Making any decision around your GCSE options or career may seem far away. And it is. However, by starting to explore options now you will be in a stronger position to make decisions when the time comes.

How can you do this?

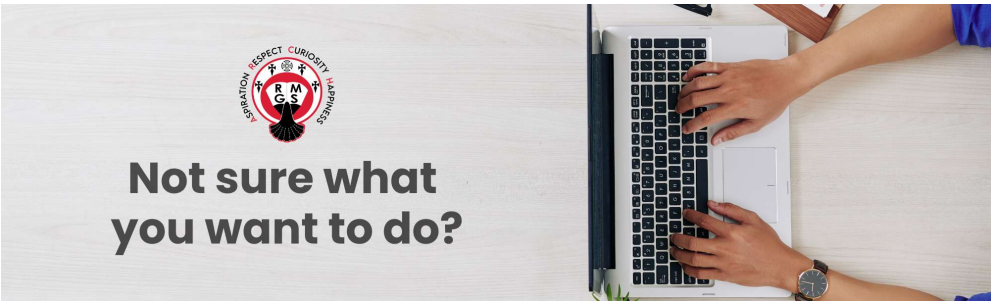
This crib sheet is packed with simple steps to help you explore different career options, build a stronger understanding of different career pathways and how subjects link to careers. By working through each step you'll further: develop your personal skills; gain a clearer understanding of career and education pathways; improve your organisation; strengthen your sense of purpose; and raise your aspirations.

Don't worry – this is not about having your entire future mapped out now. It's about exploring your options, discovering what interests you, and gaining the confidence and clarity to make informed decisions when the time comes.

Underpinning all of this in Year 8 will be : Opportunity to book Career Guidance 1-2-1 meetings; Career Drop Down; Resource Library; Assemblies; Form Time; Career Surgeries; PSHE.

Remember, your career pathway is yours and yours alone. This is about your journey.
If you are struggling with any of this or would like help please email me ewilliams@rmet.org

Let's get started...



This is normal – so firstly do not worry. This section is designed to help you explore options that link into your personality, skills, subjects or interests.

Having a think NOW about what you are interested in might help you decide which pathways you take in terms of GCSE's, A-Levels; T-Levels at College; Apprenticeships or employment.

Use the summer to have fun and explore options that link into your interests and skills

- Do the National Skills Assessment which is a short online quiz that will look at your skills and interests and suggest options – these may not suit you but sometimes this can bring up suggestions that you have not thought about :
    - https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/

- Or try the Job Quiz on Career Pilot – which again may help you establish some ideas that you had not thought about :
    - https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors

- Do the Buzz Quiz : a simple quiz to find out what personality traits you have and how to make the most of them.
    - https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/buzz-quiz

Let's look at the subjects you are doing or enjoy

- Use this platform to select the subjects that you enjoy and see the types of potential Career Options that link into these. Are there any in here that interest you? Do not rule something out based on an assumption – every single option is huge and includes a wide range of jobs. *Make a list of any that interest of intrigue you :*
    - https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/subjects

Let's think about a sector or an industry that you are interested in

- Use these platforms to look at the types of careers that fall under sectors or industries that you are interested in – explore all of them. *Add these to your list:*
    - https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/sectors
    - https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers

Let's have a look at Careers that link into any values that you have

- Whether you want to do a career where you are helping someone or want to use practical skills – think of any strong values you might have that important to you :
    - https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/strengths-and-values

Now you can take this list of potential careers onto the next step...

Whether you already had a Career in mind OR now have a potential list from the previous steps – do you know enough about it? Do you know where it might take you or even how to get there? Do you know if it is a career that will be impacted by AI or other factors?

- Use these websites to really find out more about Careers that interest you. Look at routes into that career and more about it such as: The Labour Market Information (how is this job likely to be impacted by factors such as AI etc); progression opportunities; entry routes; what might you actually be doing; salaries; working hours etc :
    - https://www.prospects.ac.uk/
    - https://www.mypathcareersuk.com/a-z-of-jobs
    - https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/all-careers

This decision does not need to be made yet – BUT why not have a look at your options?

Do you stay within a Secondary 6th Form setting to study A Levels?
Do you go to college and study for T-Levels (Technical Levels)
Do you like the sound of V-Levels (Vocational Levels)?
Does an Apprenticeship sound appealing?
Do you want to go straight into Employment?
Or do you have no idea?

Again – do not worry. Use the resources below to help you decide. And even if you cannot decide what to do - you will have plenty of help and support through your Teachers, 1-2-1

guidance meeting with our Careers Adviser, Work Experience and Resources over the next few years

- This page has all the information you need at this stage to go through all of the pathways options for you after Year 11 :
    - https://www.rainhammark.com/page/?title=Post+16+Choices&pid=386

6th Form

- 6th Form vs College – which will suit you better?
    - https://www.rainhammark.com/page/?title=Post+16+%2D+6th+Form+vs+College%3F&pid=405

- RMGS 6th Form : what to expect?
    - https://www.rainhammark.com/6thformmainpage

- Which 6th Form is right for me?
    - This is a personal choice and it is important that you ensure the 6th form you intend to go for is right for you. Things to consider are:
        - Location
        - A Level subjects available – do they support you career interests?
        - Entry requirements
        - The 6th Form vision, ethos and atmosphere

College

- College Vs 6th Form – what is right for you?
    - https://www.rainhammark.com/page/?title=Post+16+%2D+6th+Form+vs+College%3F&pid=405

- What are my choices at College?
    - https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/further-education-at-16

- What are T-Levels?
    - https://www.rainhammark.com/page/?title=Post+16+Choices&pid=386

- How do I apply to a college?
    - https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/further-education-at-16/how-do-i-get-on-an-fe-college-course

- What can you do after your College course?
    - https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/further-education-at-16/what-will-i-be-able-to-do-after-the-course

Apprenticeships

- What is an Apprenticeship? : If you are considering an Apprenticeships after Year 11 then the Level you would look at is in most cases a Level 2-3 :
    - https://www.rainhammark.com/page/?title=Apprenticeships&pid=426

- What subjects link to which Apprenticeship and visa versa? :
    - https://www.rainhammark.com/page/?title=Apprenticeships&pid=426

- How do I find an Apprenticeship and when should I start looking?
  This is important – if you are thinking of applying for an Apprenticeship it is important that you start to get organised **NOW.** Some Apprenticeship open in September. Use the resources on these pages to do the following so that you are ahead of the game:

    - https://www.rainhammark.com/page/?title=Apprenticeships&pid=426
    - https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-16/apprenticeships

  - Start to get used to Google searches for latest apprenticeship opportunities such as “Apprenticeships in business” “Apprenticeships in film” as these searches will capture any that are not picked up in the search channels from the previous steps.

  - Create and update your CV : Do not forget with this you can send your CV to myself for proofing :
    - https://www.rainhammark.com/page/?title=How+to+write+a+CV+%26amp%3B+Personal+Statement&pid=380

  - How to write a covering letter :
    - https://www.rainhammark.com/page/?title=Apprenticeships&pid=426

Employment

- Thinking of going straight into Employment after Year 11? :
    - https://www.rainhammark.com/page/?title=Post+18+Career+choices+%2D+what+to+do%3F&pid=375