

CAREERS - MAKING DECISIONS

We are going to think about how we make decisions and what decisions you'll be faced with when thinking about your future. Decisions are part of what get us to different transition points - if you would like to know more about transitions then check out week 5.

Hopefully, you will have tried a 'Self-Assessment' by now to help generate some ideas but if not pop over to day 2 of this week to have a go.

From this you then may have started to do some Careers Research. This is where you find out as much as you can about the careers that interest you most. You might have lots of ideas and some that have no similarities at all - this is all absolutely fine!

Tip

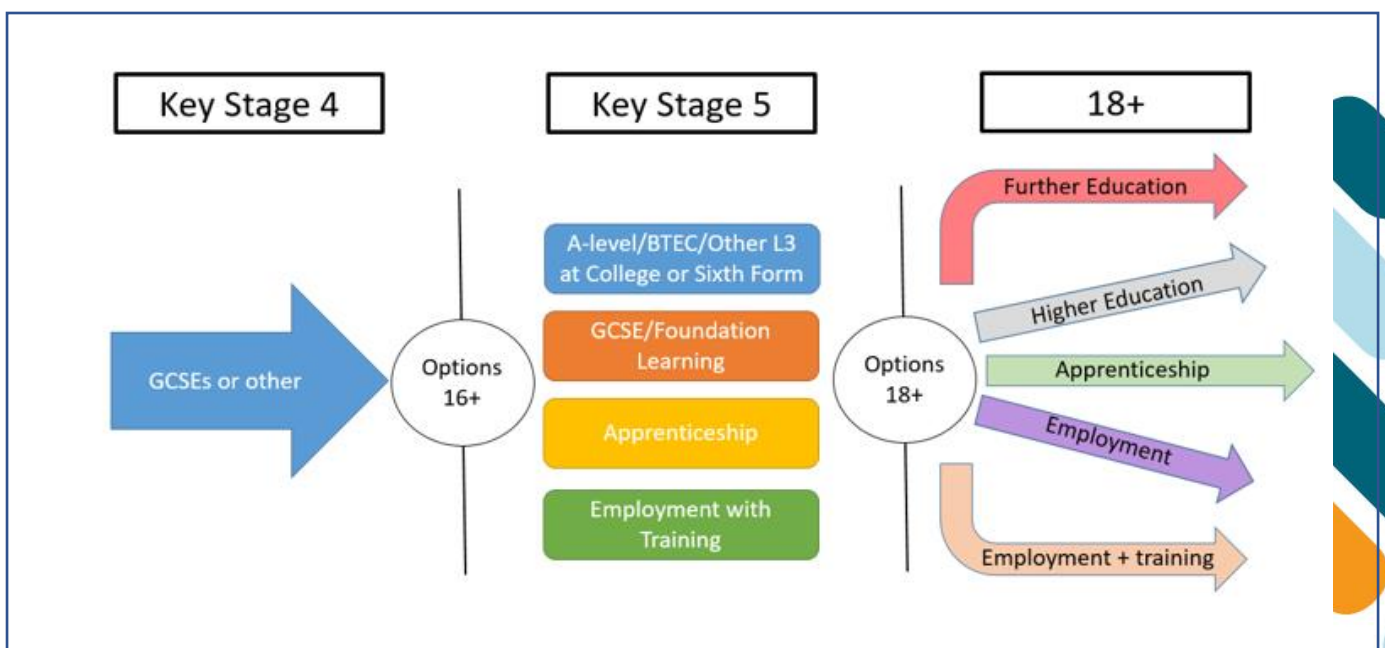
It's going to be helpful for you do have done some Careers Research by this point so that you can make informed decisions. If you are unsure of how to get started with this, then have a look at day three of this week!

When might you be making those big decisions?

Key Stage 3 (years 8 or 9) - Choosing your Options for GCSE

Key Stage 4 (years 10 and 11) - Post 16 Options - what will you do once you have finished your time in school and achieved your GCSE's?

Key Stage 5 (years 12 and 13) - Post 18 Options - after college or sixth form, what options will you be considering?



Here's a link to the [UCAS website](#) so that you can find out more about those options at Key Stage 4 and 5

If you would like to know about the different qualifications at Higher Education Level, Riverside College have great information on their website explaining this [here](#)

The Careers Adviser at your school or college can also help you get a better understanding of your options, which is why they are there, for you!

Whatever stage you are at, you will need to think about how you will make decisions. It's often helpful to write down your thoughts so that you can think about how you will decide in detail. You can also identify discussion points to have with your career's adviser at school - it may be that what you thought was true, isn't.

Talk yourself through a process and think about the Pro's and Con's

Example - I am thinking about going to my school sixth form to study A Levels after year 11

This can be broken down again

1) I am thinking about going to my school sixth form & 2) Studying A-Levels

Going to school sixth form

Pro's	Con's
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I will be with my friends as they are going there</i> <i>It's easy to travel to as it's not far from where I live (other sixth forms/colleges are at least a bus journey away)</i> <i>I know all the teachers already</i> <i>I know they have small class numbers which is good for teaching</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I could miss out on making new friends</i> <i>I might feel like I am still in school as not much will change - it's still next to school!</i> <i>Other sixth forms offer more subjects at BTEC level 3</i> <i>The art department looked better at another sixth form</i>

Not going to school sixth form

Pro's	Con's
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>More choice of courses elsewhere</i> • <i>Maybe make new friends</i> • <i>I can still go to university</i> • <i>Starting somewhere new gives me a fresh start</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I am nervous about going somewhere new</i> • <i>I may struggle to fit in</i> • <i>I will have to travel further - get a bus, which means getting up earlier and home later</i>

Studying A-Levels

Pro's	Con's
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Keep my options open for after sixth form. Undergraduate degree, degree apprenticeship, employment</i> • <i>Keep going with the subjects I love</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I've heard they are academically demanding - I need to be committed to studying for another two years (I am!)</i>

Not studying A Levels

Pro's	Con's
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>None!</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Can't consider the degree which will give me options in relation to my career interests</i> • <i>Apprenticeships are difficult to secure - I don't want to spend lots of time looking and applying with no guarantees of being offered an opportunity</i> • <i>My learning style isn't suited to BTEC courses</i>

Weighing up the Pro's and Con's is a helpful way of getting you to make a crucial decision – you will be doing this all of this head in your head but writing it down can be useful too.

Reflective activity

Think about a small decision you have made recently; think about the thinking process you went through.

- Why did you need to decide?
- What information did you receive? (Where from and when)
- How did you use the information?
- Did you ask anyone for advice?
- What did you need to be aware of that could impact on your options? (e.g. money available, timing etc.)

If you have any questions, you can live chat a member of our team [here](#).

We'd love to know if you found this resource helpful, let us know [here](#).