



Still in school?

How to get a head start.

Even if you've still got time left at school, it's worth looking into all the options you'll have once you leave so you can start making decisions and planning your future early. Here are a few ideas to help you get started:

What are my choices?

This depends on the career you want (and it's okay if you don't know what that is yet). Start thinking about what you could do, whether that's University, an Apprenticeship, going on a gap year or even going straight to work. Each option can affect your opportunities as soon as you leave school, for example, whether you choose to start A Levels, and which subjects you pick. Research all the options available and keep an open mind, as you never know where your future might lead you, or if your mind will change.

Summer Schools

If you want to see if University life is for you, you could try schemes such as the Sutton Trust Summer Schools, which offer sessions in over forty Degree subjects at eleven leading Universities – you can explore academia through taster lectures, meet new people (including current undergraduates, who'll tell you what University is really like), and even get support on your UCAS application.

Here are some other tips to get you started:

- > Talk with your teachers or career's advisor on available options
- > Psychometric tests to match you to a career

Research Online

Researching online can also be helpful – using resources such as Gov.UK and UCAS can provide you with more detailed information about your options.

Getting Ahead

There are things you can do now to benefit you as you investigate your future. You can boost your CV by starting a part-time job, or volunteering – both of which show initiative as well as commitment. Volunteering could include anything from going overseas to help in schools or going to visit older relatives in a care home – it depends on what you can do and the time you have.

NCS

One example of volunteering is the National Citizen Service (NCS), which you can take part in during the summer holiday. This gives you the opportunity to meet new people, build your skills and work to overcome challenges – and it looks great to future employers as well as on your UCAS application.

Work Experience

Additionally, you could get work experience in areas you're interested in – this way you can narrow down your choices depending on what you enjoy, whether that's working in a shop, or your parent's building site. There's plenty to consider – but don't panic! With so much choice available to you once you leave school, you're guaranteed to find what you want to do.

Ready, set, GO!



Still in school?

Talking to your parents about your options.

Some parents may have a set idea about what you should do in the future, whether that's going to university, or joining the family business. However, it is important to keep your choices open and consider all the opportunities you have. To help your parents or carer understand what you're thinking, we have compiled some useful advice on how to talk to them about it - but remember, the decision is ultimately yours.

Explaining your Options

If you're worried that your parents may not be accepting of what you want to do after you leave school, it is important to think it through first. Make a list of benefits about each option you have and plan how each could benefit your career as you progress. This may help convince them that whatever you choose can be the correct decision.

Be open with your decisions

For example, if you're considering a degree Apprenticeship as an alternative route to university, make a list of all the potential benefits it may have. This could include things like the fact that you will be earning a wage to support yourself, or that you won't have the same debts full-time students will. Also, this shows them that you have taken time to consider what it is you want to do, and that you're choosing the path ideal for you.

Be prepared to listen

Consider your parents' concerns about the options you are considering. It might not always be that they are stubborn about what they want you to do, it may just be that they do not understand your choices. They may be more open to these if you show you are willing to listen to their point of view. For instance, they may just be worried that if you've chosen to go to University or move away for an Apprenticeship that you will be unsuited to living so independently - or they might just miss you!

Find a compromise

If your parents are still unwilling to listen to your decisions, there may be a compromise you can reach instead. For example, if you want to do an Apprenticeship but your parents want you to attend university, suggest that you undertake a Degree Apprenticeship - a mix of both.

It's your choice

It's important to remember that leaving school gives you the opportunity to become more independent. Ultimately, it is your decision what you choose to do.

54%

of parents are in the dark about their children's career options at 18. By fully explaining the different opportunities you have to your parents they may be more accepting of whatever you choose.



Listening to each other is important