

Student Guide to Careers

At Settlebeck School, we are committed to helping you explore your interests, understand the world of work, and make informed decisions about your future. This guide will help you navigate your career journey, providing advice, resources, and support to help you reach your goals.

Why Careers Matter

- **Empowerment:** Knowing what careers are out there helps you plan your future with confidence.
 - **Explore Opportunities:** Understanding the connection between school subjects and career paths can open up many possibilities.
 - **Achieve Your Goals:** With the right guidance and decisions, you can create a successful career that aligns with your interests and strengths.
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Key Stages of Careers Planning

Key Stage 3 (Years 7-8)

What You'll Do:

- Begin to explore different careers and industries.
- Understand how the subjects you study in school can help in various jobs.
- Develop personal skills like teamwork, problem-solving, and communication.

What You Can Do Now:

- Start thinking about what subjects and activities interest you the most.
- Talk to family and teachers about different careers and ask them about their experiences.
- Attend careers fairs and events when they are available.

Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11)

What You'll Do:

- Focus on subjects that match your interests and career ideas.
- Begin researching different career options and decide what you might like to do after Year 11.
- Start exploring apprenticeships, college options, and jobs that may require further study or training.

What You Can Do Now:

- Research which careers match your strengths and passions.
- Attend career talks, workshops, and one-to-one careers advice sessions.

- Start gaining work experience if possible (e.g., volunteering, part-time jobs, or work placements).

Post-16 Options

After Year 11, you have several choices, including:

- **A-Levels:** Academic qualifications that focus on specific subjects and are ideal if you want to go to university.
- **T-Levels:** A technical qualification that combines classroom learning with real-world work experience, preparing you for specific careers.
- **Apprenticeships:** A combination of work and study that allows you to earn while learning, often leading to a full-time job.
- **Vocational Courses:** Practical qualifications that focus on specific trades or skills, helping you start a career directly after school.

How We Support Your Career Journey

At Settlebeck School, we offer several services to help you explore careers and make the right decisions:

- **One-to-One Careers Guidance:** Meet with our Careers Lead, Ms Ingham, to discuss your interests and options.
- **Workshops and Career Events:** Learn from employers, apprentices, and people from various industries who share their experiences.
- **Work Experience Opportunities:** Gain valuable hands-on experience by participating in work placements.
- **Careers Resources:** Access materials and tools to help you research careers, including websites and job profiles.

Useful Websites for Career Exploration

National Careers Service – <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>

Offers career advice, job profiles, and educational requirements for various careers.

Career Pilot – <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk>

Explore different career paths, qualifications, and job options with this interactive website.

Prospects.ac.uk – <https://www.prospects.ac.uk>

Learn about jobs, careers, and further study options, including university courses and postgraduate opportunities.

Apprenticeships.gov.uk – <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk>

Find apprenticeship opportunities across the UK and discover what apprenticeships involve.

Barclays LifeSkills – <https://barclayslifeskills.com>

Develop essential skills for the workplace, such as communication, decision-making, and leadership.

Top Tips for Your Career Journey

- **Stay Curious:** Keep exploring different careers and learning about the paths people take.
 - **Talk to Others:** Ask teachers, family, and professionals about their careers and what they enjoy about their jobs.
 - **Develop Skills:** Work on skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving, which are valuable in any career.
 - **Get Experience:** Look for work experience, part-time jobs, or volunteer opportunities to get a taste of different careers.
 - **Be Open to Change:** Your career ideas may evolve as you learn more about yourself and the world of work.
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Need More Support?

If you have any questions or want to talk more about your career options, feel free to book an appointment with our Careers Lead, Ms Ingham, at ingham@settlebeck.org or visit the school office.

This guide is designed to give you the tools to start planning your future. The journey ahead is exciting, and with the right support, you can achieve anything you set your mind to!
