**

ONLINE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES TO HELP YOU CHOOSE WHAT SUBJECTS TO STUDY

This activity is designed to help you choose subjects to study after year 11 by thinking ahead to the future. I call this future forecasting - the more information you know about yourself and what is possible the better your decisions will be. You might not have a crystal ball but you can explore ideas for your future, check what you need to study and make sure you keep open options that will allow as many opportunities that interest you to remain possible. So basically we are jumping into the future in order to make sure your next steps take you where you want to go!

Learning how to research career ideas is useful for everyone but is especially helpful for those struggling with too many ideas or have no ideas at all for their next steps.

**Kent Careers Explorer**  
[www.kent.ac.uk/careers/explorer.htm](http://www.kent.ac.uk/careers/explorer.htm)

The first thing you might want to do is to consider what kinds of jobs might suit you based on the kinds of things that interest you. The explorer tool is a quick way of identifying career ideas based on your interests.

**National Careers Service**  
<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobfamily/Pages/default.aspx>

The National Careers Service Job Profiles section allows you to find out about different jobs in more detail including the qualifications needed to do that job. You can check if you need a degree for different jobs and what subjects you need to study. You can either search for a specific job or explore different career sectors to see what kinds of jobs are possible.

**Plotr**  
[www.plotr.co.uk/game/](http://www.plotr.co.uk/game/)

Plotr website has some really great tools such as the worlds section which allows you to explore different employers and career sectors and see what kinds of jobs are available. They also have a questionnaire which helps you identify what kinds of jobs might be suitable for you. There are various parts to the questionnaire and the more you complete the more accurate the suggestions will be.

**Icould**

[www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com/)

Icould has a huge range of video interviews with professionals in many different jobs. You can search for jobs that might interest you based on subject interests or the decisions you are struggling with at the moment to see how other people have dealt with similar problems. This is a great way to get a realistic insight into what different jobs are all about.

**UCAS**

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com/)

UCAS is the organisation through which you apply for university degrees. You can use their site to check degree entry requirements. So if you know you need a certain degree to do a job that interests you, you can check on UCAS what subjects you need to take next to do that degree. That way you won't finish your A Levels and realise you haven't studied the right subjects. You can also use the site to check where you can study A Levels and BTECs locally.

**Couple of other resources to get you thinking!**

[www.futuristspeaker.com/2011/11/55-jobs-of-the-future/](http://www.futuristspeaker.com/2011/11/55-jobs-of-the-future/)- Jobs are changing radically and we don't really know what new careers may exist in five or ten years. This article might get you thinking about the kinds of skills and areas that are developing and you might find some that really interest you!

<http://university.which.co.uk/advice/six-things-you-need-to-know-before-making-your-a-level-choices>- Helpful list of things to consider before you make your choices.

[www.russellgroup.org/InformedChoices-latest.pdf](http://www.russellgroup.org/InformedChoices-latest.pdf) For those of you aiming for top universities this is worth a read. Although remember, the most important thing when choosing is for you to like and enjoy studying a subject.