Making Decisions 2020/21



Post 18

**What you choose next will depend on your future goals and ambitions and also your preferred learning style.**

**If you have a specific career in mind there may be training routes you need to follow, for example you will need a degree in medicine to become a doctor. With other career areas such as business or finance, routes are more flexible – you could do an apprenticeship, higher or degree apprenticeship, foundation degree, degree or a job where you study for a professional qualification.**

These charts show the opportunities available and what young people were doing at the time they were contacted (September-December 2

**➀ Think about … your likes and dislikes**

**These will have developed over the last two years – the more experience you have, the clearer these will become.**

🞎 What you enjoy and are good at – including any experience of work.

🞎 What you don’t like doing and find difficult – including any experience of work.

🞎 What you liked or disliked about any work experience or voluntary work you have done.

🞎 How far you are willing to travel to college or work or whether you would consider living away from home. Take into account the time and cost involved.

🞎 How you learn best – in the classroom, practical workshops, tutorials, on-the-job training.

🞎 What kind of environment you would like to work or study in.

**➁ Think about … your future goals and ambitions**

🞎 How you plan to achieve these

🞎 Whether you need specific subjects or qualifications for a particular career or to study an HE course

🞎 Research careers, courses, jobs and apprenticeships…

**www.ychertfordshire.org** >Jobs and careers

[**https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/**](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/)>Job profiles

**https://careerpilot.org.uk**

**https://icould.com/**

[**https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/**](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/)>Find a course

**www.careerpilot.org.uk/**

**www.ucas.com**

**www.prospects.ac.uk** >Careers advice >What can I do with my degree?

**www.gapyear.com**

**www.notgoingtouni.co.uk**

**www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship**

**www.getingofar.gov.uk/**

**➂ Prioritise which factors are most important to you**

🞎 To help you organise your ideas and make it easier to decide which option to choose

🞎 Use the **pros and cons checklist** on **page 2** to help you decide

**➃ Compare your requirements with the options available and make your decision**

**Top tips to help you decide**

**The choice you make should be right for YOU** - before making a decision, you need to have a clear idea about what you are looking for and what you would like to get out of the next move you make.

www.ychertfordshire.org – Jobs and Careers

For more information visit…

**Employment**

🞎 Develop employability skills

🞎 Earn money

🞎 Gain experience of work

🞎 Opportunity to “work your way up” /promotion

🞎 Could lose touch with academic study skills

🞎 Some national employers offer their own school leaver schemes working towards qualifications at a range of levels

**Apprenticeship**

🞎 Earn money

🞎 ‘On the job’ learning style

🞎 Develop employability skills

🞎 Gain a nationally recognised qualification

🞎 No full time student experience

🞎 Time management – combining full-time work with study

🞎 May not be available when/ where you want it

🞎 Learn specific job skills

🞎 Now available at higher and degree level (levels 4 and 6)

**Gap year**

🞎 Develop new skills

🞎 Break from studying

🞎 Independence

🞎 Help others

🞎 Chance to earn/save

🞎 Experience different things before settling

🞎 Develop language skills

🞎 Financial commitment/outlay

🞎 Delay starting a job or course

🞎 Language barrier

**Volunteering**

🞎 Flexible – fit around other commitments

🞎 Develop employability skills

🞎 Unpaid

🞎 Gain experience of work

🞎 Meet new people

🞎 Great addition to your CV

**Foundation degree**

🞎 Lower entry requirements than an honours degree

🞎 Lower fees

🞎 Can top up to a full degree

🞎 Gain industry experience

🞎 Could be studied flexibly/part time – combined with a job

**Higher/Degree apprenticeship**

🞎 No tuition fees

🞎 Earn money

🞎 Gain experience of work

🞎 Competition for places

🞎 Develop employability skills

🞎 Opportunities in restricted subject areas

🞎 Potential job on completion

🞎 “Tied” to the company for a specified time

**Studying abroad**

🞎 Experience of living in a different country

🞎 Tuition costs could be lower

🞎 Develop language skills

🞎 Language barrier

🞎 Not all courses recognised in the UK

🞎 Wide choice

🞎 Amount of time needed for research and applying

🞎 Lack of financial support

🞎 Independence

**Self-employment**

🞎 Flexible – fit in around other commitments

🞎 No guaranteed income

🞎 Time management

🞎 Motivation

🞎 Financial commitment may be required (investment)

🞎 Uncertainty

🞎 You control what you do

🞎 Sense of achievement

**Part-time degree (inc. distance learning)**

🞎 Can combine study with other commitments

🞎 Study at your own pace

🞎 Lower fees

🞎 Self-discipline to plan and control your own workload

🞎 Isolation (studying alone)

**Full-time degree**

🞎 Experience student life

🞎 Costs/debt

🞎 Independence

🞎 Self-discipline to plan and control your own workload

🞎 Wide choice of subject areas and locations

**College**

🞎 Wide choice of vocational subjects and specialist colleges

🞎 Can study at higher education level

🞎 Self-discipline to plan and control your own workload

🞎 Convenience (could study locally)

**Pros and cons checklist**

Use the points below to help you compare the pros and cons of each option and work out what’s important to you.

www.ychertfordshire.org – Jobs and Careers

For more information visit…

**Once you’ve decided – identify your skills and qualities**

You will need to understand your personal qualities and strengths when completing an application for…

* How motivated and enthusiastic you are
* How well you would cope with the demands of the course or job
* How good your communication skills are
* How you can use your initiative
* How well you are able to work as part of a team
* Whether you are able to be flexible and adapt to different situations
* Your personal achievements including academic qualifications and experience both in and out of school/college
* Why your skills make you suited to the course/job/placement you are applying for

**Use the worksheet on page 4…**

* Think of the three skills or qualities which describe you best
* Try to make these are varied and relevant to the job or course application
* If you’re not sure about which to choose ask the opinion of someone who knows you well
* Think about what evidence you could use on an application form or at an interview to illustrate these skills or qualities, such as examples of when you have used you own initiative or how you have worked as part of a team

A college or university course

A job or apprenticeship

A voluntary work placement

✓

✓

✓

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Market yourself on

an application, CV or at an interview by showing…

**The skills you have learnt from school/college subjects**, for example…

In **maths** - handling data. In **English** - presenting information. In **science** – analysing and problem solving. In **group projects** - planning, organisation, team work and leadership skills?

**Don’t forget...**

**Thinking about your personal abilities early can help you make the most of your chances**

**Help from YC Hertfordshire**

**www.ychertfordshire.org** >Support for young people

**Your nearest YC Hertfordshire Access Point is…**

**Watford Young People’s Centre**

**206-210 Lower High Street**

**Watford**

**Hertfordshire**

**WD17 2EL**

**01923 482828**

**For help for those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, contact the LDD Team…**

01438 844999 email: YC.LDD@hertfordshire.gov.uk

**Help is also available from the National Careers Service…**

**https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk** >Contact an adviser



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www.ychertfordshire.org – Jobs and Careers

For more information visit…

**Example 1**

**Example 2**

**Skill or Quality**

**Skill or Quality**

Making decisions – Your skills and qualities worksheet

**Example 3**

**Example 1**

**Example 3**

**Example 2**

**Example 3**

**Example 1**

**Example 2**



**Choose the three skills or qualities which describe you best.**

**Then write down examples of how you have used them.**

**You can use these examples to market yourself on a job or course application, on your CV or at an interview**

**Skill or Quality**