

FUTURE ME! SUBJECT CHOICES

Skills
Development
Scotland

My
World of
Work

WHO WE
ARE...



IS YOUR
CAREERS
SERVICE

IS YOUR
CAREERS
WEBSITE

IT'S DECISION
TIME! WE CAN
HELP

Making your subject choices is likely to be the first big decision you'll make at school.

This might sound scary, but it's exciting too as you're in charge!

And you're going to get lots of ideas, help and support along the way.

The choices you make now might impact what careers you can do later, so take time to think about it carefully and discuss your decisions.

Whether you know what subjects you want to choose, or still haven't got a clue, it's important to keep your options open.

There are people who can help you decide including your careers adviser who will give you help individually at school as well as in groups with your classmates.

A good place to start is by thinking about where you are on your journey so far, such as looking at your personal profile.

And this booklet will give you top tips. So let's get started!

In this issue:

- the five questions you should ask yourself before you pick your subjects
- the tools on **My World of Work** that can help you make your choices
- where your subject choices could take you
- jobs of the future
- **Career Management Skills** – and the help from your careers adviser
- meeting your careers adviser.



It's really important when you choose your subjects that you're making the best decisions for you.

Take a bit of time to think about the following five questions.



How do I like to learn?

For example you may enjoy languages because you get to talk and listen, or art and design or science subjects because you get to be creative.



Where could these subjects take me?

You may need to have studied certain subjects to get into a job. Think about what types of jobs might suit you.



What subjects do I enjoy?

If you are interested in something, learning more about it can be fun. You are also more likely to do well if you're doing something you love.



What subjects am I good at?

Think about subjects you've done well in, but remember this is also an opportunity to study subjects you've never done before.



What do other people think?

Ask people you trust what they think you're good at and could do well in. The answers may surprise you. But remember, in the end you have to make the choices that are right for YOU.



Remember, you can do anything you want to. Whether you have a passion for science, or languages are your thing, the choice is yours!

THE TOOLS FOR THE JOB

Discover what you're good at and explore your interests. It'll be a big help when choosing your subjects.

You might not have decided what you want to do when you leave school, and that's okay. But having an idea of the kind of job or industry you might like to work in will make your subject choices a whole lot easier. That's where My World of Work comes in.

Register on My World of Work to create an account.

This account will be personalised just for you with all your career suggestions and hints and tips on what to try next on the site. Tick the email box when you register and we'll also send ideas onto you.



About Me tool

What's better than getting paid to do a job you love! Use the About Me tool to find out more about your personality and get career suggestions based on the things you like doing – your interests.



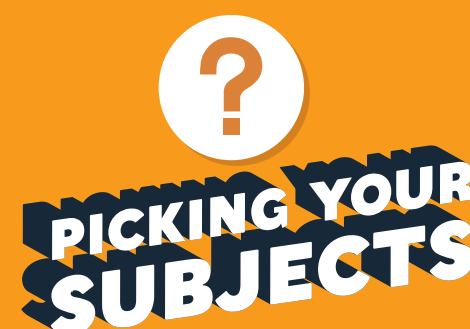
Strengths tool

Your strengths are the things you're naturally good at. Knowing your strengths can help you pick subjects and careers which bring out the best in you. Try the Strengths quiz and discover yours!



Skills tool

Skills are things you can develop and learn to help you do certain tasks. You might learn new skills in the classroom or in your spare time. Find out where your skills could take you.



Subject choices tool

Enter your favourite subjects into this tool and get suggestions for the types of careers they could lead to.



Get started at myworldofwork.co.uk/subjectchoices

WHERE COULD YOUR CHOICES TAKE YOU?

Think about your career like a big Google Map. The place you're heading to may be the same as someone in your class, but you could both go totally different ways to get there.

Your career will be like this too – honest! What's important is that you find the right career path for you. There are loads of routes open to you.

COLLEGE OR UNI

Studying at **college** or **university** might be right for you. For some careers, like medicine or law, it's the only way to get the qualifications you'll need.

WORK

You may want to go straight into employment when you leave school. You could go and work directly for an employer, start your own business, or even do some volunteering as a valuable way to get real experience of the workplace.

APPRENTICESHIPS

An apprenticeship is a real job where you also get time away to study.

A Modern Apprenticeship lets you work, earn and get an industry-recognised qualification – this is a qualification that employers know about and really value.

There are more than 80 different types of **Modern Apprenticeships**, in hundreds of different jobs.

Graduate Level Apprenticeships allow you to study for a degree while working in a related job.

Thousands of companies of all sizes in all different types of industries have apprenticeships in Scotland – so there's bound to be one that suits you.



FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS

You may not have heard, but you can do a Foundation Apprenticeship while you're still at school.

It's a brand new way of learning in S5 and S6 that helps you build a strong foundation for your future by giving you real work experience before you even leave school.

It's not part of your subject choices this time around, but it's good to be aware it's an option for you later in school.

Unlike your other subjects, you get time out of the classroom and get to work on real projects at college and with some of Scotland's biggest and best employers, such as Network Rail, Barclays Bank and the NHS.

It's a chance for you to try something new and it might even help you make up your mind about what you want to do for a job.

The mix of work experience and a qualification will also help you when it comes to leaving school for a job, college, university or another apprenticeship.

You take a Foundation Apprenticeship the next time you make subject choices and work towards a qualification over one or two years and they are available in a wide range of subjects.

They are:

- Accountancy
- Business Skills
- Civil Engineering
- Creative and Digital Media
- Engineering
- Financial Services
- Food and Drink Technologies
- Hardware and System Support
- Scientific Technologies
- Social Services Children and Young People
- Social Services and Healthcare
- Software Development

Visit [apprenticeships.scot/foundation](https://www.apprenticeships.scot/foundation) to find out more.



Remember, your **careers adviser** is there for you in school to help you understand all of your options. They can talk you through your choices to help you find the right path for **you**.



JOBS OF THE FUTURE

In the future we'll need lots more people working in STEM jobs so it's worth thinking about when you're choosing your subjects.

STEM careers are ones in areas linked to science, technology, engineering and maths. Many could offer you the chance to change the world!

There's lots of exciting STEM careers to choose from but also many other opportunities in industries not even mentioned here. Go explore at My World of Work.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY



Over **90,000** people work in digital technology roles in Scotland. The average salary is **£37,500** per year and growing and there's an estimated **12,800** job opportunities every year. Scotland is home to some of the world's most exciting technology companies. Almost every employer in Scotland needs people with digital technology skills.

You could be the next:

- Coder
- Designer
- Ethical hacker
- Games developer
- Robotics engineer
- Data scientist
- Tester

ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Half of Scotland's energy came from renewables in 2015 but the Scottish Government wants that to be **100%** in the next three years. Already there are many apprentices working in the industry including engineers who help bring ideas to life. It's an exciting and varied industry and you could be working in an office, a lab, at sea or even underground.

You could be the next:

- Chemical engineer
- Design engineer
- Microbiologist
- Oceanographer
- Project manager
- Wind turbine technician

LIFE SCIENCES



Scotland has over **35,000** people working in life sciences and will need **73,000** technicians by 2020. We've not only got one of the biggest scientific communities in Europe, we're also world famous for amazing research, drug discovery and medical devices which are helping to cure diseases and improve people's quality of life.

You could be the next:

- Geneticist
- Lab technician
- Marine biologist
- Pharmacy technician
- Research scientist

HEALTHCARE, CHILDCARE AND SOCIAL CARE



More than **161,000** people are currently employed by the NHS in Scotland, and there are lots of organisations that help take care of and support people who need it most. There are a huge variety of jobs in this sector from ones you might recognise like nurse, childcare worker or manager to ones you might not like play therapist, welfare rights officer and phlebotomist.

You could be the next:

- Audiologist
- Carer
- Childcare
- Doctor
- Nurse
- Paramedic
- Support worker

CONSTRUCTION



More than **178,000** people work in the construction industry in Scotland, **30%** are over 50-years-old and will retire soon. Could you be part of a team that builds the next Falkirk Wheel or Queensferry Crossing?

You could be the next:

- Architectural technologist
- Construction manager
- Health & safety adviser
- Land surveyor
- Structural engineer



Useful subjects to help you get into a STEM career:

Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Maths, Computer science, Design and Manufacturing, Art. **Foundation Apprenticeships** will also help you get in.

CAREER MANAGEMENT SKILLS



You're not alone

You'll have heard about **Career Management Skills** from your careers adviser before.

As you go through school you'll continue to develop these skills.

They're the skills you need to make those big career decisions.

When choosing your subjects, your careers adviser is in your school and is there to help you.

What to expect:

- a group session focussed on making informed subject choices
- the chance to have a one-to-one session to ensure you know about, and most importantly understand, all of the options that are available to you.



Remember you can bring your mum, dad, carer or teacher (or all of them!) along to your one-to-one session. Ask your careers adviser or teacher how to make a subject choice appointment and write that information down on the back page of this magazine.

WHO AM I? SELF

This is just about getting to know who you are, what you can do, what's the right thing for you.

WHAT AM I GOOD AT? STRENGTHS

This is about getting to know and understand what stuff you're good at. It's about your skills and how to use them in different ways.

WHAT'S OUT THERE FOR ME? HORIZONS

This is about getting to know what's out there in the world of work.

It's all about understanding what jobs are, what industries are and all the ways you could get ready for a job.

WHO CAN HELP ME? NETWORKS

This is about the people around you and how they can help you to get on with your career. It's also about getting to know people who can help you and how to keep in touch with them.

MEETING YOUR CAREERS ADVISER

Darcy, S4 My Story

Ahead of making subject choices in S2, we talked about subjects and careers during PSE lessons, and were shown how to use the My World of Work website.

On the website, I filled out the About Me, Ambition and Strengths sections as I was **curious** about me and what I was good at. The careers it suggested were ones I was already considering but I hadn't **focussed** in on all the information I needed. It also recommended the school subjects to consider.

The school careers adviser came into our PSE class and we did some activities which highlighted the different routes into careers and what we needed to do to make good subject choices.

We also had the option of a one to one discussion with the careers adviser and I felt that this would be a good opportunity to make sure that the subjects I was thinking about were the right ones. As I can be a bit nervous I had the opportunity to bring someone along.

My time with the careers adviser was relaxed and friendly, and he really listened to what I had to say. He helped me to feel **informed** and take control of my decisions at this important time.

With the advice and support of My World of Work and my careers adviser, I'm now studying subjects I enjoy – and which I'm **confident** will help me with my future career plans.

BE FOCUSSED

This is a time to make decisions.

BE CURIOUS

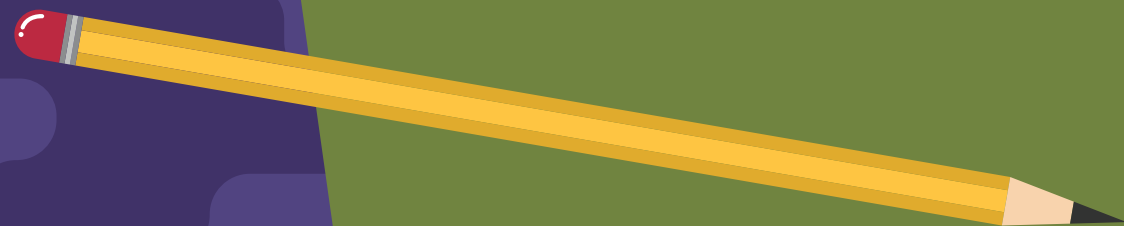
Don't hold back... ask all the questions you need answered.

BE INFORMED

Use all the tools, information and networks you have.

BE CONFIDENT

Feel ready to make good decisions and feel excited about your future.



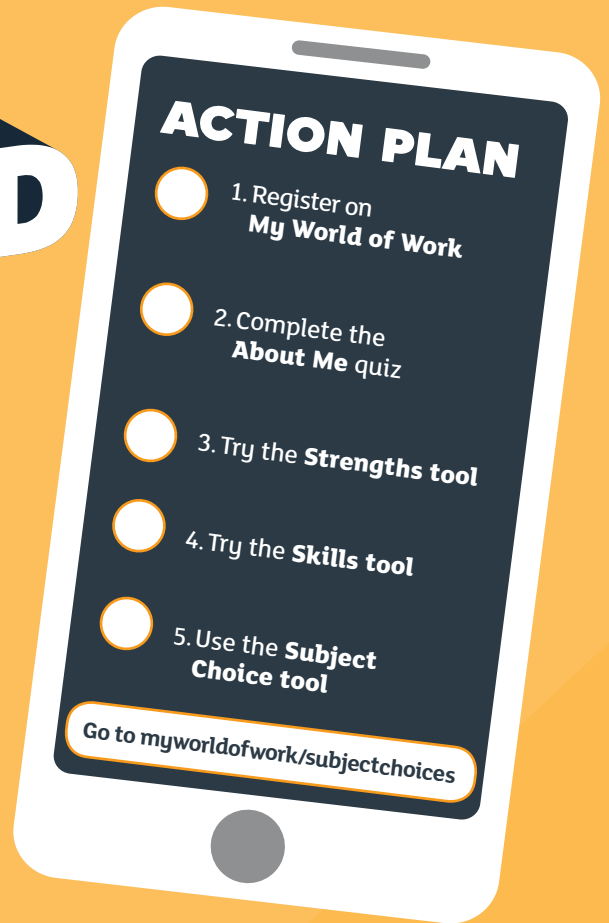
GET STARTED



My World of Work is your careers website and it's packed full of activities, tools and tips to help you make the right decisions for your future.

The more you tell it about yourself, the more great ideas you'll get.

Sign up for email and we'll help you with hints and tips along the way.



COME AND TALK TO US!

Use this space to write your careers adviser's name and where to find them in your school:



REMEMBER

Your mum, dad, carer or teacher – or all of them – can come along with you to talk through your subject choice options with your careers adviser. Ask your careers adviser how to arrange an appointment and take a note of the details here:



JOIN OUR CHAT!

For more ideas and advice on careers and subject choices, look out for **My World of Work** on:



About Skills Development Scotland

We are the national skills body supporting the people and businesses of Scotland to develop and apply their skills. We have fully qualified, expert Careers Advisers in every secondary school in Scotland, plus a network of careers centres on high streets all over the country, all dedicated to providing the help people need for the career they want. We also work with industry to deliver the very best possible outcomes for Scotland's people, businesses and the economy.