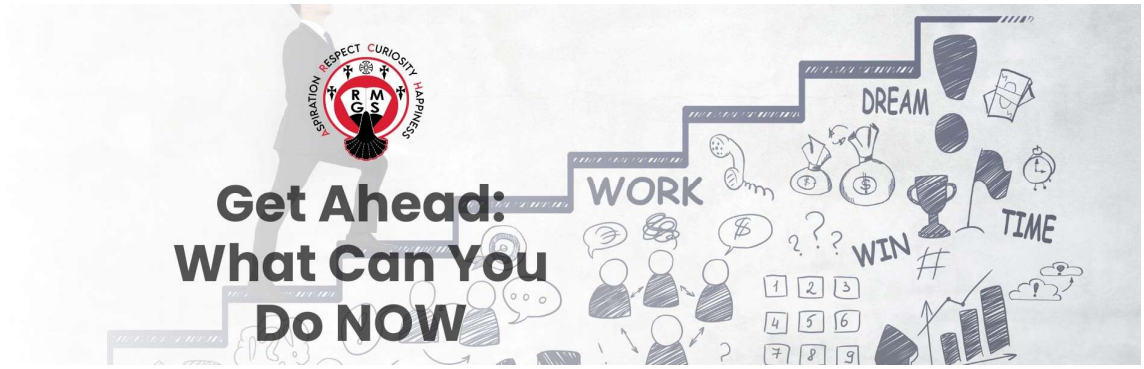


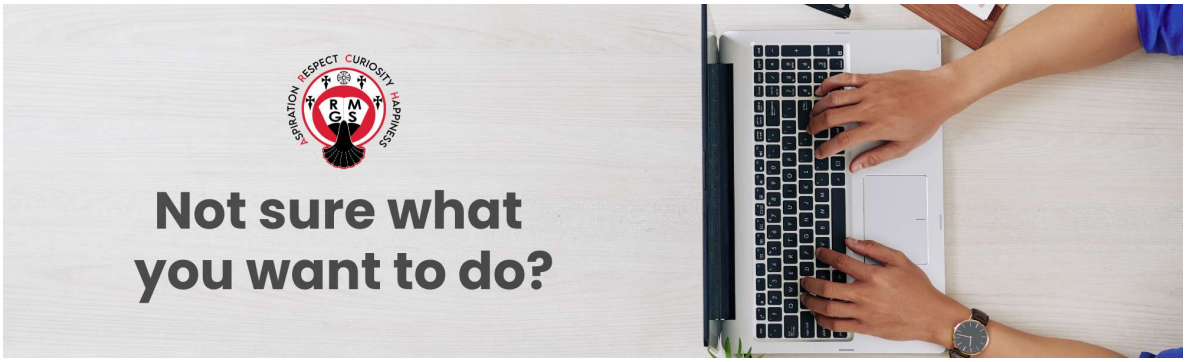
Making your **Post 16 pathway choices in Year 10 & 11** comes around fast, so the best time to start preparing is now. This crib sheet is packed with simple steps to help you build stronger understanding, clarity and awareness of your options. By working through each step you'll further: develop your 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. It's about exploring your options, discovering what interests you, and gaining the confidence and clarity to make informed decisions.

Underpinning all of this in Year 11 will be : Career Guidance 1-2-1 meetings; SLT Interviews; Resource Library; Assemblies; Form Time; Career Surgeries; Enrichment Sessions; 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 A-Levels; T-Levels at College; Apprenticeships or employment.

<u>Use the summer to explore options that link into your interests and skills</u>

- 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

<u>Let's look at the subjects you are doing or enjoy</u>

- 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

<u>Let's think about a sector or an industry that you are interested in</u>

- 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

<u>Let's have a look at Careers that link into any values that you have</u>

- 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



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 in Year 11 you will have plenty of help and support through your Teachers, 1-2-1 guidance meeting with our Careers Adviser, SLT interviews and Resources.

- 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

- Apprenticeship mapping : https://occupational-maps.skillsengland.education.gov.uk/

- 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

Have you got to this point and still not sure where you want to go or what to do?

Again, please do not worry. This happens and can be very normal. When you come back in Year 11 you can have a Careers 1-2-1 with myself to help you reach a pathway that is right for you.



"There is research that proves the positive impact of Personal Development (PD)and improved academic performance. So here are just SOME of the things that you can start to do NOW"

- Utilise Unifrog : This platform has a HUGE array of talks, webinars; skill development acuities to help strengthen your own PD and skills. Also Make sure you have added all of your activities during tour time at RMGS
    - https://www.unifrog.org/teacher/help/148

- Create and update your CV : Your CV is essential for highlighting your skills, achievements, and experiences, which will help you apply for jobs, apprenticeships, and university opportunities. Don't forget that 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

- Work experience (WEX) : Whether you have a few career pathway ideas or none – think about getting some work experience or volunteering sorted in the holidays or October half term. This could be in person or virtual. If you have no idea what you want to do, don't forget that any work experience you do WILL still develop a range of skills and character:

    - In person WEX: Use the vast range of resources on our page to help you find and apply for WEX : https://www.rainhammark.com/page/?title=Work+Experience&pid=229

    - Virtual WEX : This can be a great way to explore different careers and build you profile and character development : https://www.springpod.com/ and https://www.futuresforall.org/

- Follow the Careers Teams page for updates and opportunities

- Search online for any events / webinars or talks that interest you or enable you to not only find out more about a sector but might help you decide if it's something you have an interest in :
    - https://www.speakersforschools.org/work-experience-opportunities/
    - https://www.springpod.com/virtual-work-experience

- Look into Professional Institutions or Bodies for a sector or industry that you like such as the Professional Body for Engineering - see if you can subscribe to their newsletters / webinars / social media channels / alerts etc. Also look at their research papers / news articles / blogs etc.

- Volunteering : Contact local charities / organisations / groups / summer camps etc to see if you can volunteer. Volunteering is a wonderful way to not only develop skills and character but also it will look great on your applications whatever you choose to do. Check out our RMGS Careers Facebook Group too as I often share opportunities in there

Remember : it is important to NOT leave all of this until the last minute – going through these steps will put you in a much better position in terms of knowing what is out there for you and what you could think about doing