

EDUCATION

At 14: GCSE Choose GCSE business
At 16: A-level / equivalent Choose A-level business (or equivalent). Or the BTEC National in business
At 18: Apply for a degree in business development or business management, or an apprenticeship as an improvement leader

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

Maths, economics

EMPLOYERS

IT & technology › Google, Microsoft, Apple
Banking & finance › JP Morgan, NatWest, HSBC, Barclays

5 skills business will give your child

1. Decision making
2. People skills
3. Critical thinking
4. Commercial awareness
5. Time management

Jobs directly linked to business:

- Financial trader

Common career paths for business students:

- Data analyst
- Risk manager

Career paths you might not have thought of:

- Occupational psychologist
- Construction manager

Chemistry

Chemists have the power to do a lot of good, from exploring new water treatment methods or searching for sustainable ways to generate energy to developing new treatments for illnesses such as cancer and malaria.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Organometallic chemist
This is a field that's expected to grow within chemistry. It's the study of chemical compounds that have metal-carbon bonds, as well as their reactions. It's essential for many industrial processes. Research in this area could lead to new processes or products in sectors like energy production and pharmaceuticals.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Police, Security & Emergencies › Forensic scientist
Salary: £20,000 – £45,000
Career: This job involves analysing traces of physical evidence from crime scenes and prepare this evidence for use in court. Forensic scientists use analytical skills and take a methodical approach, paying close attention to detail to ensure any evidence handled or prepared is admissible in court.

EDUCATION

At 14: GCSE Choose GCSE chemistry or combined science
At 16: A-level / equivalent A-level/equivalent › Choose A-level chemistry (or equivalent). Or a BTEC National in forensic and criminal investigation
At 18: Choose a degree in chemistry, biology or forensic science

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

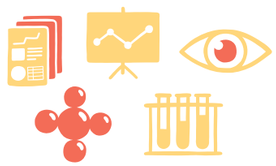
Biology, physics, maths

EMPLOYERS

Police & law enforcement › Scottish Police Authority Forensic Services, Metropolitan Police Specialist Crime and Operations
Science › Cellmark Forensic Services, SOCOTEC UK, Eurofins Forensic Services

5 skills chemistry will give your child

1. Collating
2. Presentation
3. Investigation
4. Analysis
5. Attention to detail



Jobs directly linked to chemistry:

- Pharmacologist

Common career paths for chemists:

- Nuclear engineer
- Biotechnologist

Career paths you might not have thought of:

- Environmental consultant
- Materials engineer

Computer Science

Computer science in the broadest sense relates to computing in our daily lives. Some of the skills your child will learn are technical, such as programming and database development. But there are plenty of transferable skills that set students up for a range of jobs.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

AI engineers
AI is already playing a growing role in our world. We've got virtual assistants like Siri and Alexa in our homes. This is also the technology being used to develop self-driving cars. Computer scientists use their programming skills to work on new forms of transport or help maintain the automated systems that make everything from food to computers.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

IT & The Internet › Software tester
Salary: £18,000 – £50,000
Career: Software testers test software and systems to find issues that need to be fixed before a product is launched. Understanding software and the various testing methods is vital and software testers also need communication skills to share their findings with other team members.

EDUCATION

At 14: GCSE Choose computer science and maths
At 16: A-level / equivalent Choose computer science and maths A-level, or equivalent, or a BTEC National Diploma in IT (software development)
At 18: A degree in computer science or IT prepares students well, but degrees in maths, physics, electrical engineering and chemistry can also lead to this job. Students can also apply for an apprenticeship as a software tester

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

Electronics

EMPLOYERS

IT › IBM, Microsoft, Cisco
Media & marketing › mobile app developers, BBC, Netflix

5 skills computer science will give your child

1. Problem solving
2. Mathematical skills
3. Data analysis
4. Creativity
5. Logical thinking

Jobs directly linked to computer science:

- VFX artist

Common career paths for computer scientists:

- Robotics engineer
- PPC specialist

Career paths you might not have thought of:

- User researcher
- Supply chain manager

Design and Technology

Design and technology teaches students about every element of the design process. Specialist knowledge of the design, prototyping and manufacturing process is essential for those wanting to go into design professions.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Robot designer

According to the latest Future of Jobs report from the World Economic Forum, up to 37% of companies plan to invest in robots by 2022. These vary from humanoid robots to stationary robots and everything in between. Businesses in the oil and gas sector are investing in the development of aerial and underwater robots, which will need to be designed for a variety of tasks. Organisations in financial services are exploring the introduction of humanoid robots. Design and technology students could use their design skills to develop robots people enjoy interacting with.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Fashion & Beauty › Textile designer

Salary: £15,000 – £40,000

Career: This job is all about creating designs for fabrics. Textile designers typically work on products for the home, such as sofas, cushions and other soft furnishings. Textile designers use their creativity as well as the knowledge they've developed about textiles and their properties.

EDUCATION

At 14: GCSE Choose GCSE design and technology and specialise in fashion and textiles if that's an option
At 16: A-level / equivalent Choose A-level design and technology and specialise in fashion and textiles
At 18: Choose a degree in art and design, fashion or textiles. Or look for an apprenticeship as a fashion and textiles product technologist

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

Art and design

EMPLOYERS

Fashion › Asos, Arcadia Group, River Island
Interior design › Tetrad, Ikea, Autumn Down

5 skills design and technology will give your child

1. Problem solving
2. Methodical thinking
3. Creativity
4. IT
5. Collaboration

Jobs directly linked to design and technology:

- Exhibition designer

Common career paths for design and technology students:

- Graphic designer
- Design Engineer

Career paths you might not have thought of:

- Purchasing manager
- Automotive engineer

Drama

Studying drama at school doesn't just pave the way to a career in acting. From makeup and wardrobe to lighting, set design and production – these are all careers that can begin in drama class.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Voice actor

Video games are growing in popularity. The introduction of augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) will see this industry evolve in the coming years. The characters that appear in these video games need voices. Players want to believe they're interacting with a real person. Businesses also need real people to provide the voices for their virtual assistants. Drama students develop voice acting skills, providing opportunities to move away from traditional theatre.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Performing Arts › Theatre stage manager

Salary: £18,000 – £45,000

Career: Theatre stage managers ensure everything is ready for a performance, managing rehearsals, costume fittings, props, actors, technicians and front-of-house staff. They need excellent communication skills and a good all-round understanding of theatrical performances.

EDUCATION

At 14: GCSE Choose GCSE drama
At 16: A-level / equivalent Choose A-level drama and theatre (or equivalent) or take a BTEC National in performing arts
At 18: Apply for a degree in performing arts production, theatre practice, stage management or technical theatre

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

English literature, design and technology, music

EMPLOYERS

Theatres › National Theatre, The Old Vic, Royal Exchange Theatre, Crucible Theatre
Film & TV › BBC, Channel 4, Pinewood, Warner Bros.

5 skills drama will give your child

1. Presentation
2. Teamwork
3. Creativity
4. Decision making
5. Communication

Jobs directly linked to drama:

- Actor

Common career paths for drama students:

- Set designer
- Wardrobe supervisor

Career paths you might not have thought of:

- Community arts worker
- Broadcast presenter

Economics

Economists work in many sectors, but are particularly sought after in business, finance and government. They use their analytical skills and expert knowledge to predict trends in national economies, financial markets and business sectors.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Process automation specialist
This is an emerging role named in the World Economic Forum's latest Future of Jobs report. Economics students' knowledge of business processes and systems mean they're well-placed to work in this area. Their communication skills will also be invaluable to explain workplace changes. They may need to help staff adapt as more tasks get automated.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Various › Financial risk analyst
Salary: £21,000 – £74,000
Career: Financial risk analysts assess the potential financial risks facing a business. They work in the industrial, commercial and public sectors. As well as predicting internal risks, they use their economics knowledge to identify future trends. Analytical and critical thinking skills are essential.

EDUCATION

At 14: GCSE Choose GCSE economics
At 16: A-level / equivalent Choose A-level economics (or equivalent)
At 18: Choose a degree in economics, risk management, accountancy, finance or mathematics

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

Business, maths, statistics

EMPLOYERS

Insurance › Aviva, Ageas, Hiscox UK
Public sector › HM Treasury, National Audit Office, Office for National Statistics, Office for Budget Responsibility

5 skills economics will give your child

1. Numeracy
2. Communication
3. Problem solving
4. Decision making
5. Data analysis

Jobs directly linked to economics:
- Investment analyst

Common career paths for economists:
- Statistician
- Insurance underwriter

Career paths you might not have thought of:
- Policy officer
- Pension scheme manager

English

English is how we communicate. We all speak, read and write it every day, whatever our job. Good written and spoken English is one of the top skills employers in every industry look for.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

UX and human-machine interaction designers
Every machine needs an interface. Working out the best way for people to communicate with and operate new technology is a specialist job. These professionals work with people as well as new technology to test ideas. Listening to and collecting feedback from end users and then explaining the changes that need to be made to designers is all part of the process.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Advertising, Marketing & Public Relations › PR and communications officer
Salary: £18,000 – £90,000
Career: PR is all about making businesses and people look and sound good. Students manage and maintain the reputation of their clients. Communication skills are essential for sharing and tailoring key messages to specific audiences. PR officers keep an eye on what's being said in the media and on social media and come up with appropriate responses.

EDUCATION

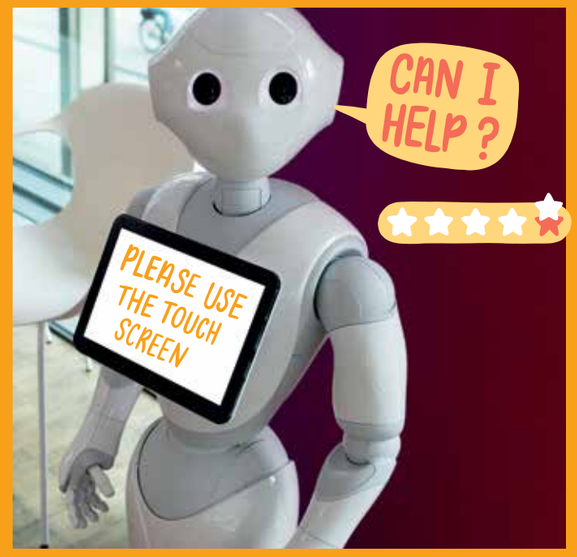
At 14: GCSE Choose English/English literature and English language
At 16: A-level / equivalent Choose English literature or English language A-level (or both)
At 18: Degrees in marketing, communication and media studies, English, politics and social sciences are some of the best options to get into PR. Students can also find an apprenticeship as a PR and communications assistant

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

Media studies, languages

EMPLOYERS

PR & marketing › Weber Shandwick, Octopus Group, Citizen Relations
Public sector › Universities, government departments, Police Federation of England and Wales



5 skills English will give your child

1. Communication
2. Creativity
3. Critical thinking
4. Textual analysis
5. Essay writing

Jobs directly linked to English:
- Social media manager

Common career paths for English students:
- Primary school teacher
- Broadcast production assistant

Career paths you might not have thought of:
- Paralegal
- Speech and language therapist (SLT)

Geography

Geography dictates where we build our homes and how we protect them from things like flooding and earthquakes. It can be used to predict the spread of diseases. It's how we find natural resources and energy sources.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Aerial or underwater robot operator

Exciting new technology allows us to carry out surveys, including remote-operated aerial drones, which can be used to assess disaster zones. Remote-operated underwater vehicles can be sent to survey the deepest parts of the ocean and help us learn more about this fascinating environment.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Science & Research › Climate scientist

Salary: £27,000 – £55,0000

Career: Climate scientists study the Earth's climate over time and look at what influences changes in its climate. They consider how these changes will affect us in the future, using data collecting and analysis skills from geography. They also look for solutions to potential problems.

EDUCATION

At 14: GCSE Choose GCSE geography
At 16: A-level / equivalent Choose A-level geography (or equivalent)
At 18: Choose a degree in geography, environmental science or meteorology and climate science

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

Maths, physics

EMPLOYERS

Research › Environmental Change Institute, Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, Climatic Research Unit
Public sector › Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Committee on Climate Change

5 skills geography will give your child

1. Data analysis
2. Critical thinking
3. IT
4. Research
5. Teamwork

Jobs directly linked to geography:

- Environmental consultant

Common career paths for geography students:

- Cartographer
- Market researcher

Career paths you might not have thought of:

- International aid/development worker
- Tourism officer

History

Historians carry out research using lots of different sources. Piecing information together to create a complete picture of an event, society or era requires analytical, creative and critical thinking skills.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Futurist

A futurist works in the field of futurology. It's becoming more difficult to predict what's going to happen and governments are looking for people who can provide reassurance on the best way to move forward. History students' critical thinking skills prepare them well for this role. They will communicate how the world is changing to the general public and explain how this might affect the global population.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Education & Teaching › Museum education officer

Salary: £17,000 – £40,000

Career: This job ensures the collections in a museum are educational. Museum education officers look for ways to make the exhibits engaging for visitors of all ages, and run events to encourage people to visit. Historical knowledge is crucial. They also use communication and presentation skills.

EDUCATION

At 14: GCSE Choose GCSE history
At 16: A-level / equivalent Choose A-level history (or equivalent)
At 18: Choose a degree in an area such as history, cultural studies, community education or archive and museum studies

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

English literature, art and design

EMPLOYERS

Charity & not-for-profit › National Maritime Museum, People's History Museum in Manchester, National Museum Wales
Education › University museums and galleries

5 skills history will give your child

1. Critical thinking
2. Time management
3. Communication
4. Research
5. Debating

Jobs directly linked to history:

- Archaeologist

Common career paths for historians:

- Secondary school teacher
- Conservator/conservation officer

Career paths you might not have thought of:

- Broadcast journalist
- Human resources officer

Languages

Languages are how we communicate but they are also part of our cultural identity. Speaking a foreign language is particularly useful in areas such as journalism, politics and international business.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Translation app developer
The need to communicate across borders is growing. Linguists can use their language knowledge and skills to develop translation apps. They can also help programmers think about user experience and cultural differences when creating apps to help support global communication.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Various industries › Simultaneous interpreter
Salary: Variable
Career: A simultaneous interpreter immediately translates what's being said in one language into another language. Usually, listeners will hear the interpretation through an earpiece while the speaker is still talking. Having excellent language skills is essential for this job.

EDUCATION

At 14: GCSE Choose a GCSE in modern languages
At 16: A-level / equivalent Choose an A-level in modern languages (or equivalent)
At 18: Choose a degree in modern languages that specialises in interpreting

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

English literature, business

EMPLOYERS

Politics › European Union, United Nations
Police, security & emergency services › police forces, prison service

5 skills economics will give your child

1. **Communication**
2. **Critical thinking**
3. **Independence**
4. **Problem solving**
5. **Adaptability**

Jobs directly linked to languages:
- Secondary school teacher

Common career paths for linguists:
- International aid/development worker
- Sales executive/representative

Career paths you might not have thought of:
- Diplomatic service officer
- Investment analyst

Maths

Mathematicians can be found in organisations of all kinds and sizes. Accountants and financial managers are some of obvious options – but maths students can even pursue a more creative profession, such as a game designer or architect.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Blockchain specialists
Blockchain is a system that works with cryptocurrencies, which are a form of digital money. Bitcoin is the best-known cryptocurrency, but there are many others. With more businesses and individuals starting to use cryptocurrencies, there's a need for people with mathematical and computing skills who can make this new financial system run smoothly.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Banking & Finance/Insurance & Pensions › Actuary
Salary: £29,000 – £200,000
Career: Actuaries are problem solvers and strategic thinkers who use their skills to help measure the probability and risk of future events. Actuaries make sure governments, businesses and organisations can look to the future, analyse risk and take the steps they need to succeed in a fast-changing world.

EDUCATION

At 14: GCSE Choose maths
At 16: A-level / equivalent Choose maths A-level
At 18: Choose a specialist degree in actuarial science, or a more general degree in maths or statistics. A 2:1 or above is required. An alternative is an apprenticeship as an actuary

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

Economics, engineering, science, computing

EMPLOYERS

Banking & finance and insurance & pensions › JP Morgan, Deloitte, PwC, Aon, Aviva
Public sector › Government Actuary's Department
Consultancy › APR, KPMG, Willis Towers Watson

5 skills maths will give your child

1. **Problem solving**
2. **Numeracy**
3. **Data analysis**
4. **Presentation**
5. **Statistical sampling**

Jobs directly linked to maths:
- Tax adviser

Common career paths for mathematicians:
- Forensic computer analyst
- Quantity surveyor

Career paths you might not have thought of:
- Meteorologist
- Acoustics consultant

Music

Many musicians go on to an artistic career but the study of music also nurtures numeracy, logic, analysis and problem solving, social and historic understanding and the ability to master advanced technical skills.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Video game composer
As the universes and plotlines of video games become richer and more vivid, their soundtracks are increasingly taking on the character of film scores and the great orchestral works of the past. Composers use their vast creativity and imagination, as well as their technical ability, to craft memorable and well-matched musical scores to complement the worlds evoked in video games.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Performing Arts › Music journalist
Salary: £16,000 – £40,000
Career: Music journalists report on music news, interview musicians and review albums and concerts. They cover genres from rock, hip hop and metal to baroque, folk and world. Music journalists combine research, communication, writing and creativity skills with knowledge of the music industry. It's important to be aware that music journalism is extremely difficult to break into, and very hard to make a living from. There are now a very limited number of music magazines; most publishers are online.

EDUCATION

At 14: GCSE Choose music GCSE
At 16: A-level / equivalent Choose music A-level
At 18: Music or any degree / journalism apprenticeship

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

English

EMPLOYERS

Publishing and online media › Vice, Pitchfork, NME, Q Magazine
Self-employment

5 skills music will give your child

1. Creativity and imagination
2. Composition
3. Technical skills
4. Teamwork
5. Critical thinking

Jobs directly linked to music:

- Music therapist

Common career paths for musicians:

- Musician
- Sound engineer

Career paths you might not have thought of:

- Software engineer
- Jingle writer

PE

PE focuses on fitness, movement and skills development. But it also explores the science behind playing sport. It teaches us how our bodies work when we exercise.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Health data analyst
With more and more data being collected about patients, it's essential to have people who can interpret this. Perhaps surprisingly, students learn data analysis skills when they study PE. This helps students interpret the information that's collected and allow them to make.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Sport & Fitness › Personal trainer
Salary: £14,000 – £22,000
Career: PTs help people to achieve their exercise goals and become fitter and healthier. Their knowledge of how the body responds to exercise will be useful here. They also need excellent communication skills to interact with clients and explain training regimes.

EDUCATION

At 14: GCSE Choose GCSE PE
At 16: A-level / equivalent Choose A-level PE (or equivalent). Or take the BTEC National in sport
At 18: Choose a degree in sports science, personal training or health, fitness and exercise science. Or apply for an apprenticeship as a personal trainer

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

Biology, maths

EMPLOYERS

Fitness centres › Fitness First, PureGym, Anytime Fitness
Self-employed › Many personal trainers work on a freelance basis

5 skills PE will give your child

1. Communication
2. Leadership
3. Teamwork
4. Strategic thinking
5. Time management

Jobs directly linked to PE:

- Sports development officer

Common career paths for PE students:

- Sports therapist
- Fitness/leisure centre manager

Career paths you might not have thought of:

- Outdoor activities/education manager
- Physiotherapist

Physics

Physicists study matter and energy, fundamental to every scientific discipline. It's also useful for jobs in engineering, computing, construction and many other industries.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Satellite developer
The UK's space sector is one of the fastest-growing areas of our economy. We rely on satellites for everything from our mobile phone networks to data about climate change. Knowledge of physics principles is essential to develop working satellites. Physicists use practical skills to test their ideas and communication skills to explain their findings to colleagues, partners and clients.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Science & Research › Nanotechnologist
Salary: £25,000 – £60,000
Career: Nanotechnologists work with nanoscale particles and interactions to design and build devices. They conduct experiments and analyse the findings to see how they can be applied in a practical way. Knowledge of physics, as well as analytical thinking skills, are crucial in this job.

EDUCATION

At 14: GCSE Choose GCSE physics or combined science
At 16: A-level / equivalent Choose A-level physics
At 18: Apply for a degree in physics, biology, chemistry, engineering or another related subject. Consider as master's or PhD to progress further

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

Chemistry, biology, maths, computer science

EMPLOYERS

Research › University of Cambridge, Newcastle University
Industry › Agar Scientific, Lucideon

5 skills physics will give your child

1. Problem solving
2. Data analysis
3. Research
4. Critical thinking
5. Communication skills

Jobs directly linked to physics:

- Geophysicist

Common career paths for physics students:

- Software Engineer
- Operational researcher

Career paths you might not have thought of:

- Patent attorney
- Radiographer

Psychology

Psychology is the study of human behaviour. It explores the causes of human behaviour in biological, behavioural, social and cognitive terms, helping us make sense of how we perceive the world and why we behave the way we do.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Human-machine interaction designer
As we use machines for more and more tasks, people will need to interact with them more often. Understanding how people like to interact with machines will be crucial when designing new interfaces. The technology needs to be accessible and easy to use, in order to encourage people to adopt it.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Education & Teaching › Educational psychologist
Salary: £22,955 – £66,276
Career: At the core of this job is helping children and young people improve their learning. They work with young people who are experiencing a range of difficulties to improve their wellbeing. They also need a strong knowledge of psychological theory, and excellent communication skills.

EDUCATION

At 14: GCSE Choose GCSE psychology
At 16: A-level / equivalent Choose A-level psychology (or equivalent). Or the BTEC in applied psychology
At 18: Choose a degree in psychology. Make sure it's a Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership (GBC) qualifying course

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

English language, maths

EMPLOYERS

Public sector › local authority children's services, NHS
Charities & not-for-profit › Barnardos, the National Autistic Society

5 skills psychology will give your child

1. Teamwork
2. Reasoning
3. Critical thinking
4. Research
5. Data analysis

Jobs directly linked to psychology:

- Sport and exercise psychologist

Common career paths for psychology students:

- Counsellor
- Youth worker

Career paths you might not have thought of:

- Mediator
- UX researcher

Sociology

Sociology is the study of society, how it affects people's behaviours and how they experience everyday life within it. It is a wide-ranging subject, combining elements of the humanities with aspects of science, equipping students with skills useful in lots of very different career paths.

JOB OF THE FUTURE

Climate change and sustainability researcher

As societies are forced to adapt quickly to the threats from climate change, someone is going to need to plan our way through the big social upheavals that will ensue, and help people adapt to very different ways of living. Climate change and sustainability researchers will think about what the radically different societies of the future will look like and how we get from here to there as smoothly as possible. They will carry out quantitative and qualitative research through interviews, surveys and data analysis.

EXAMPLE CAREER PATH

Science & Research › Social researcher

Salary: £20,000 – £70,000

Career: Social researchers are professional social scientists who plan, conduct and report on research studies, usually on commission from the government, a political party, a policy institute, charity or NGO. They use advanced research skills and work independently or with other researchers.

EDUCATION

At 14: GCSE Choose sociology GCSE if available
At 16: A-level / equivalent Choose sociology A-level
At 18: Apply for a degree such as economics, maths, policy, or sociology. Employers prefer degrees with a strong research or analytical element

OTHER SCHOOL SUBJECTS TO CONSIDER

Maths, economics

EMPLOYERS

Public sector › Local government, Civil Service, NHS
Science & research › University, think tank

5 skills sociology will give your child

1. Research
2. Communication
3. Analysis
4. Teamwork
5. Cross-cultural understanding

Jobs directly linked to sociology:

- Sport and exercise psychologist

Common career paths for sociology students:

- Counsellor
- Youth worker

Career paths you might not have thought of:

- Mediator
- UX researcher

CAREERS SUPPORT THROUGH CORONAVIRUS

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

We have a host of resources available on the Success at School website.

Careers Action Plan for students

We have created a Careers Action Plan which students can complete during the lockdown.

Parents' mailing list

You can sign up to our mailing list exclusively for parents to get support directly to your inbox.

Career Zone Spotlight

We have created a series of articles shining a spotlight on different industries – each one with a different worksheet for students to complete at home.

Visit our coronavirus careers support hub for parents: tinyurl.com/covid-careers-parents

YOUR ACTION PLAN

Use what you have learnt from the different sections in this guide to work with your child on the following tasks.

NAME	

1. CHOOSING A CAREER (Page 5)

Follow the steps in this section and record 3 careers you are interested in pursuing.

1.	2.	3.

2. PATHWAYS INTO WORK (Page 8)

For each of the 3 careers your child selected in task 1 above, research the different pathways (University, Apprenticeship, Vocational) into these jobs and record them below.

ROLE	UNIVERSITY	APPRENTICESHIP	VOCATIONAL

3. KEY SKILLS (Page 14)

Research and record 3 key skills your child would like to improve and how they intend to work on them.

SKILL 1	SKILL 2	SKILL 2

4. WORK EXPERIENCE (Page 16)

Following the prompts below, research and record work experience placements connected to one or more of your child's chosen career preferences.

A LOCAL EMPLOYER YOUR CHILD HAS PROACTIVELY APPROACHED.	A WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME.

5. FUTURE-PROOFING (Page 20)

Pick one of the industries you highlighted together in task 1 above. Research one new or emerging role within this industry and record the pathways into this role, plus the skills and experience required to do it. Alternatively, pick an appropriate job we have listed in the Future-proofing section.

Role	
Pathways into role	
Skills needed	
Experience needed	