



**HEON**  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
OUTREACH NETWORK



# WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS AFTER KEY STAGE 3?

INFORMATION AND LINKS

**YEAR 7**

**GCSES OR BTECS?**

**YEAR 8**

**ALTERNATIVE COURSES?**

**YEAR 9**

## STARTING YEAR 7

It's okay if you do not have clear career ideas and goals in Year 7, 8 & 9. However, identifying your skills and interests can help you make decisions for the future.

DEVELOP  
YOUR SKILLS  
THROUGH AND  
EXTRACURRICULAR  
ACTIVITIES



THINK ABOUT YOUR  
LIKES AND DISLIKES



WHAT ARE YOU  
GOOD AT?



WHAT ARE YOUR  
FAVOURITE  
SUBJECTS?

## DURING YEAR 7

Secondary school offers lots of new opportunities. You need to start thinking about your likes and dislikes to build some key skills in Key Stage 3.



RESEARCH A NEW  
TOPIC IN YOUR  
FAVOURITE  
SUBJECT



TRY A NEW  
EXTRACURRICULAR  
ACTIVITY



WHICH SKILLS CAN  
YOUR SUBJECTS  
HELP YOU  
DEVELOP?

## DURING YEAR 7 START RESEARCHING CAREERS

Certain careers require particular skills and personal qualities. However, for most careers, as long as you have a range of subjects including Maths, Science and English at grade 4 or above at GCSE, this will allow you to access further qualifications beyond Year 11.



WHICH  
CAREERS  
APPEAL TO  
YOU?



WHICH  
CAREERS  
COULD YOUR  
SKILLS SUIT?



FIND OUT  
ABOUT  
QUALIFICATIONS  
NEEDED FOR  
CERTAIN  
CAREERS



SPEAK TO AS  
MANY PEOPLE  
AS POSSIBLE  
ABOUT THEIR  
JOBS

## DURING YEAR 8 AND 9

### MAKING YOUR CHOICES FOR AFTER YEAR 9

It's now time to make your choices. From GCSE options to deciding what to do after Year 11, you will have many decisions to make over the coming years.



**WHICH  
SUBJECTS DO  
YOU ENJOY  
MOST?**



**HOW DO YOU  
LEARN BEST?**



**SPEAK TO YOUR  
TEACHERS  
ABOUT YOUR  
OPTIONS**



**WHAT  
CAREERS  
CAN THESE  
OPTIONS  
LEAD TO?**

## THREE COMMON ROUTES FOR AFTER YEAR 9

### GCSES

**CLASSROOM  
BASED  
LEARNING**

**FURTHER  
INDEPENDENT  
RESEARCH**

**EXAMS  
AND SOME  
COURSEWORK**

### BTECS

**CLASSROOM  
LEARNING WITH  
PRACTICAL  
CONTENT**

**PROJECTS AND  
COURSEWORK**

**VERY FEW  
WRITTEN EXAMS**

### ALTERNATIVE COURSES

**SOME SCHOOLS  
OFFER COURSES IN  
SPECIALIST AREAS  
THROUGH COLLEGES**

**COURSES INCLUDE  
CONSTRUCTION,  
HAIR AND BEAUTY  
AND MORE**

**SPECIFIC  
ASSESSMENTS  
DEPENDING ON  
THE COURSE**

These routes will prepare you for a variety of post 16 and post 18 options. Talk to your teachers, careers advisers and parents to make sure you fully understand your options.

## USEFUL LINKS

Use the links below to research your future options. These can help with ideas on different career choices as well as making sure you make the right choices for you. By researching early on you can make sure you keep all your options open.

CONTINUE TO  
DEVELOP YOUR  
SKILLS AND  
QUALITIES

### WHAT AM I GOOD AT?

**I Could** - [www.icould.com/buzz](http://www.icould.com/buzz)

Take the quiz to identify your strengths and personal qualities and use the links to watch suggested career videos



### RESEARCH CAREERS

**Careerpilot** - [www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors)

A page packed with information about lots of different industries

**Student Ladder** - [www.studentladder.co.uk/Careers](http://www.studentladder.co.uk/Careers)

Articles on a range of careers can be found here with plenty of other information available about your choices

**UCAS Careers** - [bit.ly/UCAScareers](http://bit.ly/UCAScareers)

Research some job families and find out about work experience and other opportunities

FIND OUT WHAT  
QUALIFICATIONS  
YOU NEED TO ENTER  
THESE CAREERS

### WHAT ARE MY NEXT OPTIONS?

**Bright Knowledge** - [www.brightknowledge.org/careers](http://www.brightknowledge.org/careers)

Tips on how to choose what to do after Year 9 and beyond

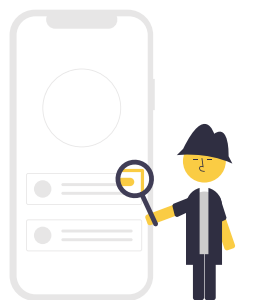
**Your choices at 14** - [www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-14](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/your-choices-at-14)

Find out more about the different options for after Key Stage 3

**BTECs** - [bit.ly/UCASbtec](http://bit.ly/UCASbtec)

Find out more about BTECs on the UCAS website

TIME TO THINK  
ABOUT YOUR LIKES  
AND DISLIKES



### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The HEON website is full of resources and information so do come and take a look at [www.heon.org.uk/students-hub](http://www.heon.org.uk/students-hub)

This guide has been designed by The Higher Education Outreach Network (HEON) in collaboration with Innvate Careers Services Limited For more information visit us at [www.HEON.org.uk](http://www.HEON.org.uk)





## PROGRESS TO KS4

GCSES or BTECS

ALTERNATIVE  
COURSES

## AFTER YEAR 9

Progress on to your chosen qualification path.  
How do your subjects link to careers?

AFTER  
YEAR 9

## MAKING YOUR CHOICES FOR AFTER YEAR 9

### GCSES

GCSEs are taught  
in the classroom  
and require further  
independent  
research

### BTECS

BTECs are taught in  
the classroom and  
require independent  
learning to develop  
work based skills

### ALTERNATIVE COURSES

Vocational  
qualifications can  
be taken alongside  
GCSEs and provide  
work related  
experience

YOU MUST CONTINUE WITH QUALIFICATIONS UNTIL YOU ARE 18  
THESE ARE YOUR OPTIONS FOR AFTER YEAR 9  
THERE ARE MORE AVAILABLE AFTER YEAR 11

YEAR 8

## START RESEARCHING CAREERS

What does the job involve?  
What skills and personal qualities would you need for your careers of interest?  
Which subjects relate to this career?

## DURING YEAR 7

Get used to your new subjects  
Get help with topics you find challenging

YEAR 7

## STARTING YEAR 7

What are you good at?  
Which subjects do you enjoy?

BEFORE  
YEAR 7