

My choices after year 11 – an action plan

You will be making some very important decisions during Year 11 about what you will do after leaving St Augustine Academy - the key to making the right decision for you is to research your options carefully and always have a back- up plan.

The choices available to me are:

- Stay on in full time education. There is not a 6th Form option at St Augustine Academy so you will need to apply to another school 6th Form. (To complete A Levels you will require 5 A*-C grades including Maths/English and a B grade in any subject to be continued), or complete a course at college (A Levels or Vocational).
- Do an Apprenticeship where you work and earn money but also learn and work towards a qualification at the same time.
- Work or volunteer for more than 20 hours a week and then study part-time alongside.
- *See the download 'Important links & sources'*

YEAR 11 ACTION PLAN

- **Term 1** – Think about your skills, interests, favourite subjects, learning style. Find out what your predicted GCSE grades are to see what courses you are eligible to apply for.
Carry out careers research into career areas of interest, researching qualifications required to ensure you keep your options open. Good websites to start with are:
www.icould.com
- Buzz Quiz – short quiz which matches your personality to career areas.
- Concise information on different jobs
- Mainly videos. Search by job type/subject or life decision for e.g. I can't decide whether to go to University or not.
- <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk> - The National Careers Service website sets out job profiles and groups jobs by type and is useful to find out what the job is like and the qualifications you need. There is also lots of information on how to make applications, attending interviews and CV writing.
- www.plotr.co.uk
 - Game – matches you to careers.
 - Search careers : three areas - Browsing/Explore Worlds/Investigate Industries/Key Word
 - Good overview of any given career.
 - Advice section/Articles/ Jobs database and Employer database.

- www.allaboutcareers.com
 - Research careers by different career sectors – written in a fun way with interesting facts and very user friendly. Starts off by addressing stereotypes and misconceptions.
 - Look at what a degree in a particular subject area can be useful for. Give example.
 - It has a Career Test which is much longer than the Buzz test lasting about 20 mins which matches you to general career sectors that are worth exploring.
 - Jobs section where you can search for live vacancies.
 - Advice section very comprehensive.

- **Term 2** - Attend open evenings of local 6th Forms and colleges – see individual websites for details.
 - From October visit www.kentchoices4u.com (Kent County Council website outlining options and support post 16 and beyond. Once you receive your username and password from KCC register with www.ucasprogress.com and create your user profile and search for courses and make applications online.
 - Ideally make your applications before the end of the Autumn term or at least early January 2017 if you are applying to 6th Forms as school closing dates are earlier than college.
 - Remember to apply to at least more than one place and ensure that you have a back- up option in case you are not successful at interview or don't end up getting the grades you hope for.

- **Term 3 onwards** -If you are interested in finding an apprenticeship then register with www.apprenticeships.org.uk and search for vacancies. Put together a CV and covering letter to send out to potential employers. *See CV Pack download.* Try to find relevant work experience where available to increase your success at interview.