



Careers planner for 14-16s

Age 14-15	Autumn Longer term plans	What will you do after sixth form? Think ahead and discover your options
		What are higher and degree apprenticeships? Find out what apprenticeships are all about
		What does university cost? Discover how uni can be affordable
	Spring Making informed choices	What next after 16? Find out about your qualification options post-16
		What will it be like at sixth form? Explore what it will be like
		How important are your qualifications? Prepare yourself to get the best grades
	Summer How to get ahead	How can you land your dream career? Come up with three top tips
		What makes a good CV? Start building your own CV
		How can you make the most of your summer? Build your employability skills

Introduction

The next two years are all about laying the foundations for your future. The skills you will learn through this planner will help you shape your future and guide you to the next phase of life after 16.

Age 15-16	Autumn Making informed choices	How will you choose your qualifications next year? Consider the reasons underlying your choices
		What about vocational qualifications? Find out more about BTECs
		How can you save money? Learn some money-saving tips
	Spring Fulfilling your dreams	What happens on exam results day? Find out what to expect
		How can you study successfully? Create a study advice display
		What's the best way to revise? Get ready for your exams
	Summer Getting work experience	Why is work experience so important? Find out the difference work experience can make
		Why volunteer? Explore how summer volunteering can make a difference
		What will you do this summer? Prepare your CV ready to make the most of the holidays

Did you know?

Over 500,000 young people apply to university in the UK every year.

95% of UK unis accept BTEC students, including Russell Group unis.

Qualifications are key - employment rates are much higher with at least one qualification compared to no qualifications.

You can do degrees in Viking Studies or Applied Golf Management or Puppetry.

Important dates	January onwards: Select your subjects for A-levels, Highers, BTECs or IB
	Early March: National Careers Week
	May - June: GCSE and Scottish Nationals exams
	Early August: Scottish Nationals exam results
	Mid-August: GCSE exam results



Information sources: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy; Ucas



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Future plans

- ▶ **What will you do after sixth form?** Revisit this activity from the 11-14 planner going through the options in more depth: www.which.co.uk/sixthformsides
- ▶ **What are higher and degree apprenticeships?** Show students these short videos: www.getingofar.gov.uk/ and www.ucas.com/ucas/16-18-choices/search-and-apply/apprenticeships. For a downloadable resource to give students who are particularly interested, share this link with them: www.which.co.uk/apprenticeships
- ▶ **What next after 16?** Find out about qualification options post-16. Establish what the students currently know about their options, then talk them through this link to outline all their possible pathways: Encourage students to explore options within their school or the local area. www.which.co.uk/university
- ▶ **What will it be like at sixth form?** Get students to imagine what life is going to be like after 16. Ask them how they would feel, what they expect it to be like?
- ▶ **How important are your qualifications?** Set up a debate in pairs with one student arguing how important qualifications are and the other trying to argue why they are not. Then, after feeding back to the group, show students the following link: www.which.co.uk/gcsegrades
- ▶ **How can you land your dream career?** Share these articles with your students to help inspire them to raise their aspirations: www.which.co.uk/careerprospects. Ask students to compile their three top tips for landing a dream job that other students can bear in mind as they progress to sixth form and beyond.
- ▶ **How will you choose your qualifications next year?** How will students decide what to study next year? Make a list of the reasons students give, before sharing this article: www.which.co.uk/alevelchoices. Then use the A-level Explorer to start exploring advanced qualifications options: www.which.co.uk/alevelexplorer

What about vocational qualifications?

Get students to research the pros and cons of BTECs using ICT facilities, then read this link: www.which.co.uk/btecs. Start researching courses that might accept BTECs using the www.which.co.uk/courses tool.

Skills development

- ▶ **How can you make the most of your summer?** Analyse what activities students currently do and what skills they can gain during the holidays, using this Which? University activity: www.which.co.uk/showcaseyourskills
- ▶ **What happens on exam results day?** How are students feeling about results day? Ask them to write down a couple of words. Ask students to read through the following article in pairs: www.which.co.uk/gcseresultsday. Students should then revisit their list - do they still feel the same about results day? Have they learnt strategies to manage these feelings?
- ▶ **How can you study successfully?** Create a class study advice display.
- ▶ **What's the best way to revise?** Encourage students to share their tips before visiting this website: www.which.co.uk/revisiontimetable. Create the perfect revision plan either offline or using this link: getrevising.co.uk/planner
- ▶ **Why is work experience so important?** Ask students to come up with reasons why work experience is important and consider how they might get some.
- ▶ **Why volunteer?** Task students with thinking up local volunteering ideas - use the following links to provide inspiration: <https://vinspired.com> and www.ncsyne.co.uk

Skills showcase

- ▶ **What makes a good CV?** Watch this video with your class and use the following *Build a CV* tool: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/tools/cv/Pages/default.aspx>
- ▶ **What will you do this summer?** Prepare students to apply for jobs or work experience by writing a practice covering letter and updating their CVs from last year: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/getajob/cvs/Pages/writeacoveringletter.aspx>; <http://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/get-a-job/cv-tips>

Money matters

- ▶ **What does university cost?** Give students a basic introduction to student finance using the following link: www.which.co.uk/studentfinanceguide. Help them work out how university can be affordable. You can share more information on funding, bursaries and scholarships with these articles: www.which.co.uk/bursaries and www.which.co.uk/studentmoney
- ▶ **How can you save money?** Ask students to come up with at least three ideas of their own, then share the following advice: www.moneysavingexpert.com/shopping/chat-tips-gold and www.which.co.uk/studentcosts

Activity overview

This careers activity planner provides a series of practical ideas to get your students thinking about their next steps after school, and their broader options for the future.

Key

Use our key to help you find activities covering these areas:

- Future plans
- Skills development
- Skills showcase
- Money matters

Why not explore our activity planners for 11-14 and 16-18s?

- ▶ www.which.co.uk/activity-planner-1
- ▶ www.which.co.uk/activity-planner-3