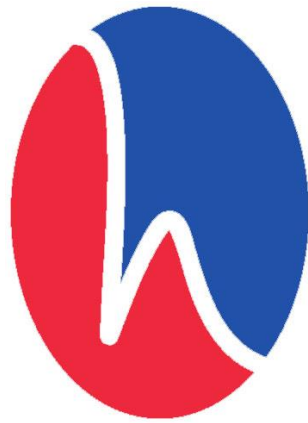


# Parental Guide



to Careers



**Hyde High  
School**

# Helping your son/ daughter with their future options

**Young people today have more choices about what to do in the future than ever before but there are a number of factors that affect them. Youth unemployment, an increasingly competitive job market and fees for higher education all impact on a young person's future, making it even more important for them to make the right choices for their education, training and employment.**

To help them make the right decisions, every young person should receive information, advice and guidance about their future. While for many young people a career may seem a long way off, decisions they make about education and training now, may affect their options later on.

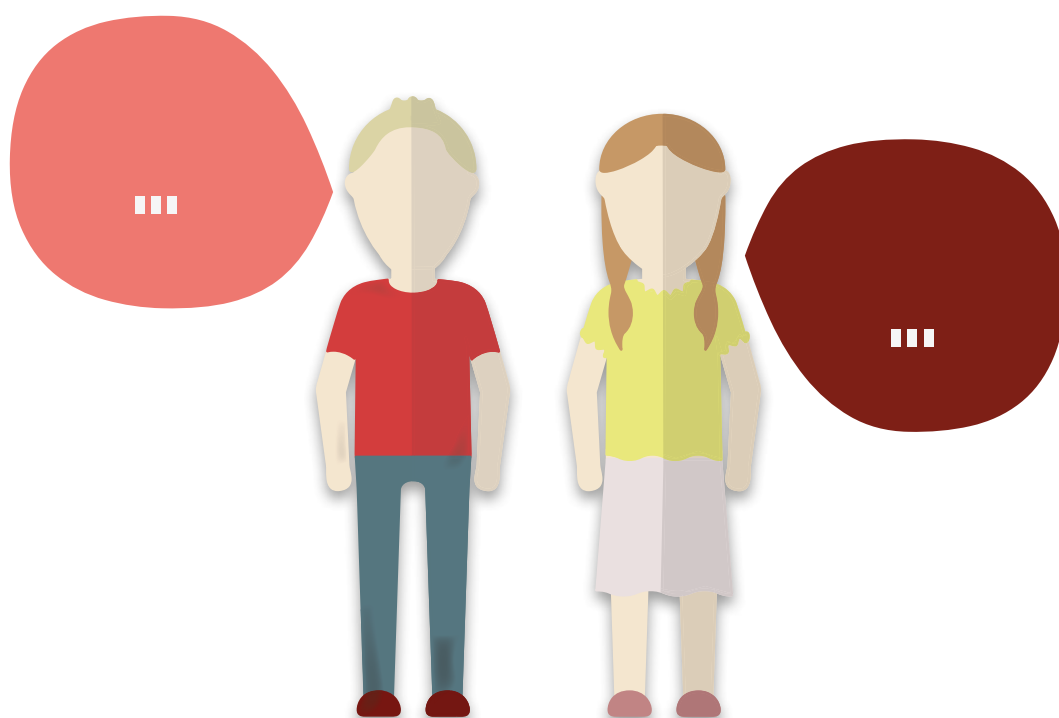
## How you can help

As they make choices and plans for the future, young people need support from the people who know them best; their families. There are many ways that parents can offer support with choices. Here are a few ideas:

- Find out about what choices your son/daughter has to make in Year 8/9. They will usually be asked to choose from a selection of GCSE subjects which they want to study in year 10 and 11. Most students will have compulsory subjects which they have to study along with a selection of options.
- Talk to your son/daughter about careers they are interested in. Find out what they know already and encourage them to visit the careers library to find out more.



- Make an appointment to speak to a member of the careers department at the next parents' evening. They will be able to answer any questions you have about career plans.
- Outside of school hours, encourage your son/daughter to find out about what courses, jobs and training opportunities are available locally. Your local authority may provide information on local options on their website. Encourage your son/daughter to explore all of the learning options available to them at 14 and 16. Post-16 education or training is now compulsory.
- If your son/daughter has completed a program like Launchpad or Kudos ask them about their results. Even if the careers ideas that are suggested do not appeal, it is still useful to discuss why they have been suggested.
- Ask your school/college if they have access to any programs that you and your son/daughter can use at home over the internet. CASCAID programs offer access at home for pupils of a licensed school so you have the opportunity to get involved with careers planning.
- Make the most of open day opportunities. Your son/daughter may be considering post-16 study at a different institution to their current school/college and it is important to explore all of the options.
- Get involved with plans for post-18 study. If your son/daughter is planning to go to university or college they need to plan carefully. They should think about; what subject/s they want to study, which institutions offer relevant courses, whether the program of study suits them, if there is a work placement as part of the course, if their expected results from A-levels or equivalent meet the entry requirements for the course, whether they want to study close to home or move further afield and whether the campus offers other facilities which are important to them e.g. sports facilities.
- There are alternatives to **'traditional'** higher education options which your son/daughter may wish to investigate. School Leaver Schemes are offered by a growing number of large employers who employ young people at the age of 18/19 and also fund them to study for a recognised qualification, often a degree.
- If your school/college does not subscribe to a CASCAID program that you would like to use with your daughter/son, we can offer a single user access which can be purchased for 28 days usage. Call **+44 (0) 1509 226868** for more info.



# FAQs for parents

**Q** *My son/daughter is thinking about an apprenticeship. Aren't they just for mechanics, builders and hairdressers?*

There are apprenticeships available on a huge range of careers, including those which might be considered as traditionally academic. Apprenticeships are available in accountancy, law, business as well as care, engineering, hospitality, IT, retail and many more. An apprenticeship will offer your son/daughter the opportunity to get a nationally recognised qualification whilst getting practical experience. They will also be earning whilst they learn. Apprenticeships are available at a number of levels and can be equivalent to A-levels or a degree.

You can find out more apprenticeships at [www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-parents-guide-to-apprenticeships](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-parents-guide-to-apprenticeships)

**Q** *What A-level subjects should I encourage my son/daughter to do? He/she hasn't got a clue what to pick.*

If your son/daughter has some career ideas they should explore what subjects are essential and desirable for those careers. If he/she is thinking about going to university, some courses have specific A-level entry requirements so investigate those.

If he/she is thinking about applying for a School Leaver Scheme, the employer may request specific subjects and predicted grades from applicants.

If your son/daughter is unsure about their longer term plans, the best advice is to encourage them to keep their options open by choosing subjects that will offer the maximum

number of career options. Subjects like English, maths and sciences are required for a number of careers and HE courses. Employers also often ask for these subjects as an indicator of a good general education.

Remember that A-levels aren't the only option for post-16 learning and training. Vocational qualifications and work-based learning such as apprenticeships should also be considered as they provide excellent pathways to many careers.

**Q** *My son/daughter's school is an academy. What should I expect from them in terms of careers support?*

The government has made it clear that although academies are funded differently to local authority run schools, it expects them to provide students with the same access to independent and impartial careers guidance.

Every school and academy should have a member of the senior leadership team (deputy head, assistant principal, year group leader or head of department) appointed as lead for careers and transition support.

If you have questions about the support that your son/daughter is going to receive you should contact them.

**Q** *What are UTCs (University Technical Colleges) and will it help my son/daughter's career to attend one?*

UTCs are government funded schools for 14-19 year olds which have been developed in partnership with universities and employers. They specialise in delivering learning and

skills development in technical and scientific subjects.

If your son/daughter is keen to pursue a career in a sector such as engineering, manufacturing, health sciences, product design, digital technologies or the built environment, it is worth exploring what a UTC could offer them. Their links with employers and universities provide strong progression opportunities in those sectors. UTCs do not charge fees and tend to take students from multiple local authority areas. Students can attend a UTC from age 14 or from age 16 and the number of UTCs is growing. You can find out more at [www.utcolleges.org](http://www.utcolleges.org)

**Q** *There's a studio school in my area. How will attending help my son/daughter with their future career?*

Studio schools are designed to mirror the workplace so students will typically attend all year round and work/learn on a 9am – 5pm basis. They offer a range of both academic and vocational qualifications and usually students will be required to complete placements in different workplaces. Studio schools work closely with employers to build opportunities for future employment. Studio schools also focus on developing employability and life skills. The number of studio schools is growing with many having links to local further education colleges. You can find out more at [www.studioschoolstrust.org](http://www.studioschoolstrust.org)

**Q** *My son/daughter has no ideas about what career he/she wants to do. Where do we start with finding options?*

The first step is helping them to understand that there is no pressure to choose a career now. After all they may find themselves doing a career in the future which doesn't even exist yet! The important thing is that they understand how what they are doing now at school will benefit them in the future. If they want to start exploring options you should encourage them to understand themselves first. What do they like doing both inside and outside school? How does what they do in those activities relate to careers? To help get ideas they could try a resource like Kudos. This will give ideas based on their preferences.

Even if they don't like the careers suggested at least they will be able to narrow down their options a little.

**Q** *I want to make sure that my son/daughter chooses a course which has good career prospects. What should I do?*

It's always good to look at industries that are growing and employing more people, but remember that there are new careers emerging all the time so your son/daughter might find themselves doing a career which doesn't yet exist.

Part of your son/daughter's decision making, when choosing a career, should be an evaluation of how many opportunities there are in the sector.

Some careers are highly competitive. If your son/daughter is interested in a career that is competitive don't rule it out but encourage them to develop a backup plan. If they are choosing a course they should look into what previous students have gone on to do.

**Q** *My son/daughter knows what career he/she wants to do. How do I find out what the best route in is?*

For most careers there are a number of entry routes. Some routes are based on achieving qualifications. Others are based on experience.

Many people do not follow a 'typical' route into a career. Many employers have structured graduate, school leaver and apprenticeship programs in which they take young people on. Equally they will recruit people who have gained experience elsewhere. Careers resources such as those produced by CASCAID will show the typical entry routes. Your son/daughter could also research employers that recruit for the careers that they are interested in, to find out what schemes they offer for new entrants.

**Q** *Is work experience a good idea?*

Most young people will get enormous benefit out of some interaction within a work environment. Being in a working environment and interacting with people who they haven't encountered before helps them to develop skills and can help to confirm whether or not it's the type of environment that they want to work in.

Schools aren't required to provide work experience for pre-16 students but it is a good idea.

Some students organise placements themselves during school holidays. If your son/daughter is looking for an employer to provide a placement it's worth remembering that most employers operate a range of job roles. For example, if he/she is interested in computers, don't just look at IT companies. Organisations of all sizes and types use technology and will probably have an IT function.

**Q** *I'm concerned about the cost of university. Should I still encourage my son/daughter to go?*

The increase in university tuition fees and living costs has caused many people to question whether a degree is the right route. It is important to remember that your son/daughter won't be expected to pay back loans for fees and living expenses until they are earning at a specified level. Whilst university does not guarantee a job, there are occupations where a degree or similar is essential or expected.

Going to university will equip your son/daughter with a broad range of skills and experiences.

However, for a lot of careers university isn't the only option. Many employers now offer a work-based training route for both 16 and 18-year-olds.

**Q** *What can I do to help my son/daughter get the skills that employers want?*

Many employers state that they feel that young people are not ready for the workplace. Schools, colleges and universities provide knowledge and skills but there are many other ways that young people can develop and demonstrate their skills.

Encourage your son/daughter to engage in activities that will require them to learn and grow skills that will help their future career plans. If they are interested in a career which will require them to write, they could create their own blog on a topic that interests them. This will help them to get valuable experience of writing interesting content as well as giving them something to show potential employers.

If they are interested in working with children, they could volunteer with a group such as Brownies or Cubs.

If they are interested in website design they could create their own website.