

Suggested Careers Content

The resource below is intended to provide support/guidance for teachers and advisors delivering careers content for Year 11-13.

The structure is suggested, and the University of Chester Outreach team are happy to provide additional input through throughout the year.

September		
Year 11:	Year 12:	Year 13:
<p>GCSEs focus the mind, but many pupils may not know what their options are. Outlining the options now gives pupils time to think about it before making important choices about further study or work.</p> <p>Further Study – require GCSE passes</p> <p>Traineeships – available to over 16s who have English and Maths qualifications and up to 6 months work experience: more information here</p> <p>Intermediate Apprenticeships – these are the equivalent standard to 5 GCSE passes; they offer a good alternative for pupils who are interested in developing practical skills than studying</p> <p>Advanced Apprenticeships – these are a good alternative to A Level or further study and are the equivalent to 2 A Levels. Some companies will offer these as a foundation route into longer term employment.</p> <p>More information on all the options for Year 11 at the government's Apprenticeship website: www.apprenticeships.gov.uk</p>	<p>The start of A Levels or BTECs can mean that university or work choices seem a long way off, but it's worth focusing the mind with some initial discussions!</p> <p>Suggest pupils look at Saturday jobs, volunteering or work-shadowing during the autumn and spring terms to help them make up their minds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UCAS applications open on 6 September. There's no need to have them ready this early, but do be aware of 'early deadline' courses in mid-October (see below). Some universities will still be running open days for the undecided; encourage pupils who haven't yet made their choice to attend
October		
Year 11:	Year 12:	Year 13:
<p>If pupils are doing any careers preference or planning tests, this is a good time to take them. It also allows time for the all-important follow-up interviews.</p>		<p>Deadline: Oxford/Cambridge, medicine, dentistry, veterinary applications close 15th October 2016</p> <p>Encourage the undecided to get those UCAS statements started. Writing about options really helps focus the mind and channel motivation – and also focus those who don't have the commitment to try higher education now to understand their alternatives.</p> <p>For those considering a gap year, encourage them to plan it now. Some employers offer gap year work experience programmes, which are often advertised in November and fill up early.</p>
November		
Year 11:	Year 12:	Year 13:
<p>Encourage pupils to start identifying dream jobs, careers of interest, and people they know with interesting or exciting jobs. Can they map the route to get into those jobs or careers?</p>	<p>Help pupils understand the difference between learning by doing and learning by studying. Even those with good ability at A Level or BTEC may prefer to move into work, school leaver programmes or degree apprenticeships post-18.</p>	<p>The UCAS deadline is still the other side of Christmas, but don't let applicants put off submitting their applications.</p>

	https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/Apprenticeships/DegreeApprenticeships.aspx https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships http://www.studentladder.co.uk/School-Leaver-Programmes/school-leaver-programmes.html	References still need to be written, and by the end of November the majority of their peers will have submitted.
January		
Year 11:	Year 12:	Year 13:
GCSE mock exams can change pupils' view of what they want to do or are able to do, and schools offering sixth form will start A level choices. A quick 'future plans' health check can help reassure or provide alternative plans.	If you're thinking of holding a school careers or alumni fair in June, this is the time to start organising it!	Deadline: 15 January is the deadline for the majority of undergraduate course applications through UCAS
February		
Year 11:	Year 12:	Year 13:
	Whatever their choice post-18, all applications are strengthened by some good work experience. Encourage pupils to identify employers where they can get paid or unpaid work in the summer holiday to give them useful information about choices, and help them become work-ready.	UCAS Extra opens for those who have used up their five choices and aren't holding any offers. https://wwwucas.com/ucas/undergraduate/apply-and-track/track-your-application/extra-choices
March		
Year 11:	Year 12:	Year 13:
Pupils who are thinking of apprenticeships can start exploring their options using the Apprenticeships website. They won't be ready to apply yet, but it's encouraging to see what's available. https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch	Time to book onto university summer open days in May and June	Make sure Year 13s know all the deadlines for replying to offers. Dates will depend on how many offers they have received.
April		
Year 11:	Year 12:	Year 13:
Last minute exam nerves take hold now, but reassuring them of the wide range of options in work and study always helps. Time out is never a bad thing either. A year of work experience before moving onto further study at either level can broaden their perspective, increase their resilience, and help them make better, more informed choices.	How are their summer job and work experience plans coming along?	Last minute exam nerves take hold now, but reassuring them of the wide range of options in work and study always helps. Time out is never a bad thing either. A year of work experience before moving onto further study at either level can broaden their perspective, increase their resilience, and help them make better, more informed choices.
May		
Year 11:	Year 12:	Year 13:
Exam Period		