



It is never too soon to think about further and higher education and future career plans. Getting them thinking about their personal qualities, skills and interests is a good first step towards them understanding and exploring possible career options.

We all have our own opinions about what constitutes success and how it is measured and also what is considered a 'good job'. However, most of our opinions are based on our own experiences and our own ideas but often things have moved on since we were in our child's position. Therefore although we can recognise the value of our own ideas it is also worth trying to build on these by researching further in order to support them with their career decisions.

More importantly, communication and help with finding the right tools to help them with their future choices is key to them making informed and well researched decisions.

How can you help?

- Speak to your child regularly about what their aspirations are
- What do they hope to pursue?
- What further and higher education options are available; 6th Form, College, University, Apprenticeship etc.
- Discuss Career options and help them to find relevant information to support their choices
- Encourage them to take opportunities offered which will help them to develop skills for the future and improve their employability.
- Attend any Careers Fairs, College and University Open days, Apprenticeship talks or employer events
- Encourage them to find part time work/volunteer work/work experience or work shadowing during their school holidays.
- Read the school 'Opportunities Newsletter'
- Help them to create/update their CV and or personal statement
- Help them with application processes
- Provide motivation to develop and achieve
- Encourage them to pursue interests and ambitions
- Encourage them to take responsibility
- Instil self-belief
- Allow them the freedom to discover their skills and support their decisions

It is also worth reminding your child that everyone is an individual and will have different skills and attributes so assuming a similar career path to you or another family member or close friend may not necessarily be the right path for them.

Steering our children in the right direction doesn't mean telling them what they might like, they need to discover and find their own way and at the same time know that its ok if they aren't sure what they want to do yet but the important thing is to be proactive and to understand their skills and talents.