



Year 10 - Preparing for Next Steps

Tips and advice to help year 10s prepare for next steps after school

Hi Year 10s!

I hope you are staying safe and well!

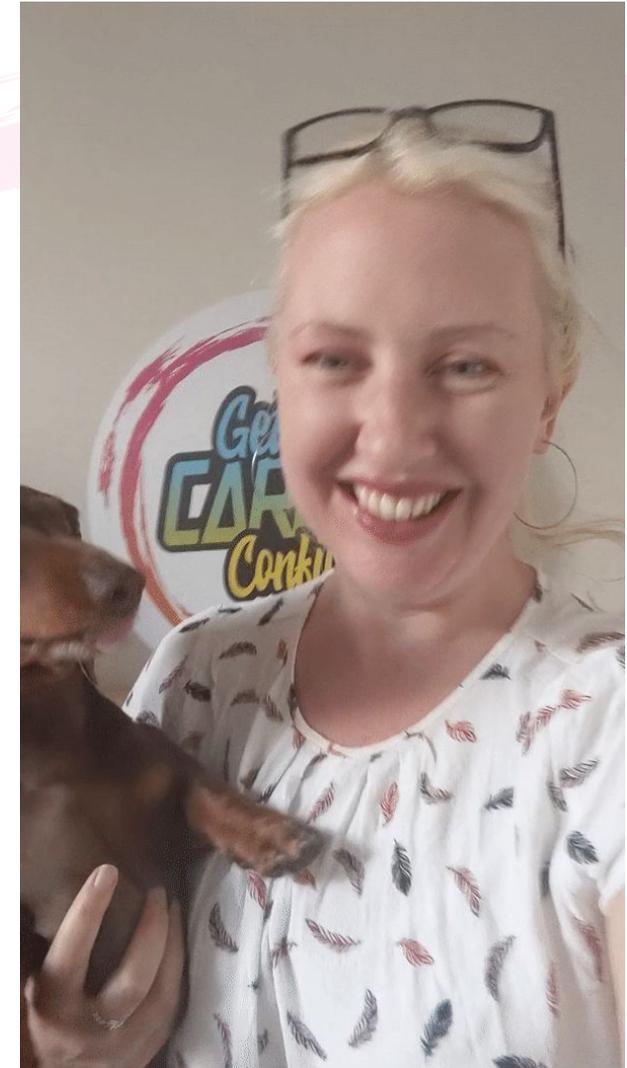
I know life might feel very uncertain at the moment so I wanted to give you some key information to make sure you are as prepared as possible for your next steps!

Work through the next few pages, watch the videos relevant to you and make sure you are feeling confident for whatever the future holds!

Take care,

Miranda, Careers Advisor

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What we are going to cover

1. Top Tips for Everyone
2. Post 16 Choices - where, what
3. How to Choose
4. What about work experience
5. Want to do an Apprenticeship?
6. Remember - this won't be forever!





1. Top Tips for Everyone

1. Mental Health is paramount - have a read of [Unicef's top tips](#).
2. Be kind to yourself. Even small [achievements](#) count! Listen to Lizzo's [advice](#)!
3. Keep working - learning online is different and it can be difficult to stay [motivated](#) but remember the work still counts and your brain and future you, will thank you!
4. Bored? Then watch our [video](#) for suggestions for free online courses and read our Boredom Breakers [handout](#).
5. Some college deadlines for applications are the beginning of December so start research now. Watch our video [overview](#) to get an idea of the choices you will be making.
6. Get help from Get Career Confident! Keep up to date on [Instagram](#), watch our [videos](#) and book a careers [interview](#) for more help.





2. Post 16 Choices - Where

Watch this [video](#) introducing the range of places you can study.

School 6th form - attached to a school, usually small and with less choices but smaller classes

6th Form College - 16-19 year olds generally large with lots of students with a range of courses

Further Education College - 16 - 19 year olds and adults, vocational courses, apprenticeships and adult education

Specialist Colleges - With a specific subject focus

Alternative Provision - Small employability courses, pre apprenticeship providers etc

Normally college taster days in the summer term help students get a feel for different institutes. This year students will have to rely on research from home and open eyes in the autumn term.



2. Post 16 Choices - What

Should you study a vocational or a more academic course - [Watch this video](#) to see what the difference is.

Watch this breakdown of different [qualifications](#):

A Levels

BTECs

International Baccalaureate

NVQs & other vocational quals

A-Levels	
Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to study different topics, giving you the choice of career to pursue• Suited towards people who do well under pressure and in exams• Some specific Uni courses require A-Levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The amount of work can be overwhelming• You could lose interest in one or more subjects, meaning you'll either have to drop it or begrudgingly carry on• Most likely to be assessed through exams

There's a much bigger choice of subjects at college so make sure you have a look at a few college websites to compare courses!

2. Post 16 Choices - How to choose

Now you know about your options how do you decide what to study and where? Watch this [video](#) about how to make choices.

Consider these three questions and try and make sure you can say yes to at least two in regards to what you are choosing to do after GCSE:

1. Do I enjoy it or think I will
2. Am I good at it or do I have potential to be good at it
3. Will it be useful/is it essential for my future

Use the websites below to help you to answer these questions, explore career ideas for your future and pathways and get informed about the different options available to you so you can make an informed decision about what to do next.



Research & Exploration

[Get Career Confident Videos](#)

[Careers Quiz](#) (long)

[Careers Quiz](#) (short)

[Job Info](#)

[Specific websites](#)

[Informed Choices](#)

What about work experience?

If you missed out on Work Experience this summer you can still do it (online)

<https://barclayslifeskills.com/i-want-virtual-work-experience/school/virtual-work-experience>

<https://www.speakersforschools.org/experience-2/vwex/>

<https://www.insidesherpa.com/>

<https://investin.org/>

<https://scapegroup.typeform.com/to/QAEQey>

<https://etonx.com/uk-schools/> (employability courses)

We have lots of online personal development suggestions [here](#)



Online or face to face work experience is very important as it helps you to road test ideas and see if the reality matches your expectations! It also demonstrates evidence of your interest in an area of work to potential employers and universities. Remember students can do it outside of school!

6. Want to do an Apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships



1. Watch our videos on:
an [overview of apprenticeships](#)
on [how to choose an apprenticeship](#)
on [how to find one](#)
[showcasing some local apprenticeships](#) (write 'apprenticeship' in the search box).
2. Download this [guide](#). It is very thorough and it will cover everything you need to know as well as show you how to start searching for and applying to apprenticeships.
3. Students may have to start an apprenticeship lower than the qualification they already have (if it is in a completely new area they haven't any experience in).
4. Don't forget YOU MUST apply for a college place as a backup. Apprenticeships are not guaranteed so you need a back up plan. You can always start an apprenticeship instead if you find one!
5. When you start your apprenticeship make sure you get a discount [card](#).

Remember this won't be forever!

