

Option Choices & Pathways Information Evening

Kate Faulds
Careers Adviser
St Joseph's Academy

Changing World of Work & Career Management Skills

Jobs exist today which didn't exist five years ago, and this will continue to be the case.

Changing nature of work, including WFH and hybrid approaches, requires flexibility

What is important is that your young person is able to use their career management skills and find the right career path for them.



Meta-skills



Self-management

Focusing

You can maintain interest and concentrate on a task for a period of time, and not be distracted.



Integrity

You are guided by your own principles and values and are considered trustworthy, open and honest by others.



Adapting

You can respond confidently and constructively to new ideas and experiences and unexpected challenges.



Initiative

You are confident in your own abilities and judgement. You can take decisions and have responsibility for your own actions.



Social intelligence

Communicating

You have the ability to openly share information in the best way that helps everyone understand your thoughts and ideas.



Feeling

You can see things from other people's point of view and this helps you understand their feelings and motivations.



Collaborating

You are good at building and maintaining relationships with other people so everyone can work together to achieve shared goals.



Leading

By having a sense of direction and purpose, you can encourage and motivate others to work towards agreed tasks and goals.



Innovation

Curiosity

Being curious is the desire to learn or know something in order to increase your understanding of an opportunity or problem.



Sense-making

You can determine the deeper meaning of what is being expressed and organise information into an understandable form which is easier to use.



Creativity

Using your imagination, you are able to think of new ways of addressing problems and this enables you to visualise solutions.

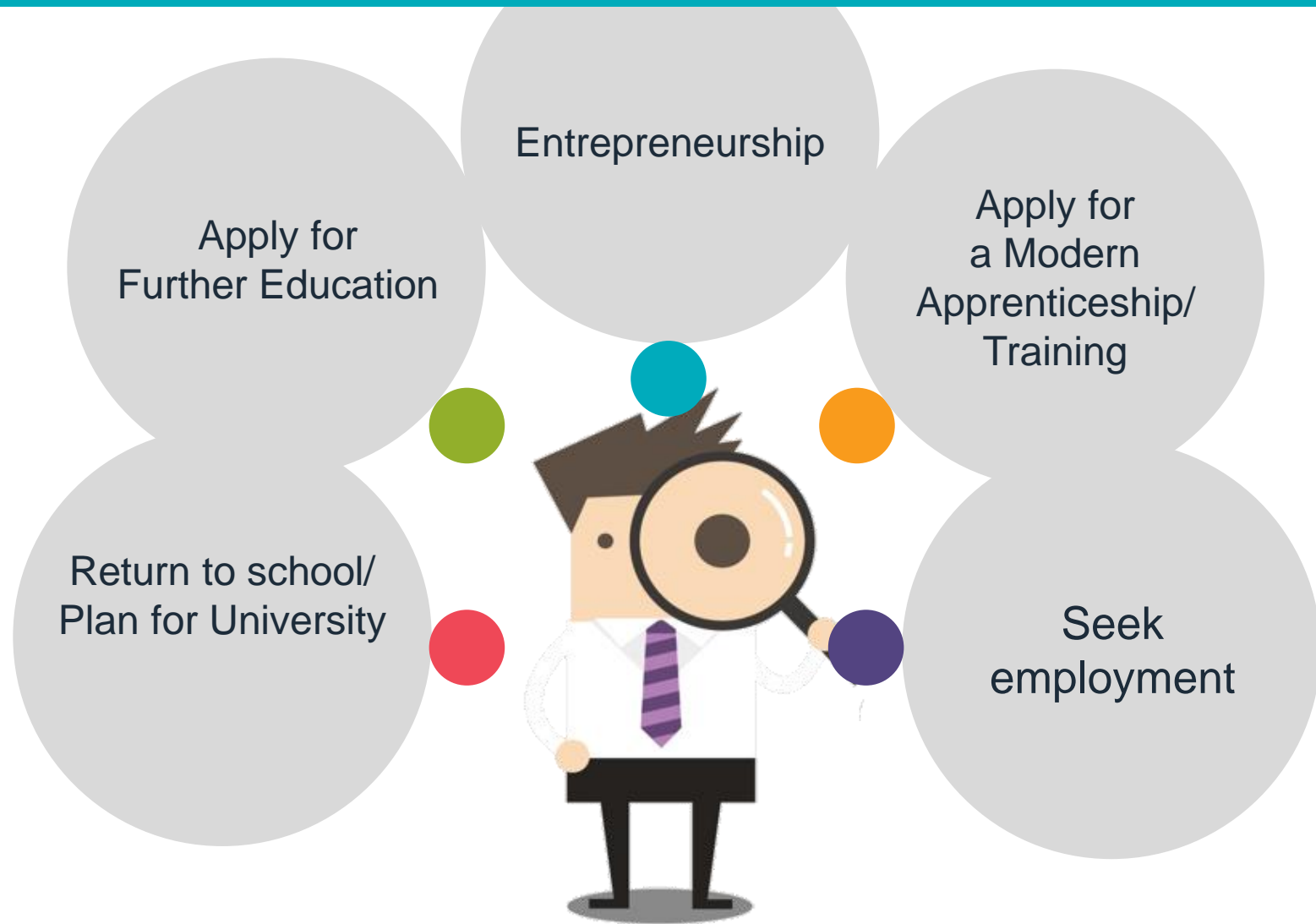


Critical thinking

You are able to process, analyse and evaluate information to solve complex problems and form an opinion after careful thought.



Routes & Pathways



Build on school qualifications

- Take time to explore options available in school
- Ensure you know essential/useful subjects for future career plans
- Consider new subjects/courses such as a Foundation Apprenticeship or a college option

COLLEGE PATHWAYS

Wide variety of courses with varied entry requirements



Clear progression pathways to work or further study



Get Qualifications after completing each level of study



Smaller class sizes than most university lectures



College

Wide variety of courses

Vocational/work focus

Entrance requirements vary depending on level of course:

HND Higher National Diploma 2 Highers or HNC

HNC Higher National Certificate 1-2 Highers or NC/NQ

NC/NQ National Certificate/National Qualification
 National 4 or 5

Apply directly to colleges from **January** – online through individual college websites

University

- Degree – at **LEAST** 4 Highers or HNC/HND – check individual university websites for detailed information
- Vocational or interest-based course usually requiring 4 years of study
- Evidence of motivation & relevant work experience
- Be aware of admissions tests - UCAT (Medicine/Dentistry) and LNAT (LLB Law at University of Glasgow)
- Aim high, be aspirational but also realistic with course choices
- If in any doubt about achieving grades, consider college as a back-up

APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAYS

**Over 80 different
types of Modern
Apprenticeship**



**Earn while you
learn. Work &
get Qualified**



**Qualifications
SCQF level 5 to
SCQF level 12**



**Get the
qualifications
and experience
employers want**



Apprenticeships: the basics

Foundation Apprenticeships

- You spend time at college or another learning provider while getting work experience.
- Lasts 1 to 2 years.
- **Is an option choice**, usually in S4 or S5.
- Offers a qualification at SCQF Level 4, 5 or 6 (same level as a Nat 4, Nat 5 or Higher).

Modern Apprenticeships

- You earn a wage by working while also spending time at college.
- Lasts 1 to 4 years.
- Is open to anyone at the age you can leave school.
- Offers a qualification, ranging from SCQF Level 4/5 to SCQF Level 11.

Graduate Apprenticeships

- You earn a wage by working while also spending time at college or university.
- Lasts 2 to 5 years.
- Is open to anyone at the age you can leave school.
- Offers you a qualification up to master's degree level.

Get a Job

- Start to earn money
- Key skills employers value: communication, creativity, teamwork, initiative/self motivation, reliability and positive approach.
- A flexible approach to work is important with working from home and hybrid working opportunities
- Importance of being proactive
- Check online recruitment websites, ask friends/family and contact employers to ask if they are recruiting
- Have a CV ready to send to employers

Support and conversations we have in school

SDS careers advisers might speak to your young person about:



Finding out about their self, strengths and skills



Routes into careers including apprenticeships



Making decisions such as option choices



Building and developing networks



Different types of careers and how to research them



Help with creating CVs



Developing the types of skills that are useful in a job

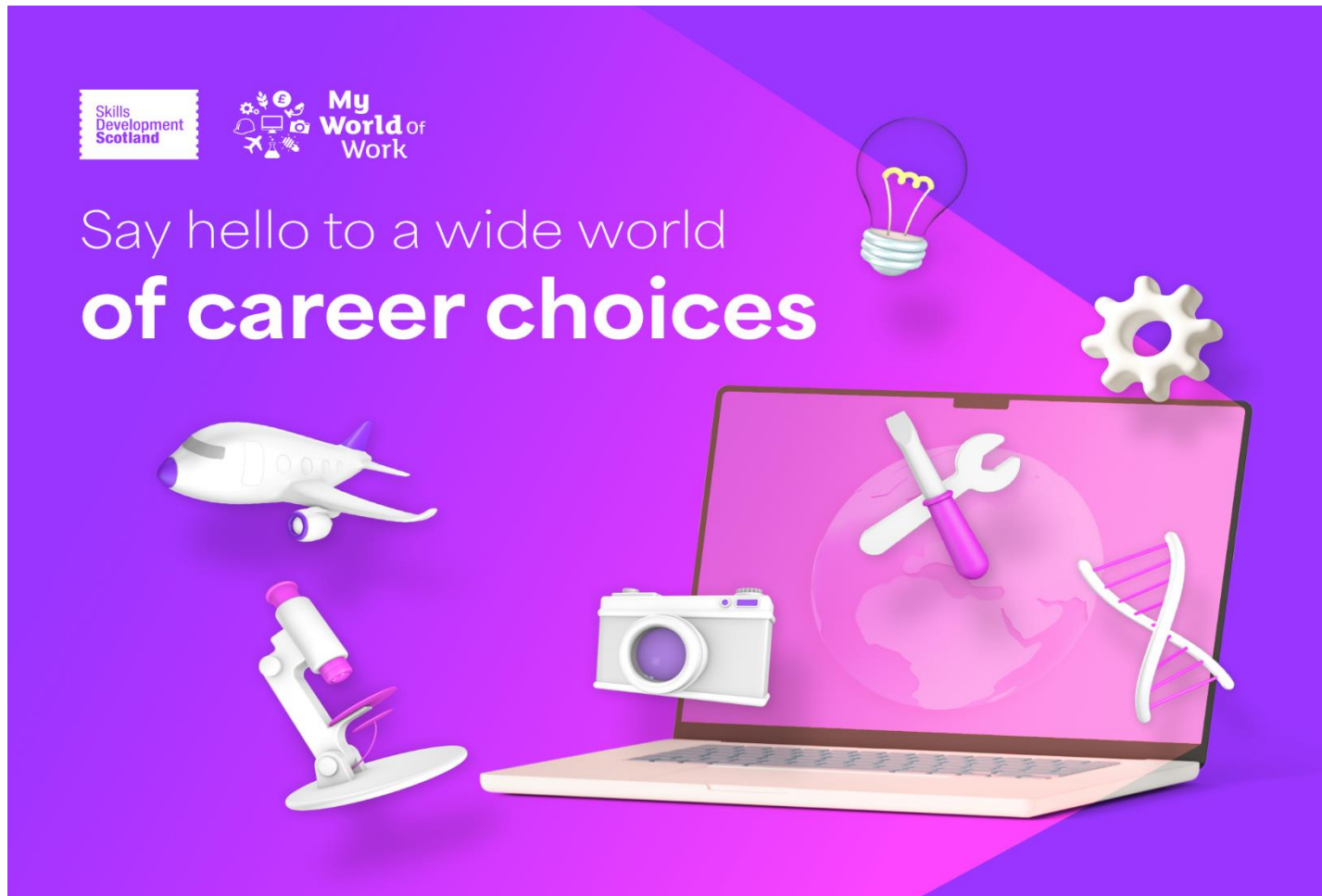


Making applications and applying for courses

My World of Work

What's out there?

How to find the right information



Parent & Carer Voice Survey 2025-2026

Feedback on Skills Development Scotland's (SDS) career service:

Parents and carers are key influencers over young people's career ambitions and choices.

SDS work in close partnership with the school to support our young people to make informed career choices and they would value feedback from parents and carers on their services. You can do this by taking part in a short survey.

All responses are confidential and anonymous, and the results will be used to inform SDS services.

The survey should only take about 10 minutes to complete.

Survey link will be available on school app and website.



Get in touch!

Kate Faulds
Careers Adviser

In school Monday - Friday

Drop in over interval and
lunch

Contact me on:



07500 097 503



kate.faulds@sds.co.uk



@StJoAcadCareers