**

CHOOSING WHAT TO STUDY AFTER YEAR 11

**If you are starting to think about what you can study after year 11 this is the handout for you!**

**3 Key Things to Consider**1. Do you like the subject?
2. Are you good at it? - Check with your teachers if you are not sure if you can cope with the jump from GCSE to level 3 courses.
3. Will it be useful for your future?

If you can say yes to at least two of the above then the subject you are considering should be on your shortlist.

**Simple Steps For Choosing Wisely**

**Be Positive - You Already Know Some Things!**- Take a plain sheet of paper
- Write the title somewhere on the sheet 'What I Already Know'
- Now add three other sections
Subjects I Am Interested In
Places I Can Study
Ideas for My Future

In each section:

Subjects I Am Interested In - you may already have some subjects you are considering continuing with, maybe ones you liked at GCSE - add the subjects here
Places I Can Study - if you have watched the first vlog 'where can I study' hopefully you can add some ideas here
Ideas for My Future - anything you have considered - job titles or work that involves certain things (like working with people, or in nature etc)

**Now Fill in the Blanks with Research**

If you haven't already watch the vlog 'Choosing Where To Study After Year 11' and/or read the handout. Do the activity which recommends you spend an hour exploring the websites or prospectuses of at least three local colleges to compare and contrast the courses on offer.
Now add any subjects from this research to your 'Subjects I am Interested In' section of your sheet.

Make sure you know what the subject actually is. Read about it online and visit the stand or room at college open evenings.

Think about what you enjoy outside of school - be that tinkering with cars, looking after horses or doing your friend's makeup...there are many vocational (work related) courses which may

be just up your street! Again check colleges online and speak to your school careers advisor as they will be able to help you find out what kind of course fits your interests.

**Connect the Dots - Your Short Term Subject Choices with Long Term Career Ideas**

If you have strong ideas about your future (maybe a specific job or type of work) then make sure your subjects with either lead to that or at least won't make it more difficult to progress to that career. If your career idea needs a degree then you can check degree entry requirements (the subjects and grades needed for different degrees) at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) and good subjects to study for some degrees here [www.russellgroup.org/InformedChoices-latest.pdf](http://www.russellgroup.org/InformedChoices-latest.pdf). You can also see the kinds of qualifications needed for different jobs here <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobfamily/Pages/default.aspx>.
If you are very unsure then don't worry! Focus on your interests and what you are best at and keep thinking and exploring. Some good sites to visit for career ideas are [www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com) and <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobfamily/Pages/default.aspx>.

**Still Struggling?**- Speak to your school Careers Advisor. You Head of Year will know who this is.
- If you have lots of ideas go back to those 3 key things to consider at the top of the page. Do all the subjects you are considering meet the 3 points? Will not doing one mean closing off a career idea that really interests you? Keeping options open is a good idea at this stage so doing a combination of arts/languages/humanities etc and science might be sensible. Also have a read through of [www.russellgroup.org/InformedChoices-latest.pdf](http://www.russellgroup.org/InformedChoices-latest.pdf) which outlines some universities' perceptions of different courses. Remember though, it is your decision and not all universities will always be of the opinion stated.
- If you are struggling to choose what to study or do next it may help to think ahead to your future ideas and also think about what kinds of things you like and enjoy doing. There are various resources that can help you do that and our vlog [www.elev8careers.org.uk/careers-blog/online-research-activities-to-help-you-choose-what-subjects-to-study](http://www.elev8careers.org.uk/careers-blog/online-research-activities-to-help-you-choose-what-subjects-to-study) helps you explore these.
- Do consider other options such as apprenticeships or work with training. But remember you need to be happy with that particular job and career area as your study will be focused around it.

**In Summary**
Think carefully about what you enjoy, speak to teachers and try and try to think one step ahead. This means not just considering next week but maybe looking as far as your early twenties or further! What is the best future you can imagine for yourself? What are you doing in this future? The next steps you take will influence what your options are so make sure you choose wisely and for yourself.