

# FUTURE CHOICES NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER  
2022



Year 10

## How to help your children with GCSE's

It hardly seems possible that our Year 10 students have now started their GCSE studies. Over the next two years they will embark on a journey that will require them to work hard and be resilient in order to be successful. Sometimes it can be difficult for parents and carers to know what they can practically do in order to help their children with their GCSE's.

### Here is a top five tips for helping your children with their GCSE's.

1. Know that your support matters - Parental support has been shown in multiple studies to be more important than social class in determining grades at GCSE. Children who have the support of their parents perform better at GCSE. It doesn't matter if you didn't have a positive experience of education yourself, what matters is that your child feels supported by you to reach their full potential.
2. Encourage exercise - You've heard the phrase healthy body, healthy mind. Well, that is absolutely true when it comes to being successful at GCSE's. Exercise helps to increase oxygen in the brain, providing greater focus and clarity. It also increases dopamine in the body, which helps us feel happy and less stressed or anxious.
3. Keep an eye on sleep and nutrition - Eating well and getting enough rest is another really important practical part of being successful in studying GCSE's. Both of these will help to boost energy and aid success.
4. Encourage contextual learning - This is taking an aspect of a subject and applying it to everyday scenarios. This can be beneficial, especially if your child has reached a barrier in their studies. By taking say, an aspect of physics and applying it to an everyday situation in the home, you not only improve your child's understanding, but also their ability to recall the information.
5. Think about the future - Talking with you child about their future choices is another excellent way of helping them. Discussing plans about A-Levels, T-Levels, Apprenticeships, Universities or Careers can boost motivation and give a young person something to aim at.

## Jargon buster - Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a real job with a training component. It allows students to earn while they learn, as well as gaining a nationally recognised qualification. Apprenticeships take between one and five years to complete and cover a wide range of industries, from engineering to accountancy, public relations to veterinary nursing.

Apprenticeships are now available up to degree level and above. They're accessible to anyone who has reached school leaving age. There are different entry requirements depending on the sector and job.

There are three levels of apprenticeship available, depending on applicants' skills and qualifications: Intermediate Apprenticeship (Level 2), Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3) and Higher Apprenticeships (Level 4 or above) - within the Higher Apprenticeships grouping sit the new Degree Apprenticeships.

### Intermediate Apprenticeships

An Intermediate Apprenticeship is equivalent to five good GCSE passes. Apprentices work towards work-based learning qualifications such as an NVQ Level 2, Key Skills and, in most cases, a relevant knowledge-based qualification such as a BTEC.

### Advanced Apprenticeships

Advanced apprenticeships work towards work-based learning qualifications such as an NVQ Level 3, Key Skills and, in most cases, a relevant knowledge-based certificate such as a BTEC. To start this programme, the applicant should ideally have five GCSEs at grade C or above or have completed an Intermediate Apprenticeship.

### Higher Apprenticeships

Higher apprentices work towards work-based learning qualifications such as an NVQ Level 4 and, in some cases, a knowledge-based qualification such as a Foundation degree. Apprentices can also progress to higher education, including university degrees.

### Degree Apprenticeships

Degree Apprenticeships are the latest model of apprenticeship to be developed, seeing apprentices achieving a full bachelor's or master's degree - at Levels 6 and 7 - as a core component of the programmes. While Degree Apprenticeships must last a minimum of one year, the programmes will generally last longer than this, typically up to four years, though there is no fixed maximum duration.

# Careers in the Curriculum

We will be sharing information regarding Careers within the Curriculum, with a different subject being featured in each edition of our *Future Choices* newsletter. In this edition, the chosen subject is Computing.

Computer Science develops an understanding of both computer programming and the theory underlying computers and related technologies. You will study the key aspects of programming, data structures, algorithms, program design and how computer programs work in a range of contexts.

It will help you develop useful skills like logical planning, maths skills, programming and other technical skills in areas such as networking.

The skills you will develop are relevant to hundreds of different types of cutting edge jobs across many industries. The current growing fields are cyber security, artificial intelligence and machine learning. These fields are very dependent on both the theory and practical sides of the subject but also on the underlying existing careers paths such as network designers/engineers, IT managers and software developers.

Computer Science combines well with other STEM subjects, particularly maths but also with subjects such as art and design, fashion, and music or even the humanities where logical argument can be used to make relevant points.



## Examples of jobs that Computer Science is relevant to:

- App developer
- Architectural technologist
- Automotive engineer
- Broadcast engineer
- Computer games developer
- Cyber intelligence officer
- Data analyst-statistician
- Electronics engineer
- Head of IT (IT director)
- Information scientist
- Intelligence analyst
- Investment analyst
- IT project manager
- IT security co-ordinator
- IT service engineer
- IT support technician
- IT trainer
- Software developer
- Systems analyst
- Technical architect
- User experience (UX) designer
- Web designer
- Web developer



## Work experience

This term, the Work Experience Programme will be launched to all year 10 students, dates are yet to be confirmed but we can say however, that work experience usually takes place in the last week of August/first week of September each year.

A letter from Mr Hurley will also be sent to parents and carers to explain the process in locating and securing a placement. Students will then attend an assembly to give them some more information on the programme.