

STUDY PROGRAMMES:

MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE A GUIDE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE DOCUMENT
FOR ADULTS INCLUDING PARENTS, CARERS,
CAREERS LEADERS AND TEACHERS

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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT?

This supplementary guidance has been produced to give adults some suggestions for how they might use '[Study Programmes: Making the Right Choice](#)' when supporting young people to make important decisions about their future careers.

WHAT IS 'STUDY PROGRAMMES: MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE'?

'[Study Programmes: Making the Right Choice](#)' is a guide that has been written to help young people aged 16-19 make informed and self-owned decisions about their immediate future career. It is written with a specific intention to let young people know more about study programmes and to empower them to take the next steps towards achieving their career goal. The guide has drawn on meaningful consultation with young people and with professionals, including careers advisors, who work alongside them.

WHO ARE STUDY PROGRAMMES FOR? DO THEY INCLUDE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE?

All young people aged 16-19 are obliged to join a study programme, unless they are already participating in a formal apprenticeship or traineeship. This includes young people who are educated outside of school, such as those who are home educated or who are accessing alternative provision as well as those who are serving custodial sentences.

16 to 19 study programmes are also relevant to 19 to 24 year olds with an education, health and care (EHC) plan. Young people who have special educational needs, including those with physical and learning disabilities, mental health difficulties or undergoing lengthy periods of medical intervention will benefit from how flexible study programmes can be. No one should be excluded from an intervention that is tailored to meet their needs.

ARE YOU A PARENT OR CARER?

As a parent or carer, you will want your child to feel hopeful about their future, identify their own purpose and confidently make a plan for their career. You could use the guide to:

- raise your own awareness about study programmes so that you can begin a meaningful conversation with your child about the steps they would like to take beyond Year 11
- support your child to begin researching into study programmes that are on offer locally – making use of the tips and weblinks within the guide to help you get started
- inform a conversation you may wish to have with your child and their tutor/careers leader about possible career pathways
- find out more about the type of guidance and support that is available to young people to assist them to make informed decisions about their options post-16.



ARE YOU A CAREERS LEADER WORKING IN/ WITH A SCHOOL?

You are the cornerstone to ensuring that each and every young person has the objective and informed career guidance they need. For many young people you are likely to be the most accurately informed professional they will encounter.

You can use the guide flexibly:

- to bring yourself and other key staff (for example, careers advisers, heads of year, the PSHE lead and personal tutors/ careers mentors) up to speed about study programmes and what they offer young people as a progression pathway
- to begin a dialogue with local post-16 providers to find out more about the study programmes they have on offer – perhaps inviting them to attend careers advisory sessions with students
- to encourage students to attend post-16 open events at local providers
- as a resource to use with students considering their careers options

- as information to share with parents/carers at progression evenings
- as information you share more widely via your school's website.

DO YOU WORK IN A STUDENT SERVICES TEAM IN A POST-16 EDUCATION OR TRAINING PROVIDER?

The student services team provides a vital link for young people as they transition from school into their new post-16 setting. For many this is a planned transition. However, for some young people the decision to access a study programme may come late in August, after they have received their GCSE results, or early in the first term if the initial programme they have chosen is not meeting their needs.

You can use the guide flexibly:

- to provide background information about study programmes for young people and their parents/carers attending open days and 'taster' events
- to share with young people when you attend any local school careers events
- to give to young people who present themselves to you late on in the summer, unclear of what their options are

- to refresh young people about the purpose of study programmes during induction
- to support young people who may have, for example begun a traineeship but who aren't quite ready for a level 3 programme and who would benefit from completing a study programme first.

In addition, you could use ['Study Programmes: Making the Right Choice'](#) as a basis to create your own guide for young people that is tailored specifically to the study programmes that you have on offer.



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