



**INSIDE...**

- ✓ ADVICE
- ✓ USEFUL LINKS
- ✓ FUN QUIZZES

# FINDING MY FUTURE

[GROWS.AC.UK/FMF](http://GROWS.AC.UK/FMF)



NAME

SCHOOL

DATE STARTED



# YOUR FUTURE

# YOUR WAY...

**THE END OF YEAR 11 MAY SEEM FAR AWAY, BUT IT IS NEVER TOO SOON TO START THINKING ABOUT YOUR FUTURE AND YOUR NEXT STEPS**

**You're going to be busy with coursework and exams until you complete your GCSEs so the more research you can do now, the better prepared you will be.**

**Thinking about your future also helps you understand why the qualifications you are studying for are important and gives you a goal to work towards.**

An exciting future lies ahead of you. You can take control of it by making sure **you** know what's right for **you** and what **you** need to do to make your future great. You are an individual and need to make sure you stand out from the crowd.

GROWS has put together this workbook to help you explore the qualification and career options open to you. We've included links to some great online tools, guides and resources which can be accessed at home or at school.

Each activity builds on the previous one, so work through the booklet in order. By the end, you'll be well on your way to working towards your dream future.

Some tasks pose questions; you can check your answers at the back of this booklet but... no cheating!

Each task indicates how long we think it will take, but don't be ruled by this. You may be quicker or want to spend more time on a task - you are planning **your** future, so do it your way!



**ALL ONLINE RESOURCES USED ARE ACCESSED AT [WWW.GROWS.AC.UK/FMF](http://WWW.GROWS.AC.UK/FMF)  
YOU WILL NEED TO POP SOME BASIC DETAILS IN, JUST ONCE SO WE HAVE AN IDEA OF USAGE**

## GCSEs AND BEYOND

You are working towards your **GCSEs**, which are also known as **Level 2** qualifications.

Ideally you'll need to achieve at least five Grade 4s or above, including in maths and English. Do this and you can progress to sixth form or college.\*

Before your GCSEs are even over there will be lots of decisions to make. They include where to study, what subjects to study and what types of qualification to study. It's really important to explore all the options and make the right decision for you.

**YOU HAVE TO STAY IN EDUCATION OR TRAINING UNTIL YOU ARE 18**



*\*If you don't get your grade 4s in maths and/or English GCSE it may still be possible to progress to a level 3 course with the option to re-sit. This will depend on the entry requirements at your chosen sixth form or college and the courses you want to take.*

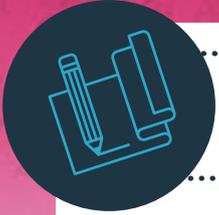
## WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS?

**Further Education** - you'll also see this written as 'FE' - is study for a **Level 3** qualification after GCSEs, usually when you are 16-18.

**Level 3** qualifications include **A levels**, **BTECs**, **T levels** studied in school sixth form or college, and **apprenticeships**.



# WHAT FURTHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATION COULD I DO?



**TASK**  
SHOULD TAKE 5 MINUTES

READ THE STATEMENTS BELOW AND PUT A TICK NEXT TO THOSE THAT BEST DESCRIBE YOU THEN, ADD UP THE NUMBER OF TICKS IN EACH COLUMN...

COLUMN A		COLUMN B	
I prefer taking exams to doing coursework	<input type="checkbox"/>	I like practical work	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am interested in studying a variety of subjects	<input type="checkbox"/>	I have a career in mind	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am not sure what career I would like to follow yet	<input type="checkbox"/>	I prefer coursework to exams	<input type="checkbox"/>
I enjoy learning in a classroom environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to get experience of a workplace linked to my career	<input type="checkbox"/>
I like many of the subjects I currently study	<input type="checkbox"/>	I'd like to study a subject more linked to a job	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTAL TICKS IN A <input type="checkbox"/>		TOTAL TICKS IN B <input type="checkbox"/>	

## MOST TICKS IN COLUMN A: WHY NOT CONSIDER A LEVELS?

A levels, like GCSEs, are assessed mainly through exams. You can continue with subjects you took in Years 10 and 11 and/or take new ones, such as Dance, Journalism, Law and Psychology.

A level students study three or (sometimes) four different subjects, which will give you more choice if you decide to progress onto university. You can study A levels in sixth form or FE college.

### FIND OUT MORE

[www.grows.ac.uk/FMF](http://www.grows.ac.uk/FMF) Bright Knowledge

## MOST TICKS IN COLUMN B: WHY NOT CONSIDER STUDYING A VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OR AN APPRENTICESHIP?

Vocational courses are specialist, work-related qualifications that combine practical and theory work and assessed mainly through coursework.

Subjects are related to careers, for example animal care, childcare, engineering and sport. Vocational courses tend to cover one subject area which allows you to progress into work or higher education in the same field. BTECs and T Levels are examples of vocational courses and are mainly studied at college or in some sixth forms.

### FIND OUT MORE

[www.grows.ac.uk/FMF](http://www.grows.ac.uk/FMF) T Levels

**DID YOU KNOW...**  
THERE ARE OVER 80 A/AS LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES



**MIXTURE OF TICKS IN COLUMN A & B:**  
TURN OVER TO DISCOVER MORE...

**MIXTURE OF TICKS IN COLUMN A & B: SOME SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES HAVE AN OPTION TO STUDY A VOCATIONAL COURSE ALONGSIDE AN A LEVEL OR KEEP YOUR OPTIONS OPEN AT THIS POINT AND THINK ABOUT IT AGAIN AT THE END OF THE WORKBOOK.**

## APPRENTICESHIPS ARE FULL-TIME JOBS WITH TRAINING INCLUDED

**They are assessed through practical evidence, assignments and exams.** The majority of apprenticeships include four days a week of work and one day for learning/studying. Careers that offer apprenticeships include accounting, construction, marketing and social care. Colleges and training

providers can assist you in finding an apprenticeship, however it is more likely you will need to find one yourself by approaching employers in the sector you are interested in. Once you find an apprenticeship job, your provider will contact your employer to organise the training. Most young people start at Level 2 / Intermediate level (same level as GCSE) as you will be learning new work-based skills. This usually takes one year after which you can progress to a Level 3 apprenticeship.

## FIND OUT MORE

[www.apprenticeships.gov.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk)



## TASK SHOULD TAKE 15 MINUTES

**THERE ARE MANY FE COLLEGES AND SIXTH FORMS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE AND HUNDREDS OF SUBJECTS TO CHOOSE FROM. GO ONLINE AND RESEARCH YOUR LOCAL SIXTH FORMS AND COLLEGES, THEN COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING:**

The closest Further Education college is \_\_\_\_\_

One vocational course that is on offer there is \_\_\_\_\_

If the college has more than one campus (location), which campus is the course on? \_\_\_\_\_

The closest school with a sixth form is \_\_\_\_\_

It offers  (insert number) different A level subjects including \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_

A provider that offers apprenticeships near me is \_\_\_\_\_

One of the current vacancies is \_\_\_\_\_ , based in \_\_\_\_\_



**EACH ROUTE OFFERS A RANGE OF SUBJECTS TO CHOOSE FROM. THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS WILL HELP YOU IDENTIFY EXCITING FUTURE CAREERS AND DISCOVER SUBJECTS YOU MIGHT WANT TO STUDY**

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **There is a wide range of post-16 options** to suit different learning styles and future career choices. Research them to understand which choices will suit you best.
- **All post-16 pathways can lead to university study** (although specific subjects are sometimes required).
- **Not all post-16 education is like learning at school.** There are practical options too and you could even have the opportunity to earn while you learn.
- **Whichever path you choose,** you will learn lots of new skills which will benefit you after further education.

# START PLANNING YOUR FUTURE

## MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT FUTURE QUALIFICATIONS CAN BE TRICKY IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START

**You may be lucky and know exactly which career you want to follow and which qualifications are needed.**

Alternatively, you may be like lots of others in your year

Tick the box which reflects your career status

I have a good idea what my future career is, it is... \_\_\_\_\_

Right now, I don't know what my future career looks like... \_\_\_\_\_

who do not yet know what they want to study in the future, let alone what job they might do. It doesn't matter if you don't know. It doesn't even matter if you change your mind in a couple of years. What's important is that you start thinking about your future. That way you can begin to find out as much information as possible so you understand all your options.

## GO ONLINE TO FIND YOUR DREAM CAREER

**We all have our own unique personality, interests and skill sets, that's why it is important that you make choices that are right for you and not just follow your friends.**

The online Careers quiz by **SACU** is an excellent tool that matches your personality to courses and careers through a picture-based quiz. All you need to do is click on the online pictures that appeal the most to you; if none of them do, make sure you click 'none of the above.'



**TASK**  
SHOULD TAKE 60 MINUTES

### TAKE THE ONLINE QUIZ

- Go to [www.grows.ac.uk/FMF](http://www.grows.ac.uk/FMF) 
- New Students Register
- Select your school from the dropdown menu
- **Use an email address you can access now** (you need to verify your email address)
- Enter your full name
- Create a password
- Don't worry about Voucher Code!
- Click REGISTER
- Open your email account and wait for an email from SACU (check your JUNK folder)
- **Open email from SACU student** and click 'Click here to share my information'
- Complete the registration process by logging in with your new details



**Once registration is completed your homepage will look something like this** (above)  
**Click on 'Start a new Career Quiz'** (top of left list)  
**Click on 'Start new'** Follow the instructions

# ONCE COMPLETED YOU WILL SEE THREE OPTIONS

Your Careers Cloud contains lots of jobs based on your picture choices. Did some of them surprise you?

Jot down your top 10 jobs in the cloud below.

(If you click on the menu button to the top right and select 'Top 10', a list appears of subjects and careers, look at the list on the right for careers top ten).



CLICK ON THE CAREERS CLOUD



Put your top career choice in the centre, in the largest text and next to no 1.

Then write the numbers 2-10 around the cloud and fill in your next nine picks.



**TASK**  
SHOULD TAKE 5 MINUTES



CLICK ON THE CAREERS CLOUD

Write down two careers you thought would be in your top 10 but were not...

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You are allowed to give a thumbs down to any you really don't like the thought of! You can explore lots of information related to the careers in the cloud such as job vacancies and which higher education course to study. Another helpful area to research is labour market information. Often referred to as LMI, this gives you information about things like starting salaries and which jobs are in demand.

Pick a career or the career that is your number one. My career is \_\_\_\_\_

Click on that career and chose a job role. The job role is \_\_\_\_\_

What is the weekly pay in the South West for that role? \_\_\_\_\_

How many people will be employed in this role in 2024? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the average earnings in this role at age 20? \_\_\_\_\_ 40? \_\_\_\_\_

What other facts have you found out about this role? \_\_\_\_\_

Which qualifications are needed for this role? \_\_\_\_\_

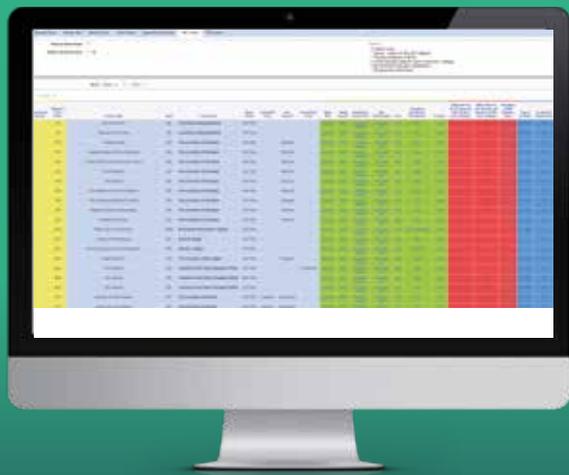
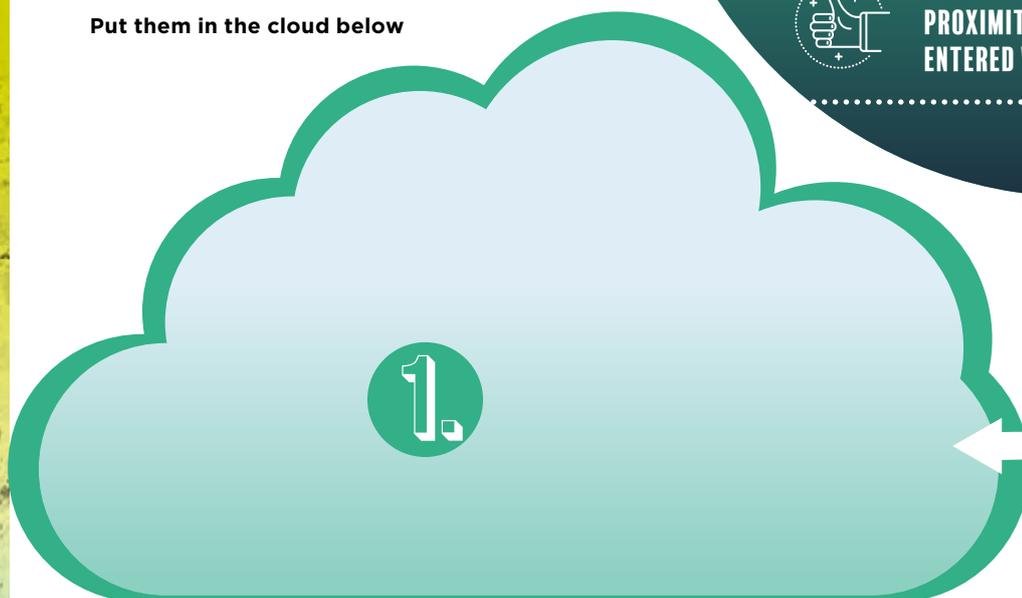
REPEAT THIS FOR ANY OF THE OTHER CAREER AREAS THAT INTEREST YOU

## THE SUBJECT CLOUD SHOWS COURSES THAT CAN BE STUDIED AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL WHICH MATCH YOUR PERSONALITY

Each subject is clickable and the courses can be bookmarked and then viewed in the 'Bookmarks'

**What are your top 10 subjects?**

**Put them in the cloud below**



**COURSES ARE LISTED IN ORDER OF PROXIMITY TO THE POSTCODE YOU ENTERED WHEN YOU REGISTERED**

Put your No 1 subject choice in the centre, in the largest text and next to no 1. Then write the numbers 2-10 around the cloud and fill in your next nine picks.



**TASK**  
SHOULD TAKE 5 MINUTES



**HAVING AN IDEA OF WHAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO STUDY AFTER FURTHER EDUCATION CAN HELP WHEN YOU COME TO CHOOSE SUBJECTS OR QUALIFICATIONS FOR LEVEL 3 (SUCH AS A LEVELS, T LEVELS ETC)**

### PICK ONE SUBJECT AREA

My subject area is \_\_\_\_\_

Choose a course, my course title is \_\_\_\_\_

The nearest place I can study it at is \_\_\_\_\_

The furthest place I can study it at is \_\_\_\_\_

Student satisfaction is \_\_\_\_\_ %

*(this is the percentage of students who were satisfied with the uni course)*

Click on the gov data site link, which is under the key information column then see course info, entry information

Which qualification has the highest percentage? \_\_\_\_\_

# THE APPRENTICESHIP CLOUD

## WHAT ARE YOUR TOP APPRENTICESHIPS? PUT THEM IN THE CLOUD BELOW...

**YOU MAY NOT HAVE AS MANY  
OPTIONS FOR APPRENTICESHIPS  
AS YOU DID FOR CAREERS  
OR SUBJECTS**



**This is because they are not as common as other pathways.**

If you are interested in an apprenticeship, be aware they are quite competitive as there are often lots of young people applying for the same role

## IF YOU FOUND AN APPRENTICESHIP...

Click on one apprenticeship area that interests you, what is it? \_\_\_\_\_

Click on 'view current vacancies', then 'England'; make sure it is sorted by distance

What is the vacancy that appears first? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the salary? \_\_\_\_\_

How far away is it? \_\_\_\_\_

If the Career, Subject and Apprenticeship Clouds were not what you were expecting, check back to see if any of the words they generated relate to something you enjoy. For example, if you were expecting English to appear, journalism may have appeared instead or, if you want to be a nurse, physiotherapy may feature in your cloud. Quite different careers can have lots of things in common, such as working with people; this may have been picked up when you did the quiz.



**IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT COURSES YOU CAN STUDY AT HIGHER EDUCATION OR IF THE SUBJECTS IN YOUR SUBJECT CLOUD WERE NOT WHAT YOU WERE EXPECTING, VISIT [WWW.UCAS.COM/EXPLORE](http://WWW.UCAS.COM/EXPLORE) AND SEARCH THROUGH THE SUBJECT GUIDES OR USE THE ONLINE TOOL TO FIND A COURSE SUITED TO YOU**

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The information in the three clouds may have given you some **ideas for potential careers or subjects to study after GCSEs.**
- **Even if you already have a career in mind,** the Career Cloud should have given you more options in your career field.
- **Every apprenticeship is not available in every location.** You need to make sure you are aware of the options, which change frequently.

# WHAT ABOUT JOBS?

**THE WORLD OF WORK IS CHANGING ALL THE TIME**

**NOW THAT YOU HAVE EXPLORED SOME POTENTIAL CAREERS, YOU NEED TO EXPLORE WHAT KINDS OF JOBS WILL BE AROUND WHEN YOU ARE READY TO ENTER THE JOB MARKET**

Some job roles that used to be in demand are being replaced by technology. These include jobs on car production lines and in the farming industry. Many manufacturing jobs are now located overseas where parts and labour are often cheaper.

It's useful for you to know about these changes, also known as labour market information (LMI). It's important that the job you plan for is one that is likely to be around in the future.



**TASK**  
SHOULD TAKE 8 MINUTES

**LOOK AT THE JOBS BELOW, DO YOU THINK THEY ARE **HOT** JOBS (INCREASING IN NUMBER) OR **COLD** JOBS (DECREASING IN NUMBER)?**

**MARK 'H' FOR **HOT** OR 'C' FOR **COLD** NEXT TO EACH JOB...**

- Physics Teacher
- Military Operative
- Social Media Manager
- Social Worker
- Supermarket Checkout Operative
- Dairy Farmer
- Green Energy Researcher
- Office Administration Assistant
- Cyber Security Analyst
- IT Engineer (Computers)
- Factory Assembler
- Healthcare - doctors, nurses, paramedics
- Special Effects Movie Artist

**CHECK YOUR ANSWERS ON PAGE 18.  
IS THERE ONE THAT SURPRISED YOU?**



**CAN YOU MATCH ONE OF THE HOT AND COLD JOBS TO EACH OF THE CATEGORIES BELOW?  
USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORLD OF WORK AND THE INFORMATION IN THE MIDDLE  
COLUMN TO DETERMINE WHICH JOBS MIGHT BE AFFECTED**

WHAT IS CHANGING	HOW CAN IT AFFECT JOBS?	WHICH JOB ROLE MIGHT BE IN DEMAND?
<b>New technology is being developed all the time</b>	Crime is becoming more sophisticated and now takes place in the virtual world, as well as the real one	
<b>More people on the planet</b>	Better medicines and knowledge of health means people live longer lives. Populations are also growing	
<b>The IT skills of people around the world are improving</b>	We expect bigger and better special effects in our movies	
<b>Climate change is a global problem</b>	More research into saving energy and developing greener technologies	

**GO TO [WWW.GROWS.AC.UK/FMF](http://WWW.GROWS.AC.UK/FMF)  CAREEROMETER**  
**REMEMBER YOUR NO 1 CAREER FROM THE SACU QUIZ? SEE IF YOU CAN FIND IT**

What is the growth rate? \_\_\_\_\_ %

Creating how many jobs by 2027? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the projected number of job openings for this career area? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think this job is classed as a hot or a cold job?    HOT     COLD

**LOOK UP ANY OTHER JOBS THAT INTEREST YOU AND JOT DOWN THE MAIN FIGURES**



**THINGS TO REMEMBER**

- **No-one can be completely sure which jobs will or won't be available in the future** HOWEVER some jobs are essential and cannot be completed by robots.
- **Some jobs that will exist in the future haven't even been thought of yet.** In 2007 the first iPhone was released. The rise of the smartphone has created hundreds of linked job roles that exist today.
- **As the world changes, so does the job market.** Having transferable key skills and qualifications is important to ensure you are ready for a range of jobs.

# GAINING THE SKILLS

## FOR SUCCESS



**NO MATTER WHAT CAREER CHOICE YOU MAKE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A RANGE OF TRANSFERABLE SKILLS**

To help you make informed choices about your future, it's really useful to explore the skills you have now, the

skills you are best at and which ones you might need to work at to improve.

You will often hear employers talking about hard and soft skills. Some of these skills you gain just by going through your day-to-day lives, others you can work on to improve and increase your employability prospects.

**HARD SKILLS = TEACHABLE SKILLS LIKE COMPUTER PROGRAMMING, READING, WRITING AND MATHS**



**SOFT SKILLS = PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES YOU DEVELOP LIKE TEAMWORK, COMMUNICATION AND LISTENING SKILLS**



**TASK**  
SHOULD TAKE 10 MINUTES

**FROM THE LIST BELOW, MATCH UP THE JOBS WITH THE SOFT SKILLS REQUIRED**

- Communication
- Negotiation
- Organisation
- Leadership
- Problem solving
- Creative
- Independent thinking
- Time management
- Critical thinking
- Presentation skills

**ANSWERS ON PAGE 18**



Housing Architect		Cyber Security Analyst	
Engineer		A&E Nurse	
Secondary School teacher		Your SACU career?	

**EMPLOYERS WILL LIST KEY HARD AND SOFT SKILLS IN JOB ADVERTS. THE MORE YOU KNOW ABOUT YOURSELF AND THE MORE SOFT SKILLS YOU CAN DEMONSTRATE, THE MORE EMPLOYABLE YOU BECOME**



**TASK**  
SHOULD TAKE 20 MINUTES

**HERE ARE THE TOP SOFT SKILLS EMPLOYERS LOOK FOR**

Indicate which of your soft skills you feel confident about in the green column, which ones are you working on in the amber column and, in the red column, which ones you have no experience of.

Remember, soft skills are developed in all aspects of your life: school, sports field, outside clubs and interests, even during trips to the supermarket (communication!). **Think about all aspects of your life.**

	GREEN	AMBER	RED
COMMUNICATION			
ORGANISATION			
PROBLEM SOLVING			
CREATIVE			
INDEPENDENT THINKING			
TIME MANAGEMENT			
LEADERSHIP			
CRITICAL THINKING			
PRESENTATION SKILLS			
TEAMWORK			

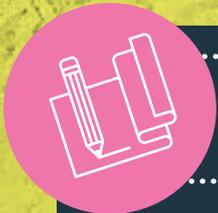
**FOR ANY THAT ARE RED, CAN YOU THINK OF WAYS TO IMPROVE THAT SKILL?**

**Are there opportunities coming up where you can work on them?**

eg Mock exams, working at home, volunteering, clubs.

Set yourself some targets to increase your soft skills

EXAMPLE			
WHICH SOFT SKILL DO YOU WANT TO INCREASE?	<i>Leadership</i>		
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO ACHIEVE THAT?	<i>Next time we have group work at school I will ask to lead the group discussion</i>		
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO ACHIEVE IT?	<i>By May half-term</i>		
HOW WILL YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE DEVELOPED THIS SKILL?	<i>I will feel more confident leading a discussion</i>		



## TASK SHOULD TAKE 10 MINUTES

GO TO [WWW.GROWS.AC.UK/FMF](http://WWW.GROWS.AC.UK/FMF)  **CAREERPILOT** AND COMPLETE THE EXERCISE TO MATCH YOUR EXPERIENCE TO SKILLS  
You will need to register and gain a log in.



## TASK SHOULD TAKE 8 MINUTES

Employers like to have rounded individuals who have qualifications, hard and soft skills AND who also fit into their organisation. In this section you will explore a bit about your personality and how that might translate in the world of work. The Buzz quiz is a quick and fun way to find out a bit about the type of person you are. There are 16 possible results, each represented by an animal. The results indicate what you would be like as a boss, give you some top tips, outline suitable careers and show you which celebrities share the same personality traits as you.

TAKE THE BUZZ QUIZ BY FOLLOWING THE INSTRUCTIONS  
[WWW.GROWS.AC.UK/FMF](http://WWW.GROWS.AC.UK/FMF)  **BUZZ QUIZ**

Which animal are you? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the 'Top Tips' for your character animal? \_\_\_\_\_

What jobs does your character animal tend to work in? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think this is like you? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

DO YOU RECOGNISE ANY OF THE FAMOUS PEOPLE WHO SHARE YOUR ANIMAL TYPE? MAKE A NOTE OF THEM



## TASK SHOULD TAKE 5 MINUTES

PUT TOGETHER THE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF THE LAST FEW TASKS.

What are your three best soft skills **1.** \_\_\_\_\_ **2.** \_\_\_\_\_ **3.** \_\_\_\_\_

Which jobs did your animal type do well in? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any matches? \_\_\_\_\_

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Building up a range of key skills** – both hard and soft – is really important as all employers look for people with a wide range of skills.
- **You can improve your soft skills in a range of ways,** but first you need to know which ones you have already nailed and which need a bit of work.

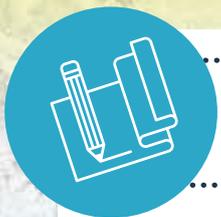
# WHY CONSIDER UNIVERSITY?

## PREPARING FOR YOUR FUTURE CAN HELP YOU WHEN MAKING IMPORTANT DECISIONS ON YOUR JOURNEY

It might seem way too early to think about life after GCSEs let alone after sixth form or college but it's worth considering now. Studying after sixth form/college is known as Higher Education, often referred to as HE.

As you've seen from the other activities, university-level qualifications are required for some jobs. Sometimes it is necessary to have a specific qualification, eg in teaching, nursing, or as a solicitor. However, many employers want employees with degrees (university qualifications) and don't specify a particular subject. They are more interested in the broader skills university-qualified employees have gained.

WATCH THE ANIMATION AT [GROWS.AC.UK/FMF](https://grows.ac.uk/fmf)  [GROWSANIMATION](https://grows.ac.uk/fmf)



## TASK SHOULD TAKE 5 MINUTES



BY 2027, AROUND 55% OF PEOPLE IN EMPLOYMENT ARE EXPECTED TO BE QUALIFIED AT LEVEL 4

### AFTER WATCHING THE ANIMATION, ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS...

1. Write down the four jobs requiring a degree \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many HE courses are there to choose from? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is going to university free? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why do employers like university graduates? \_\_\_\_\_

### Having higher qualifications definitely keeps your options open

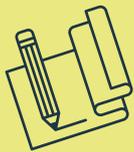
By 2027 over half the jobs in the UK will require qualifications beyond sixth form/college (Level 4 or above). if you can only apply for 45% of jobs, your options will be limited. There are a range of routes to gain a university-level qualification. As long as you have the right Level 3 qualifications, this can be an option for everyone.

### AS WELL AS BOOSTING YOUR CHANCES OF BAGGING YOUR DREAM JOB, THERE ARE OTHER GREAT REASONS TO GO TO UNIVERSITY...

- **Get the skills employers want** – as a student you gain a huge range of skills such as independence, communication, research, IT and presentation skills to name a few.
- **Earn more** – you are likely to earn a higher salary as a graduate.
- **You are more employable as a graduate**, the demand for people with degrees is increasing all the time.
- **Getting future ready** – technology is constantly changing, you've seen in the hot and cold jobs activity that jobs are changing, the skills needed are changing and it's important to keep up. Many new jobs will require a higher level qualification.
- **It's about more than being in a classroom**, you meet a huge range of people and have access to lots of opportunities.



ANSWERS ON PAGE 18



## TASK

SHOULD TAKE 10 MINUTES

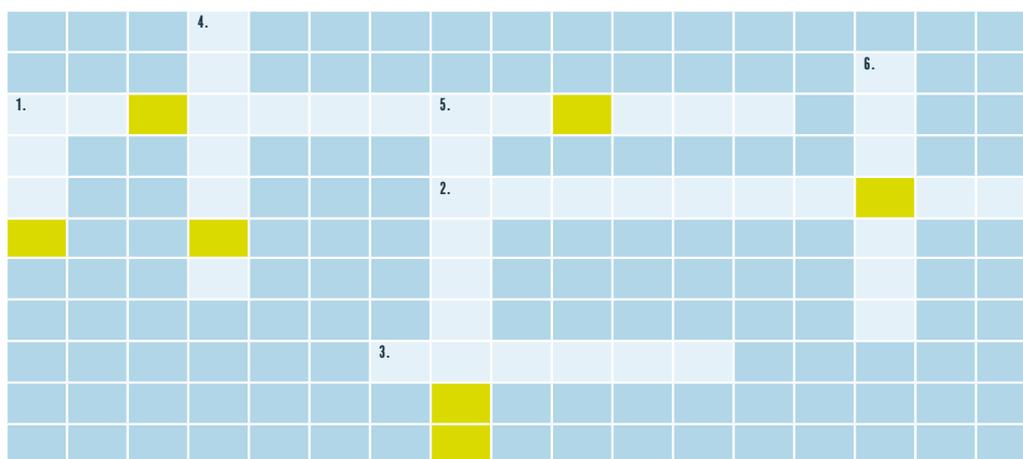
**JARGON BUSTER CROSSWORD** - SEE IF YOU CAN COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD BELOW USING THE CLUES, ALL THE WORDS RELATE TO UNIVERSITY...

### ACROSS

- This is what a student is called while studying for a degree
- This is the booklet that gives information about a university to a student thinking of studying a degree
- This is the location of a university's buildings, where students study

### DOWN

- Students apply to university through this organisation
- Students are known as this in their first year of studying
- When a student applies to university they are called this
- Students attend this and are taught in a really large group and room



**REARRANGE THE LETTERS IN THE GREEN SQUARES TO SPELL OUT...**

There's plenty of time to think about university, but some of the decisions you make now can affect your choices later on. GCSEs are the first important step. Whichever future path you take, it all starts with GCSEs. Try hard to achieve Grades 9-4 in Maths and English - they can be influential throughout your life.



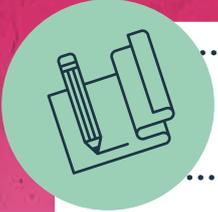
## TASK

SHOULD TAKE 5 MINUTES

**WHETHER YOU LOVE SCHOOL OR CAN'T WAIT TO LEAVE, UNIVERSITY LIFE IS VERY DIFFERENT TO SCHOOL DEPENDING ON THE SUBJECT YOU CHOOSE, IT CAN BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT. FOR EACH STATEMENT MARK WITH A 'U' IF YOU THINK IT DESCRIBES UNIVERSITY, OR PUT AN 'S' IF YOU THINK IT DESCRIBES SCHOOL.**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Class sizes can go up to 300 learners        | <input type="checkbox"/> You have to pay fees       | <input type="checkbox"/> You study one or two subjects     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You don't need to live at home, but you can  | <input type="checkbox"/> You study lots of subjects | <input type="checkbox"/> There's independent learning time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching is about 25 hours a week            | <input type="checkbox"/> You need to ask for help   | <input type="checkbox"/> There's homework                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching is on average about 15 hours a week | <input type="checkbox"/> You are more independent   | <input type="checkbox"/> It is free                        |

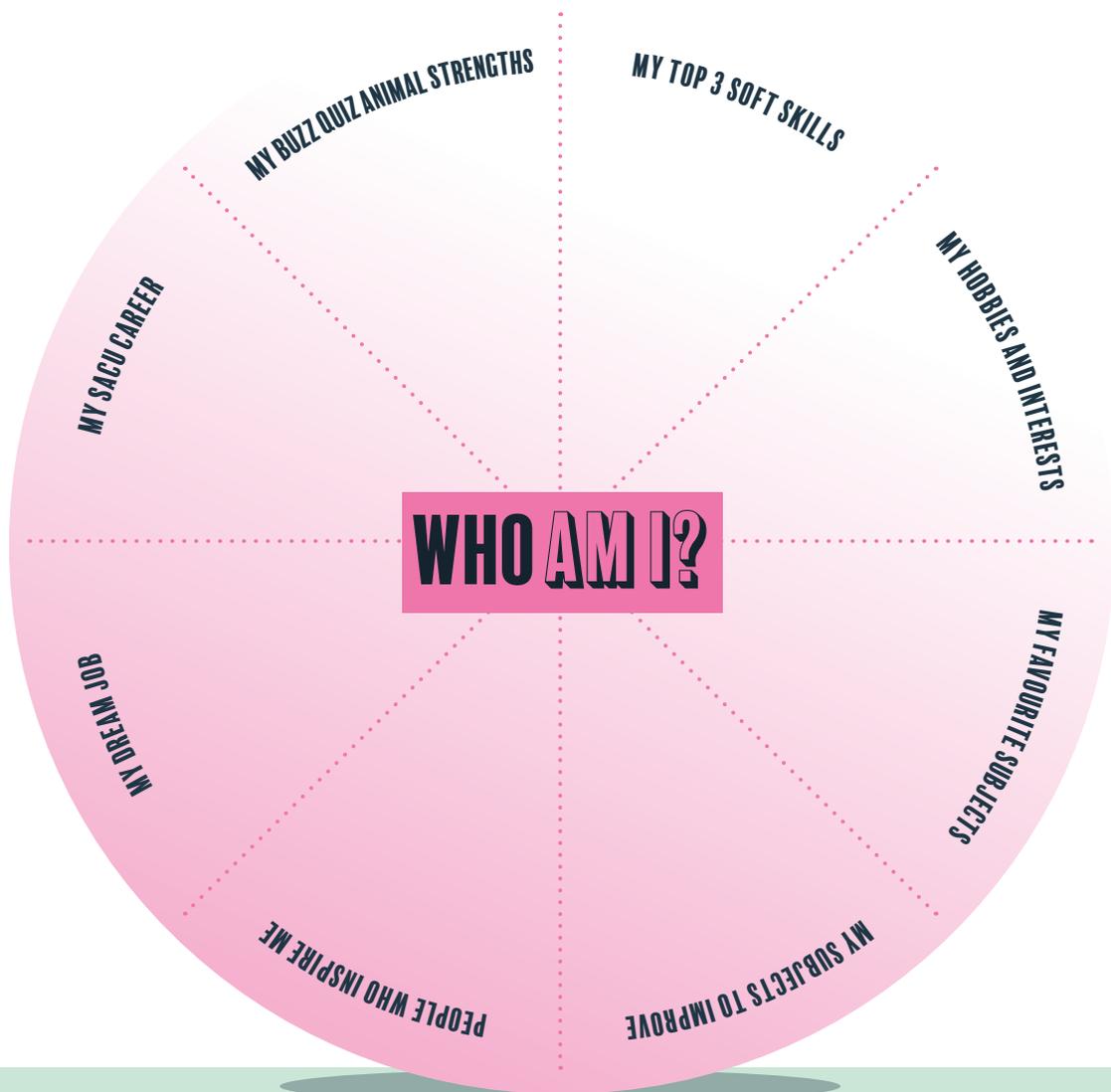
# MY GOALS...



**TASK**  
SHOULD TAKE 10 MINUTES

RIGHT... YOU'VE EXPLORED YOUR OPTIONS AFTER GCSEs, LOOKED AT POTENTIAL CAREERS AND WHETHER THEY WILL BE AROUND IN THE FUTURE, ASSESSED YOUR SOFT SKILLS AND PERSONALITY TYPE, AND LEARNED MORE ABOUT HIGHER EDUCATION.

NOW IT'S TIME TO BRING IT ALL TOGETHER AS A GOAL MAP, THIS WILL HELP YOU SET SOME GOALS AND ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THOSE GOALS. COMPLETE EACH SEGMENT OF THE CIRCLE, TO HELP YOU IDENTIFY WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU ENJOY



## MY GOALS

Now you have some ideas of your strengths and areas for improvement or future dreams, let's think about setting some specific goals. Think about the ages below and where you want to be, what job? Driving? Studying? Own a house? Have your own family? Own your own business?

By the time I am 16, I would like to... \_\_\_\_\_

By the time I am 18, I would like to... \_\_\_\_\_

By the time I am 25, I would like to... \_\_\_\_\_

# MY

# GOAL MAP...



## TASK

SHOULD TAKE 10 MINUTES

USE THE GOAL WHEEL YOU CREATED AS A GUIDE AND WORK BACKWARDS FROM YOUR DREAM JOB TO COMPLETE A GOAL MAP

WHAT IS MY DREAM JOB?

WHAT HIGHER EDUCATION COURSE(S) SHOULD I TAKE?

WHAT POST-16 OPTIONS SHOULD I TAKE?

WHAT WORK EXPERIENCE OR VOLUNTEERING SHOULD I DO?

WHAT GCSE SUBJECTS DO I NEED TO WORK ON?

SUBMIT YOUR GOAL MAP TEXT TO **WIN A PRIZE** [WWW.GROWS.AC.UK/FMF](http://WWW.GROWS.AC.UK/FMF)  **FEEDBACK**



**WIN A PRIZE!**

ON PAGE 11 YOU SET YOURSELF SOME TARGETS TO IMPROVE YOUR SOFT SKILLS. REMIND YOURSELF WHAT THEY ARE BELOW...

Soft skill target one is to... \_\_\_\_\_

Soft skill target two is to... \_\_\_\_\_

# BE YOUR BEST SELF...



**AFTER COMPLETING THIS WORKBOOK,  
YOU SHOULD HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT  
YOUR FUTURE MIGHT LOOK LIKE, AND HOW YOU  
MIGHT GET THERE. NOW IT IS UP TO YOU...**

**LIFE ISN'T JUST ABOUT GETTING  
QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS,  
IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU  
TAKE OPPORTUNITIES THAT  
COME YOUR WAY**

By taking up as many experiences as you can, you are discovering, exploring, learning and becoming a more rounded person. Experiences, especially out-of-school experiences, help you stand out from the crowd and give you real-life examples to show to colleges, universities and employers who you are

**MAKE SURE YOUR FREE TIME ISN'T  
WASTED. MAYBE YOU COULD...**

- Take on a volunteering role
- Look into the Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Ask someone in your family to give you work experience
- Find a free experience close to home
- Start a new sport or hobby

**GROWS PARTNERS WITH SCHOOLS ACROSS  
GLOUCESTERSHIRE TO PROVIDE A RANGE OF  
ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS THAT GIVE YOU AN  
INSIGHT INTO UNIVERSITY LIFE AND A RANGE  
OF CAREER AREAS.**

**How do you know if you love something you've never tried?** Lots of our events cover subjects and careers you probably won't have experienced at school before. Sometimes you have to try something to know!

**GO TO [WWW.GROWS.AC.UK](http://WWW.GROWS.AC.UK) TO SEE ALL OUR  
EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES PLUS A RANGE OF USEFUL  
RESOURCES. YOU CAN ALSO SIGN-UP FOR UPDATES  
AND INVITES TO FUTURE EVENTS**

Complete our form to let us know how you got on and we can make changes to future booklets  
[www.grows.ac.uk/FMF](http://www.grows.ac.uk/FMF)  Eval Form





# FIND OUT MORE...



**LINKS TO USEFUL WEBSITES WITH  
INFORMATION ABOUT HIGHER  
EDUCATION (HE), CAREERS AND MORE...**

## **GROWS.AC.UK**

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR YOU AND YOUR PARENTS ABOUT FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION, BOTH LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY

## **GROWS.AC.UK/SACU**

IMPARTIAL CAREERS INFORMATION, INCLUDING THE SPARTAN TEST WHICH MATCHES YOUR PERSONALITY TO HE COURSES AND CAREERS

## **CAREERPILOT.ORG.UK**

PROVIDES INFORMATION ABOUT DIFFERENT QUALIFICATIONS AND JOB SECTORS AND ALLOWS YOU TO RECORD YOUR SKILLS AND HOW THEY LINK TO HE

## **STUDENTLADDER.CO.UK**

GCSE, A-LEVEL AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND TIPS ON STUDIES, UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS, CAREERS AND STUDENT LIFE

## **ICOULD.COM**

CAREERS SITE WITH PERSONAL STORIES AND BUZZ QUIZ TO HELP YOU FIND YOUR STRENGTHS AND WHAT CAREERS YOU COULD DO

## **UCAS.COM**

INFORMATION ABOUT THE RANGE OF COURSES OFFERED AT UNIVERSITIES AND WHERE THEY CAN LEAD

## **PROSPECTS.AC.UK**

INFORMATION ABOUT GRADUATE JOBS, INCLUDING QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

## **THESTUDENTROOM.CO.UK**

THE UK'S BIGGEST STUDENT COMMUNITY, PROVIDING INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE TO YOUNG PEOPLE

## **DISCOVERUNI.GOV.UK**

THE UNI CONNECT PROGRAMME FROM THE OFFICE FOR STUDENTS OFFERS ACTIVITIES, ADVICE AND INFORMATION ON THE BENEFITS AND REALITIES OF GOING TO UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE

