

Fast Track to Success

Making informed decisions about the future

Young people make many changes in their lives, but one of the most exciting (and potentially daunting) is finishing school and moving on to further or higher education, an apprenticeship or into the world of work. This one-hour, thought-provoking and informative workshop educates young people on their options post-16 and encourages them to contemplate future decisions with confidence.

RATIONALE

Research conducted by the UK funding bodies in recent years has found that many students do not know enough about higher education to **make informed decisions** and lack the support they would need to do this (CFE research 2014). Information, advice and guidance (IAG) is an umbrella term for support that helps students make informed choices when it comes to **progression within education** or making the move into the professional arena. The existing evidence suggests that light-touch IAG can have a positive impact on students' aspirations/attitudes, and on HE participation (TASO). This workshop is designed to provide information and guidance, helping students to clarify their aspirations for both academic **and career** progression. Your students will be introduced to the wide range of qualifications and pathways available to them and will discuss the perceived benefits of each. Your students will create a personal route-map focused on a specific education and career pathway. This workshop will inform and excite your students about the choices they can make and help them to make informed decisions about the future.

“The case for guidance having a role in reducing social exclusion is not difficult to make”.

Watts (1999)

OBJECTIVES

- To help students gain clarity on their aspirations and ambitions.
- To inform students of the pathways available after GCSEs.
- To help students make informed decisions.
- To help students identify potential obstacles in their progression.
- To enable students to realise more of their inherent potential.

SKILLS taught and their BENEFITS

Goal setting is an essential component for growth and development in our students for several reasons: It personalises the learning process based on their needs. It creates intention and motivation that empowers students. It establishes accountability to shift responsibility to students.

Making informed decisions. In an age of abundant information, students must be equipped and prepared to evaluate options, consider consequences, and weigh different factors.

Action planning is an approach which helps to generate and then focus ideas and tasks and then decide what steps you need to take to achieve your goals.

Research skills allow students to find information and use it effectively. Research includes creating a strategy to gather facts and reach conclusions so that students can answer their questions

Identifying barriers is important for students to recognise potential setbacks and obstacles and then make plans to overcome or manage them. It's also useful for students to understand that everyone in the room is on a different journey that they don't have to do this all alone.

“80% of students agreed that they were better able to make decisions about their future”.

Survey from 4101 students taking part in MADE Workshops, conducted by NSSW, part of the National Collaborative Outreach Programme.

OUTCOMES

By the end of the workshop, your students will have:

- Understood pathways available to them after taking their GCSEs.
- Clarified their aspirations and ambitions.
- Set realistic and achievable goals.
- Created an action plan.
- Identified potential obstacles to their progression.
- Been inspired and motivated to reach their full potential.

GATSBY Benchmarks: 3,5,8
NERUPI Framework: Choose, Become, Understand
PSHE Core: Living in the wider world

Statutory Guidance, Curriculum and Frameworks