



Working in Partnership with Outwood Grange Academy Trust

Key Facts Sheet

Dear Tutor

We know you get asked lots of questions by students about career options but perhaps you do not always know where they can find out more.

We hope these facts will help you to direct students and their parents / carers to useful websites as well as support your discussions with students. We will be providing various pieces of information throughout the year and really appreciate the role you play in "signposting" students and encouraging them to take next steps in their career planning.

The information attached includes some basic facts about the following:

- Learning Pathways
- The Local Labour Market
- Top tips to share with your students to help them to beat the competition
- Useful websites and sources of information for students, parents/carers and yourself

General careers information can be found on a number of websites including:

www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobfamily/job_profiles

www.plotr.co.uk

www.growingambitions.tes.co.uk/jobs - career profiles

Learning Pathways

There are a number of Learning Pathways that a student may wish to consider and we have provided additional fact sheets for your information on each of these.

Studying AS and A2 levels at Sixth Form or College

For most students AS/A2 level study is a route into Professional Careers as the next step after AS/A2 levels is usually a Degree course at a University or College of Higher Education. However students can also compete for a range of professional careers through a Higher Apprenticeship

Universities and Colleges offer places on Degree courses based on AS level grades.

Entry requires a strong GCSE profile: a minimum of B grades for most subjects, for example: if a student is looking to take Maths or Sciences at AS level, B grades in those subjects at GCSE level are essential. Maths and English GCSE at Grade C and above are usually essential for entry.

Choosing subjects – some key questions you may like to use to encourage students and their parents/carers to make informed choices:

- Did the student study the subject at GCSE, did they enjoy it and feel they want to learn about the subject in more depth?
- If they did study a subject at GCSE – did they achieve a strong grade ie preferably a minimum of a Grade B?
- Is the student interested in studying new subjects e.g. Psychology, Economics, Politics? If so what research have they done to ensure they really understand what the subject involves?
- Is the student aware of the topics that will be studied for each subject – are they interested in the topics that will be covered?
- Does the student understand that the coverage and topics for AS/A2 level subjects studied at GCSE are likely to be different?
- Is the student aware of the range & level of work required?
- Do the subject choices support the student's career aims?
- Is the student aware that specific AS/A level subjects may be required to enter Degree courses linked to a particular career area, for example:

-Science and Medical courses usually require Chemistry and Biology

- Maths and Physics are often required for Engineering courses

-English, Media and Sociology are relevant subjects for a Journalism Degree

Useful Websites include:

www.prospects.ac.uk

www.bestcourse4me.com and www.hecsu.ac.uk/currentprojectswhatdograduatesdo.htm

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

Vocational Diplomas and Certificates

These courses are offered by local Colleges, such as North Notts College/West Notts College and some Sixth Forms/Post 16 Centres.

They are a practical alternative to AS/A2 levels as they are more industry/employment based.

Students can study some vocational course alongside AS and A2 levels. Locally this would be arranged following a discussion between the student and the Learning Manager in the Worksop Post 16 Centre, to ensure that the combination is appropriate and available.

Students choosing vocational courses study units that cover a wide range of topics relevant for a particular vocational field, including:

Business
Hospitality and Catering
Computer Games Design
Children's and Young Peoples' Workforce
Dental Nursing

There is a very wide range of vocational courses available and students must be committed to or very interested in a particular career or job area before choosing a vocational course.

Vocational courses are available for students at all levels:

- Entry level and Level 1 Diplomas for students with low GCSE grades
- Level 2 Diplomas for students with C/D grades at GCSE
- Level 3 Diplomas for students with 4/5 A-C grades including Maths, English

Students will study Maths and English alongside their vocational course if required.

Students can progress from a Level 1 to a Level 3 course.

Students can enter a Degree course or a Higher Apprenticeship after studying a Level 3 Diploma.

Advanced (level 3) Apprenticeships can be applied for after achieving a Level 2 Diploma.

Intermediate (level 2) Apprenticeships can be applied for after achieving a level 1 Diploma.

For more information, please investigate the local College Websites and attend Open Evenings:

Useful websites include:

North Notts College – www.nnc.ac.uk

West Nottinghamshire college – www.wnc.ac.uk

Doncaster College – www.don.ac.uk

Apprenticeships

- An apprenticeship is a real job with training paid at the national apprenticeship minimum wage currently £2.64 per hour for 16-18 year olds and anyone 19+ in their first apprenticeship year. Some employers will pay more than the minimum rate.
- Apprenticeships usually take one to two years to complete.
- Skills and knowledge training takes place in and away from the workplace. The training is relevant to the job role and the industry or sector the apprentice is working in. An NVQ level 2, 3 or 4 is achieved through practical assessment of the apprentice's capabilities in the work place by a recognised Apprenticeship provider, for example: an Apprentice Accountant would study the Association of Accountancy Technicians (AAT) qualification
- Employers value English and maths skills so Functional skills, such as Literacy, Numeracy and ICT, are also developed and assessed.
- Young people can target apprenticeships at 16, 17 or 18 or after further study. There is a lot of competition for apprenticeships especially in popular work areas or with large employers – so students need to be prepared to compete and willing to travel. An employer will usually undertake selection interviews so students will need an up to date CV, present themselves well at interview as well as demonstrate commitment, interest, enthusiasm, a desire to learn and transferable skills, such as: Reliability, Attendance, Punctuality, Able to follow Instructions, Organisation, Team work, Communication, Flexibility, People skills.

Useful Websites include :

Apprenticeship opportunities and vacancies

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

Major providers of apprenticeships:

North Notts College – www.nnc.ac.uk

West Nottinghamshire college – www.wnc.ac.uk

Doncaster College – www.don.ac.uk

www.businessdoncaster.com/vacancies

Specialist Providers include:

Motor Vehicle Technician – Remit; www.remit.co.uk

Business and Finance – www.babingtonbusinesscollege.co.uk

ICT – QA apprenticeships; www.apprenticeships.qa.com

Construction - JT Ltd – jtltraining.com; , CITB – www.beconstructive.co.uk

Health and Social Care – Care Training East Midlands; www.ctem.uk.com

NB: Many organisations promote their own apprenticeship vacancies on their website

Traineeships:

Traineeships are a new training programme for 16 – 24 young people who aspire to enter an Intermediate (level 2) Apprenticeship, have been unsuccessful but have the potential to become an apprentice. They are offered by Colleges and other major Apprenticeship providers.

The programme can take up to 6 months and offers young people:

- Preparation for work by developing their Core Employability skills
- Relevant work placements offering a genuine apprenticeship opportunity on completion
- English and Maths for those who do not have a GCSE grade at C or a related level 2 qualification
- Specific and relevant nationally recognised vocational qualifications, individual mentoring, careers guidance support; also job search and application and interview preparation.

Students should contact local colleges to enquire about availability of this provision.

Useful Websites include:

North Notts College – www.nnc.ac.uk

West Nottinghamshire college – www.wnc.ac.uk

Doncaster College – www.don.ac.uk

The Local Labour Market:

Some Key Facts:

- More jobs now need higher skills and qualifications.
- Most young people already stay in education or training after 16 to get the job and future they want.
- The law has been changed: from 2013 all young people will carry on learning until 17, and this will rise to 18 from 2015.
- Leaving school at 16 to get a job without training is no longer an option and will have an impact on the Not in Education Employment or Training (NEETS) statistic within your academy
- A large number of firms in this region employ 10 people or less so students need to have a good range of employability skills including communication, team working skills, ability to work on their own initiative, be a self starter and motivated to achieve.

In a survey carried out in 2013, one third of 11,000 English teenagers indicated that their career interests rest in just ten highly competitive occupations.

Seven of the occupations least popular among teenagers, including surveyors and welders, pay above national median salaries.

Oversupply of applicants is apparent in sport, public services (i.e. security) and in customer-facing retail roles. These roles can be typically lower paid occupations.

The changing UK labour market:

<i>Fastest growing jobs</i>	<i>Fastest declining jobs</i>
Pharmaceutical dispensers	Rubber and metal process operatives
Conference organisers	Vehicle assemblers
Managers in energy	Toolmakers
Fitness and sports instructors	Textile operative and sewing machinists
Aircraft pilots	Telephonists

In this region some of the main industries creating jobs are:

- Manufacturing - (research and development, product design, precision engineering, customised manufacturing)
- Business and finance sector - (banks, insurance, law, accountancy, estate agency)
- Creative and digital (graphic design, film, app design)
- Healthcare (care roles, research, precision manufacturing, business, building management)
- Hospitality and tourism (hotels, sport and recreation catering and cultural activities)
- Low carbon industries (wind turbines, solar heat etc)

Top tips to share with your students to help them to beat the competition.....

- Show enthusiasm – a positive attitude counts... you are in a competition to get and keep a job/place on a course!!
- Be quick off the mark – jobs/ opportunities go quickly....
- Get as much experience as you can.
- Get the right qualifications and continue to learn throughout your career to keep ahead of the competition
- Make sure you have at least level 2 in English and Maths- most employers expect this as a minimum.
- Excellent communication skills - oral and written are vital.
- Show that you can work well with others and in a team.
- Develop your problem solving skills and think up new and better ways to doing things.
- Be flexible, deal with change and develop transferable skills that could be used in lots of careers.
- Know your strengths and use them.
- See what needs to be done, do it and persevere when things get tough.
- Get the accurate information, advice and support you need to move forward and manage a successful career for life.
- If you are considering an option or career always ask the employer or provider what happened to young people who did this course or job before you.... this will give you an indication of where it might lead to.
- Always have other options and a "Plan B" to consider – keep your career options open in case you find yourself in a situation where you need to change direction
- Make a decision, develop a plan and make it happen.
- Access Careers Inc support working across The Outwood Grange Academy Trust. This may be in the form of assemblies, Enrichment activities, via your VMG Mentor, on Learning and Pathway Day or for identified students, via an individual interview with Careers Inc in the Academy.