

Careers Education Year 8

Careers education in Prospect school is not just about looking at what you are good at, but also your natural strengths and abilities. This is a process that evolves throughout your time at school. We hold sessions to develop decision making and awareness as well provide opportunities to meet professionals from a diverse range of industries to inspire and guide you

Choosing your GCSE subjects?

How do you decide?

It can be good to start thinking now about job areas that interest you and work backwards.

At least some of your GCSEs are compulsory – English, Maths, Science. This is usually because schools, employers and universities think these subjects are particularly important to know about. GCSEs are a key part of your progression through education – in order to study A-Levels, for example, you need certain GCSEs, and you need to form a foundation to build on. You might be really interested in the subject – and the knowledge you learn might be useful in your life.

There are skills that you pick up through studying for GCSEs, and those skills are different for each subject. For example, English Language can help you communicate and express yourself in written and spoken forms. Maths gives you important numeracy skills. But there're skills in other subjects you might not think of – Technology GCSEs, for example, involve a lot of long term project work that helps with organisation and time management. History involves assessing and critically analysing different sources. Your GCSEs aren't just about learning a list of facts.

It's important to take subjects that you enjoy – but you'll find it more interesting and will find it a little easier, even if you don't consider naturally talented at it.

Find out what qualifications at which level you need to end up where you want to be.

When you are thinking about your options – it is important you speak to the teacher and ask questions about the subject in order to find out if this is an area you would enjoy and be able to study.

So it's worth bearing in mind that Universities and employers are going to be looking at your GCSE grades. Most people apply to University in year 13, before they have their A-Level results, and GCSE grades will be the only externally examined grades admissions tutors will have to look for. So think about the subjects you're particularly good at now.

Take:

- Subjects you enjoy
- Subjects you wish to pursue in the future
- Subjects that you're likely to do well in.
- Subjects that teach you skills

And do your research! Talk to subject leaders. Talk to your parents. Talk to anyone you know who has a job you think you might like.

Talk to me Siobhan Gallivan Room D4. Email. sgallivan@prospect.reading.sch.uk

Useful websites:

www.careerspilot.org set up an account to book mark your choices. Has lots of information about careers and videos to spark interest.

University

www.ucas.ac.uk

www.studentroom.co.uk

www.bestcourse4me.com

www.wahtunit.com

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-14/choosing-gcses-compulsory-and-optional>

Apprenticeships/trainees:

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk. Worth looking now at the requirements.

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

For careers ideas:

www.icould.com

www.careersbox.uk

www.nationalcareersservice.gov.uk.

www.icould.com/buzz a quick fun personality test that will give me some ideas of what sort of careers might suit my personality. This also has a huge resource of job descriptions.

Student Finance:

www.gov.uk/student-finance/overview

www.scholarshiphub.org.uk – also covers sponsored degrees.