



## Careers planner for 14-16s

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

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

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



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



## Careers planner for 14-16s

### 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/sixthformslides](http://www.which.co.uk/sixthformslides)
- ▶ **What are higher and degree apprenticeships?** Show students these short videos: [www.getingofar.gov.uk/](http://www.getingofar.gov.uk/) and [www.ucas.com/ucas/16-18-choices/search-and-apply/apprenticeships](http://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](http://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: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/youngpeople/Pages/YoungPeopleLandingPages/Year1.aspx>. Encourage students to explore options within their school or the local area.
- ▶ **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, then get them to visit these links: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/youngpeople/Pages/MovingToSixthForm/StayingOnAtSchool.aspx>; <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/youngpeople/Pages/GoingToCollege/WhatsFE.aspx>
- ▶ **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](http://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](http://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](http://www.which.co.uk/alevelchoices). Then use the A-level Explorer to start exploring advanced qualifications options: [www.which.co.uk/alevelexplorer](http://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](http://www.which.co.uk/btecs). Start researching courses that might accept BTECs using the [www.which.co.uk/courses](http://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](http://www.which.co.uk/showcaseyourskills). You may also want to tell students about the *Skills to succeed academy* (they will need to sign up): <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/youngpeople/Pages/Home-SkillsToSucceedAcademy.aspx>. Get students to reflect on the skills they possess and how they can gain more.
- ▶ **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](http://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, using this link as a starting point: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/youngpeople/Pages/Exams/index.aspx>
- ▶ **What's the best way to revise?** Encourage students to share their tips before visiting this website: [www.which.co.uk/revisiontimetable](http://www.which.co.uk/revisiontimetable). Create the perfect revision plan either offline or using this link: [getrevising.co.uk/planner](http://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. Share the information here: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/youngpeople/Pages/WorkExperience/WorkExperience.aspx>
- ▶ **Why volunteer?** Task students with thinking up local volunteering ideas – use the following links to provide inspiration: <https://vinspired.com> and [www.ncsyes.co.uk](http://www.ncsyes.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>; <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/tools/cv/Pages/default.aspx>

### Money matters

- ▶ **What does university cost?** Give students a basic introduction to student finance using the following link: [www.which.co.uk/studentfinanceguide](http://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](http://www.which.co.uk/bursaries) and [www.which.co.uk/studentmoney](http://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](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/shopping/chat-tips-gold) and [www.which.co.uk/studentcosts](http://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](http://www.which.co.uk/activity-planner-1)
- ▶ [www.which.co.uk/activity-planner-3](http://www.which.co.uk/activity-planner-3)