

A Parents' Guide: Guide to Careers

At Settlebeck School, we believe in equipping every student with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to achieve their aspirations. As a parent or carer, you play a key role in supporting your child's journey towards their future career.

This guide is designed to provide you with information and tips to help you guide your child as they explore their career options and plan for life after school.

Why Careers Guidance Matters

- **Empowering Choices:** A clear understanding of career options helps students make informed decisions about their education and future.
 - **Building Confidence:** Exploring interests and abilities helps young people recognize their strengths.
 - **Future Success:** Good careers guidance connects school learning to real-world opportunities, increasing motivation and achievement.
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Key Stages in Careers Planning

Key Stage 3 (Years 7-8)

- **Focus:** Building awareness of the world of work and self-discovery.
- **How You Can Help:**
 - encourage your child to explore their interests and strengths.
 - talk about different jobs and what they involve.
 - highlight the importance of skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11)

- **Focus:** Exploring specific career paths and preparing for post-16 education.
- **How You Can Help:**
 - discuss their GCSE choices and how they link to careers.
 - explore post-16 options together, such as A-levels, apprenticeships, or vocational courses.
 - attend open days or careers events with them.

Post-16 Options

After Year 11, students can choose from several pathways:

- **A-Levels:** Focused academic qualifications, ideal for university entry.
- **T-Levels:** A mix of classroom learning and industry placement.
- **Apprenticeships:** Hands-on work experience with study alongside.
- **Vocational Courses:** Practical qualifications for specific careers.

How We Support Your Child

At Settlebeck School, we provide:

- **Dedicated Careers Guidance:** One-to-one appointments with our Careers Lead.
- **Workshops and Events:** Opportunities to meet employers, apprentices, and alumni.
- **Work Experience:** Practical exposure to the workplace (Year 10).
- **PSHE Lessons:** Focused on career planning and personal development.

Resources for Parents and Carers

- **National Careers Service:** <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk>
- **Career Pilot:** <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk>
- **Apprenticeships Information:** <https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk>
- **UCAS** – <https://www.ucas.com>
- **Prospects.ac.uk** – <https://www.prospects.ac.uk>

Top Tips for Supporting Your Child

1. **Listen and Encourage:** Help your child explore what they enjoy and excel at.
2. **Stay Informed:** Keep up-to-date with the latest information on careers and qualifications.
3. **Be Open-Minded:** Encourage them to consider a range of options, including vocational and academic pathways.
4. **Engage in Career Conversations:** Use everyday situations to discuss the value of different skills and careers.

Get in Touch

If you have any questions or need further support, please contact our Careers Leader, **Katy Modlin**, at modlink@ss.changinglives.eduction or call the school office 015396 20383.

Together, we can help your child achieve their potential and thrive in their future career.