

Support guide for reviewing the next steps in your progression - intended destination planning

It is that time of year when your Achievement Tutor in particular will be having in-depth discussions with you about what you want to do next i.e. when you complete this current academic year, what do you plan to do and where do you plan to go?

For some of you the decision is easy, but we know that many of you just aren't sure yet, and that's ok. Here's are some options to consider...

1. Stay at TMC and move up to the next course level or to a different course

A lot of students progress on to the next level of a course e.g. from a Level 1 to a Level 2 or from a Level 2 to a Level 3 course, so that they can continue to develop their skills and knowledge. Other students change their career goals and apply for a different subject area. Think about:

- Do you enjoy what you are currently studying?
- Will your area of study help you achieve your career goals?
- Do you want to move up to the next level of study?
- Do you think that moving to another subject area will be better for you and make you happy?
- Have you got the right knowledge / understanding / qualifications / experience to move to another subject area (i.e. to make a 'sideways move')?

It's really important you seek advice and guidance about choosing your course or changing subjects. Speak to your teacher, Achievement Tutor or our Student Careers Team if you have any questions.



2. Start an apprenticeship

An apprenticeship will provide you with a paid job where you benefit from structured training whilst gaining valuable workplace experience. Alongside your on-the-job training, you will spend a minimum of 6 hours a week on average in off-the-job training with a provider, such as a college or university.

Apprenticeships are available in a whole host of fields including engineering, accounting, hairdressing and advertising. You can take them at a variety of different levels, from intermediate apprenticeships (level 2) to postgraduate apprenticeships, which are the equivalent of a master's degree. Overall, you will learn and develop the skills you need to become competent in your chosen occupation, a vital step to getting a full-time job in the future.

Questions you might want to ask yourself before choosing an apprenticeship:

- Is an apprenticeship right for you?
- Does it make sense financially?
- Will it suit your learning style?
- What skills do you want to develop?
- What job do you want to do next?

To see what apprenticeships are available please visit: www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship



3. Go onto Higher Education (HE)

Higher education is a commitment to three years (or more) of hard work towards a qualification that has the opportunity to open doors into a career path and an industry of your choosing. It will also provide you with opportunities to socialise and engage with new people from diverse backgrounds. In addition, the average salary for graduates is 30% higher than for non-graduates aged 25-30.

For 18+ year olds, the path to higher education requires a Level 3 qualification, such as a BTEC, A Levels, T Levels or an Advanced Apprenticeship. There are many more options available to you including 4 year degree courses with a foundation year, Foundation Degrees, Higher and Degree Apprenticeships and HNDs. Some courses require you to have top grades in your Level 3 qualifications and there are other courses where the entry grades are more flexible.

A degree on your CV is a great to impress employers and may give you bigger choice of jobs upon graduation. Our HE partner UCEN have lots of fantastic courses for you to consider - www.ucenmanchester.ac.uk – and there is a huge variety of courses available with HE providers across the country. You can find more information here: www.ucas.com.

When considering, HE, think about:

- What are you passionate about?
- Does your preferred career require a degree qualification?
- If you don't know what career path you want to take, will a degree in your chosen subject give you enough skills and knowledge?
- What are the entry requirements for your HE choice and can you achieve this?
- Can you budget for the cost of tuition, accommodation, and other living expenses? (Student Loans are available and other financial aid is open to you such as scholarships, grants or disability allowance so please know that support is available to you and widely accessed).
- Have you visited any University Open Events yet? If not, get booked on!



4. Find employment

When looking at your career, you need to consider what's going to be the best option for you personally. It's natural to look to your friends and to want to make decisions based on what they're doing next, but it's important you choose for yourself.

For those who decide to seek employment after leaving college, the world of work can be an exciting yet challenging place. It's important to think about two things here: your strengths, and what you enjoy doing. Spend some time reflecting on this and also think about:

- Why do you want a job now?
- Do you aim to start in an entry level position and work your way up?
- Do you simply want to start earning, and perhaps decide on another career later?
- Have you researched local jobs and employment opportunities?
- Do you want to be self employed and if yes, what support do you need to start up?
- Setting up your own business can be exciting and rewarding. – do you have the drive and determination to do this?
- Have you spoken to our Student Careers Team to understand the job market, how/where to look for jobs, how to write your CV and how to prepare for interviews?



5. Have a gap year

Some students choose to have a Gap year after their course. A gap year is not a year off - it's a way to develop yourself and your skills before taking the next step in your education or career. Depending on your circumstances you could get a paid job, volunteer or find work experience, do a year in industry placement, travel or work abroad, learn a language or take online courses, or even resit your exams.

Ideally, you should choose activities to build the skills you think you'll need in your future career. Popular skills include teamwork, leadership, problem solving and independent learning.

Think about:

- Why do you want a gap year?
- Have you got any ideas about how to use this time?
- Have you got the funds, experience, support you need for any plans you might have?
- What do you plan to do after your gap year?



Speak to your Student Careers Team!

For help in making your decision remember you can book an appointment with our Student Careers Team. They can chat through all of your options and help you consider what next steps would suit you best and make you happy.

Please email: careers&welfare@tmc.ac.uk or visit your onsite Careers Hub.



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