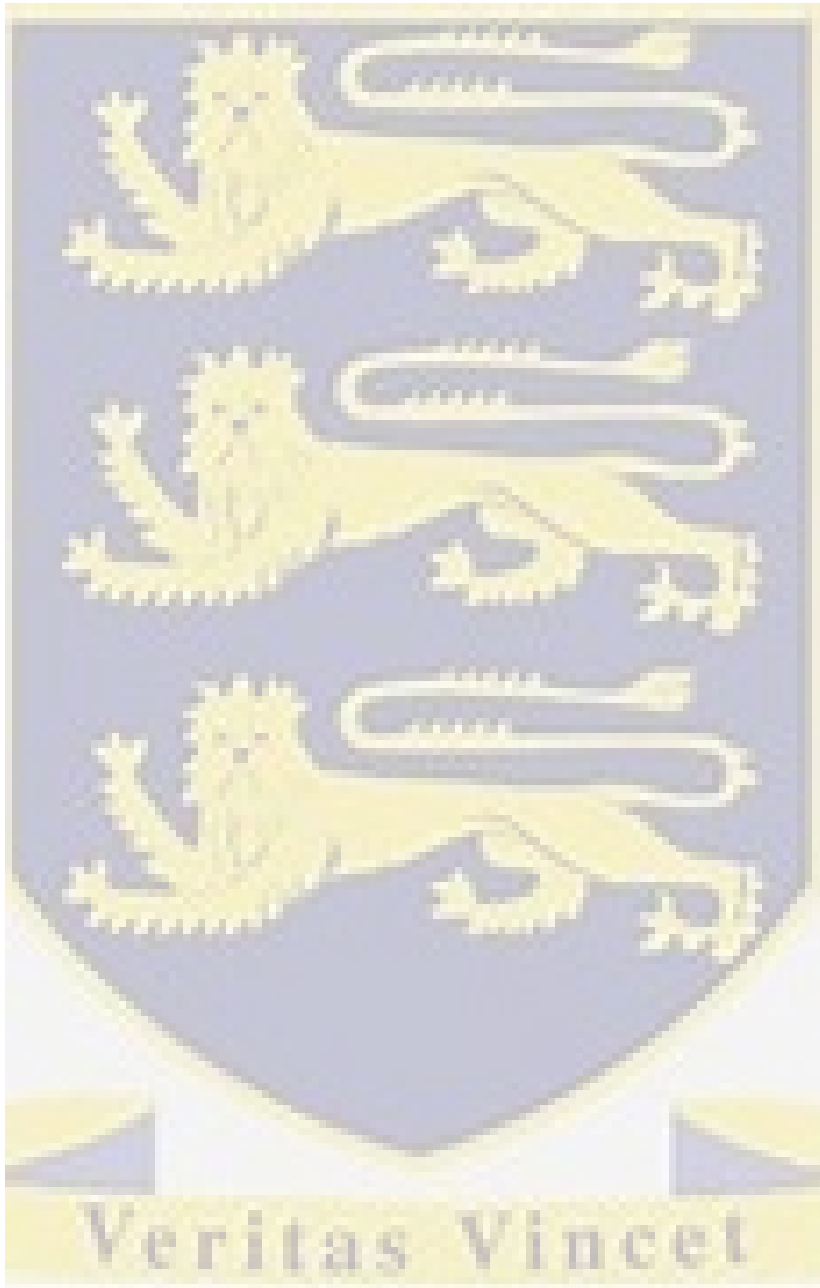




POST – 16 OPTIONS at Omagh Academy

**CAREERS ADVICE
Information Evening 2024**



PROGRESSION ROUTES AFTER YEAR 12

1. Return to school to complete A levels

2. Further Education course at a college

3. Apprenticeships/ training programme

4. Employment

PURPOSE OF OPEN EVENING?

- 1. To ensure that PUPILS are better informed about Post 16 options so they choose subjects that match their skills, interests and abilities.**
- 2. To ensure that PARENTS are better informed about Post 16 subjects.**
- 3. To allow pupils and parents the opportunity to ask questions**

Subjects on offer at Omagh Academy

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Design and Technology
- Digital Technology
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Mathematics (need an 'A' grade at GCSE and have done M4/M8 papers)
- Music
- Nutrition and Food Science (*formerly known as Home Economics*)
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Spanish

Subjects on offer at Omagh High School

- Sport [BTEC Extended Certificate]
- Life & Health Science (A Level)

(numbers and timetable permitting)

**** Advice about BTECs**

Details about our subjects can be found in the post 16 options booklet

Courses on offer at South West College

BTECs

- Construction
- Engineering
- Travel and Tourism
- Applied Science
- Children's Care, Learning and Development
- Creative Media – Games Development
- Creative Media – TV/ Film
- Sport and Exercise Science

***until 5pm on a Tuesday and 3.15pm on a Friday*

Progression route 1

Return to school to complete A levels

- **Why choose the subject?**

Careers focus

- Need it for a specific career or degree course at university.

A lot of degrees do not require specific subjects, **but some do**, therefore it is essential that pupils research university websites.



Choosing A level subjects for degrees or careers



- Some courses require a relevant science subject.
- **The traditional Science subjects** are Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths.
- However, some subjects such as Nutrition and Food Science or Sport or Geography or Life and Health Sciences can be classed by some degree courses as a science subject as long as it is **relevant to that course**.
- Once again, pupils should do their research.

Universities and GCSEs?

- **Highly competitive courses at certain universities** also take into account a pupil's GCSE profile.
 - Eg Medicine at University of Edinburgh or Queen's University Belfast, Primary Teaching at Stranmillis.
 - Russell Group Universities such as QUB, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Exeter, Cardiff, Liverpool, Manchester etc.

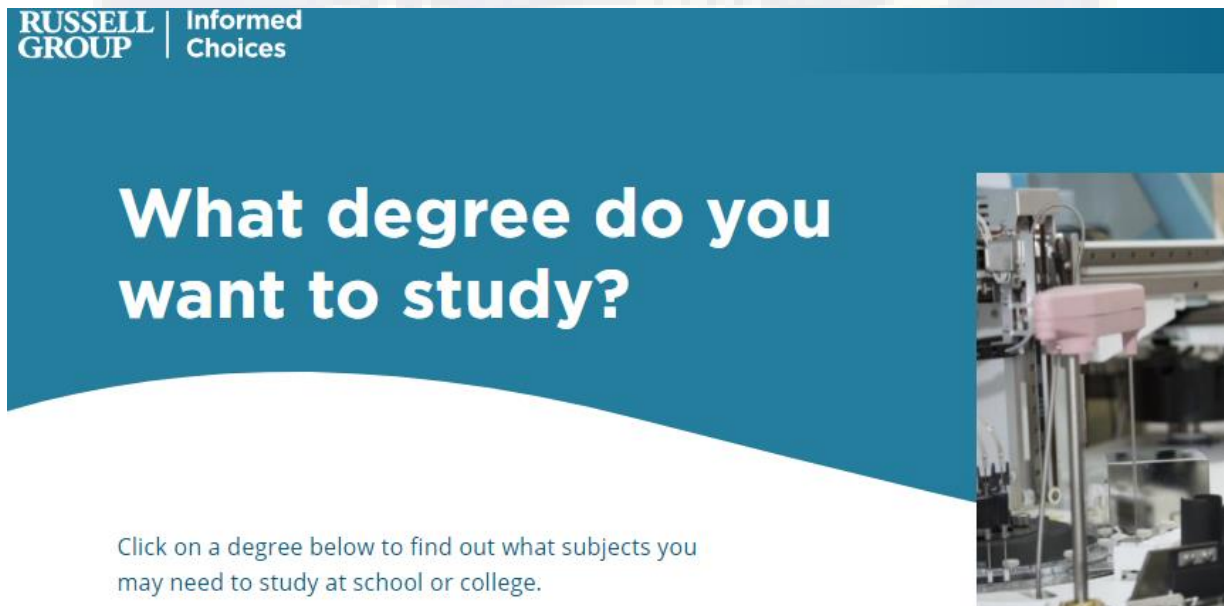
'SAFE' Subject Choices?

- This list of some A level subjects are commonly asked for in universities' entry requirements, regardless of the course you're applying to.
- They are:
 - Biology
 - History
 - Chemistry
 - Maths
 - English Lit
 - Modern Languages
 - Geography
 - Physics
 - Some universities' specific subject requirement **usually** includes one or more of these.
 - **If you are unsure about what you want to study** at university, choosing these subjects may keep your options open.

Useful website

The following Informed Choices website is a good guide to what most degrees commonly require.


<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/degrees>

A screenshot of a website banner for the Russell Group's Informed Choices service. The banner has a dark teal background on the left with white text, and a photograph of a laboratory on the right. The text on the left asks 'What degree do you want to study?' and provides instructions to click on a degree to find out what subjects are needed for school or college. The Russell Group and Informed Choices logos are in the top left corner.

RUSSELL GROUP | Informed Choices

What degree do you want to study?

Click on a degree below to find out what subjects you may need to study at school or college.



Subject Combinations

Choosing certain combinations of subjects can open doors to a large range of courses, for example:

- Maths and Physics
- Biology and Chemistry

ADVICE...

- Try to get the right balance by playing to your strengths and interests.
- Sometimes choosing two subjects that you need for your degree and one which you really enjoy can be the ideal scenario.

Essential vs desirable subject requirements

- This will vary between universities.

Examples:

- Architecture – some universities require Art but others state that Maths is useful.
- Engineering – most will state Maths is essential but some will state it is only desirable.
- ****Proper university research might seem like a long way away, but it is recommended to do some early research now into what universities require before making your A level subject choices.**

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Examples

Degree	Grades for entry (2024)	Subject requirements
Veterinary Science/ Medicine (Glasgow)	AAA	Chemistry, Biology and practical experience in a vets practice
Medicine (QUB)	AAA plus A at AS or A*AA UCAT TEST	Chemistry and at least 1 other from Biology, Maths, Physics Chemistry and Biology OR Chemistry and Maths/ Physics + AS Biology
Nursing (QUB)	BBC or BCC	If no relevant science subject With relevant science subject such as Biology, Chemistry, Life and Health Sciences, Maths or Physics
Pharmacy (QUB)	AAB	Chemistry and at least 1 from Biology, Maths or Physics (preferred AS Biology)

Degree	Grades for entry (2024)	Subject requirements
Dentistry (QUB)	AAA UCAT TEST	Chemistry and Biology
Social Work (QUB)	ABB	None (but studying Health and Social Care may be helpful)
Accountancy (QUB)	AAB	None at A level Minimum B at GCSE Maths
Agricultural Technology (QUB)	BBB (with 2 relevant subjects) ABB (with 1 relevant subject)	Relevant subjects – Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Life and Health Sciences, Maths, Nutrition and Food Science, T.D., Psychology, Geography, D.T.


Degree	Grades for entry (2024)	Subject requirements
Civil Engineering (QUB)	AAA (M.Eng) ABB (B.Eng)	Maths and at least 1 from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, T.D., D.T., Geography
Electrical and Electronic Engineering (QUB)	AAA (M.Eng) ABB (B.Eng)	Maths and at least 1 from Physics (preferred), Biology, Chemistry, T.D.
Mechanical Engineering (QUB)	AAA (M.Eng) ABB (B.Eng)	Maths and at least 1 from Physics (preferred), Biology, Chemistry, T.D.
Architecture (QUB)	AAA	Art subject desirable but not essential. May require a portfolio.

ENGINEERING COURSE GRADES ALL LOWER AT UU

Degree	Grades for entry (2024)	Subject requirements
Law (QUB)	AAA	None (English universities may require English Literature and some will require LNAT test)
Occupational Therapy (UU)	BBB	None
Sport and Exercise Science (UU)	AAB	At least 1 from Biology, Chemistry, Life and Health Sciences, Maths, Physics, Sports Studies
Primary School Teaching (Stranmillis)	AAB	Traditionally subjects such as Art, English Literature, Geography, History, Maths, Music, R.S. or a science are preferred but not essential.

Degree	Grades for entry (2024)	Subject requirements
Dietetics (UU)	BBB	To include 2 science subjects from Chemistry (preferred), Physics, Maths, Biology, Nutrition and Food Science
Physiotherapy (UU)	BBB	To include 1 from Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Life and Health Science
Speech and Language Therapy (UU)	BBB	None

NB** Universities requirements will differ, especially when it comes to BTECs, so do your research!



BTEC

Choosing BTEC Subjects

- A levels have been the most conventional path to get to university, however BTECS have become increasingly a viable alternative for some.
- Level 3 BTECs are equivalent to A level, but again **it is advisable for pupil to check with individual university courses if they will accept them.**
- BTECs are graded as Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass.
- BTECs are very vocational and specialist, so think carefully as they are designed for a specific career path eg Engineering or Construction.
- They can be a good **third choice** subject alongside 2 other A levels.

A levels are a step up



- A levels are much tougher than GCSEs
- Pupils need to be prepared for a big jump in the level of difficulty.



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Where are the jobs?



LABOUR MARKET INFORMATION

- With the current economic climate, there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding the state of the future economy.

HOWEVER

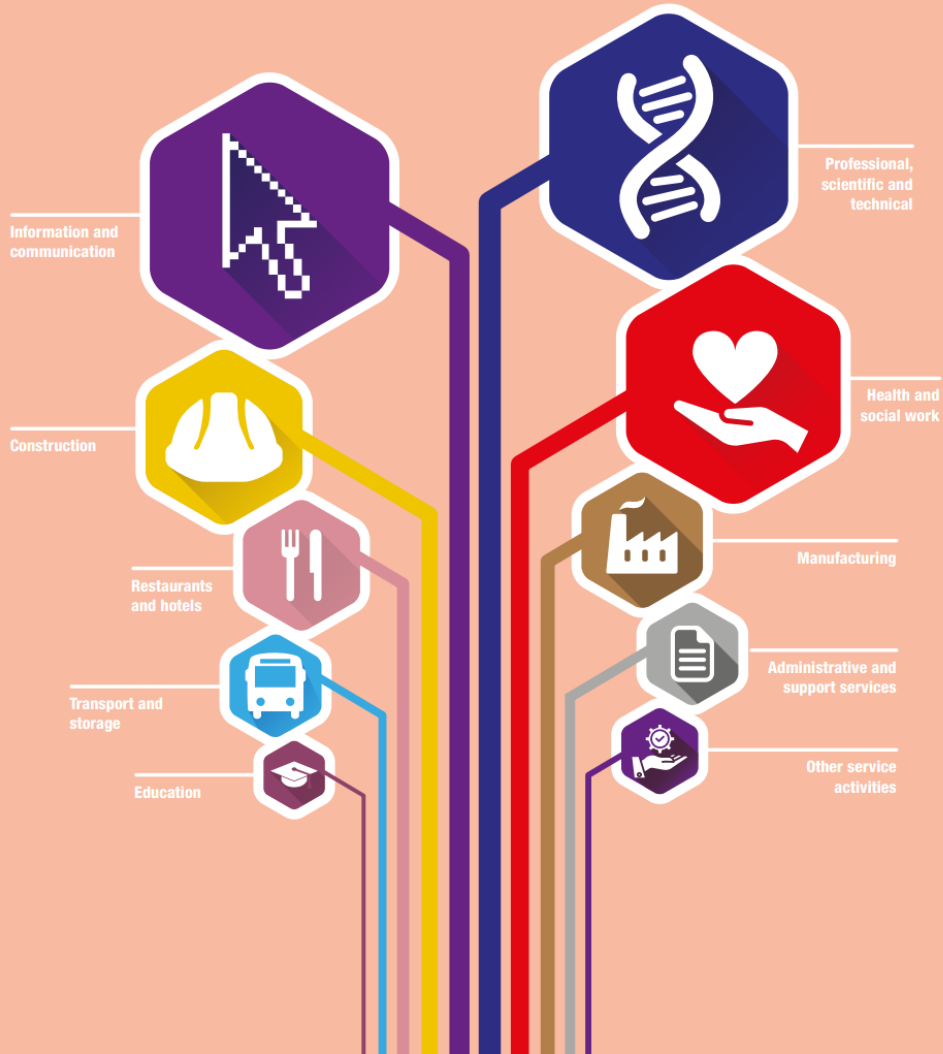
- The labour market is ever changing and evolving AND employers are still looking for skilled young people.
- It's useful to know about trends in the labour market, eg employment sector growth as well as replacement demand in particular sectors.



PROJECTIONS 2020-30

EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

Top 10 growth sectors
(2020-2030)



There will be growth opportunities for all skills levels across a range of sectors - the focus will be predominantly on higher level skills.

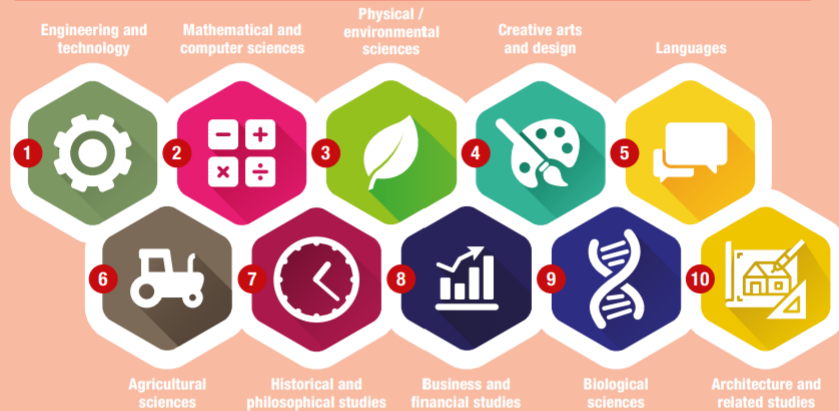
Top employment growth sectors

- ICT
- Professional, scientific and technical
- Health and social work
- Manufacturing
- Admin and support services
- Restaurants and hotels
- Construction
- Finance and Insurance
- Education
- Transport and Support

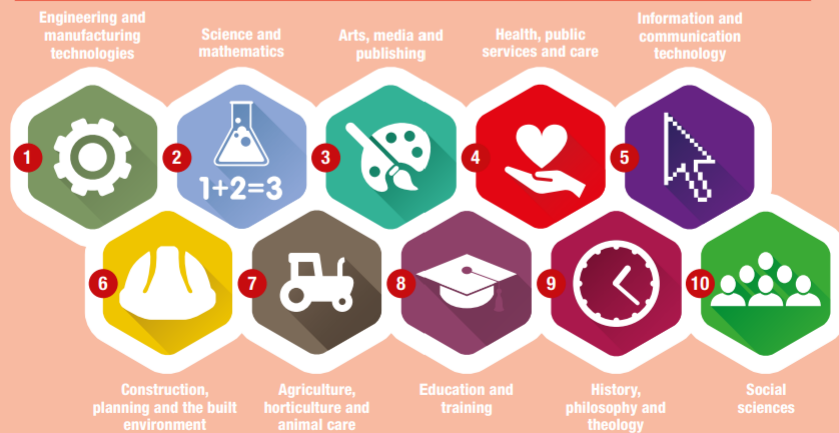
SUBJECTS IN DEMAND

STEM related subjects will be in most demand reflecting the anticipated growth in the ICT, professional services and advanced manufacturing sectors. STEM qualifications will also be demanded by a wider range of sectors across the economy.

More people needed with degrees in:



More people needed with foundation degree level / higher level apprenticeships in:



The subjects are listed in priority order of demand.

Subjects in Demand

- STEM (STEAM) related subjects will be in most demand

More degrees needed in:

- Engineering and technology
- Maths and computer science
- Physical/ environmental sciences
- Creative art and design
- Languages
- Agricultural sciences
- Historical and philosophical studies
- Business and financial services
- Biological sciences
- Architecture and related studies

Foundation degrees/ HLAs in Demand

More people needed with foundation degree
level / higher level apprenticeships in:

Engineering and
manufacturing
technologies

Science and
mathematics

Arts, media and
publishing

Health, public
services and care

Information and
communication
technology

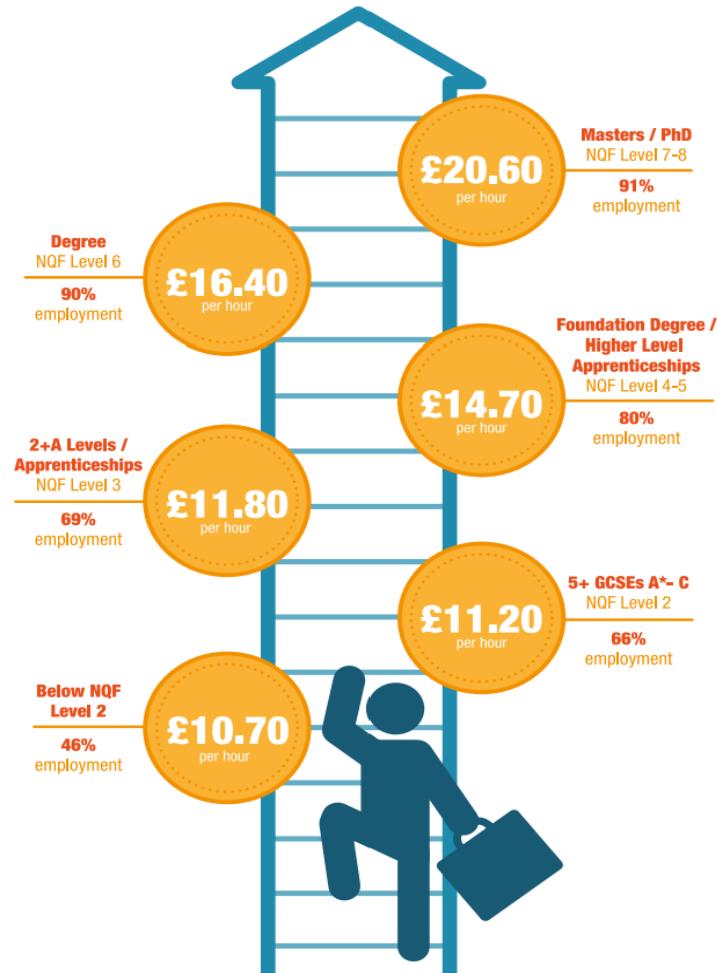


- Engineering and manufacturing technology
- Science and mathematics
- Arts, media and publishing
- Health, public services and care
- ICT
- Construction, planning and the built environment
- Agriculture, horticulture and animal care
- Education and training
- History, philosophy and theology
- Social Sciences

IMPORTANCE OF SKILLS

The more you learn the more you earn

By continuing into further and higher level education you can greatly increase your earnings potential and employment prospects.



Low demand for those with no skills.

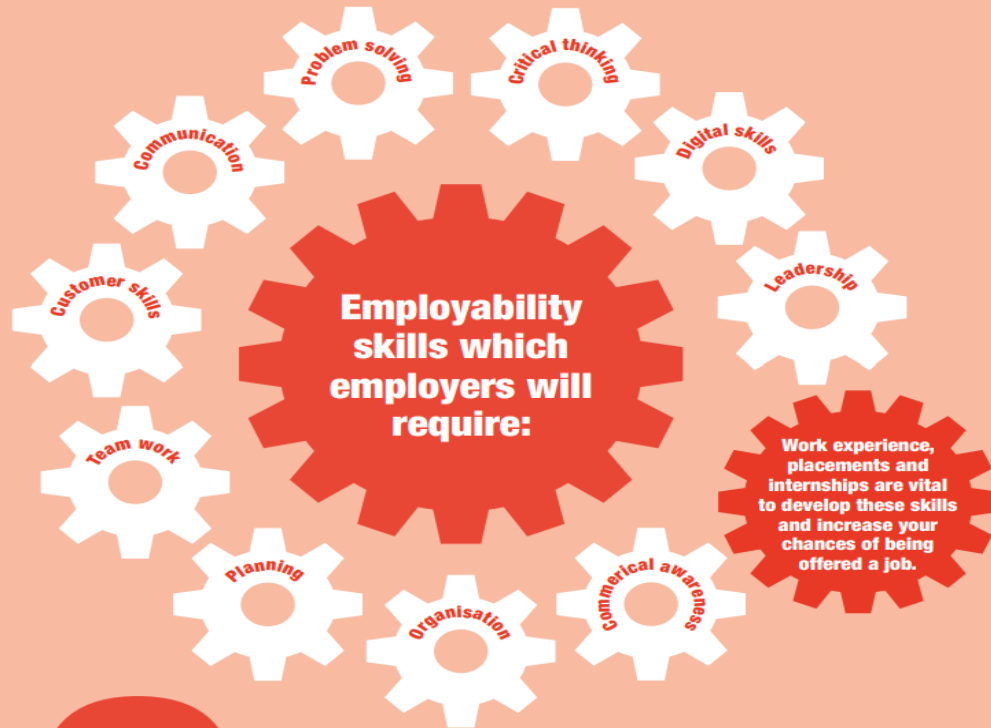
Importance of Qualifications and Skills

- By continuing into further and higher education, you can greatly increase your earning potential and employment prospects.
- There are of course exceptions.

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WIDER SKILLS REQUIRED

Wider employability skills are essential to securing employment



Relevant work experience is one of the most important factors looked for in job applicants by employers

Employability Skills

- Teamwork
- Customer skills
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Digital skills
- Organisation
- Planning
- Problem solving
- Leadership
- Commercial awareness

WHERE ARE THESE SKILLS DEVELOPED?

- *Participation in extra curricular activities*
- Part time jobs
- Work experience
- Voluntary work

Work Experience

Relevant work experience is one of the most important factors looked for in job applicants by employers

- Helps to make informed decisions about YOUR future pathway.
- Boosts your UCAS personal statement and helps to impress universities and employers.
- Illustrates your desire to learn and gain new skills.
- Develops key employability skills that employers are looking for.
- Both virtual and in-person opportunities.





- Do try to make informed decisions by:
 - Asking yourself where you want to be in 2 years.
 - Taking inspiration from work experiences, part time jobs, relevant websites.
 - Increasing your skills set through participation in enrichment activities.
 - Talking to your subject teachers about your ability/ prospects in their subjects.
 - Working hard in all your GCSE subjects.
 - Talking to your careers team in school or make use of the Careers Service.

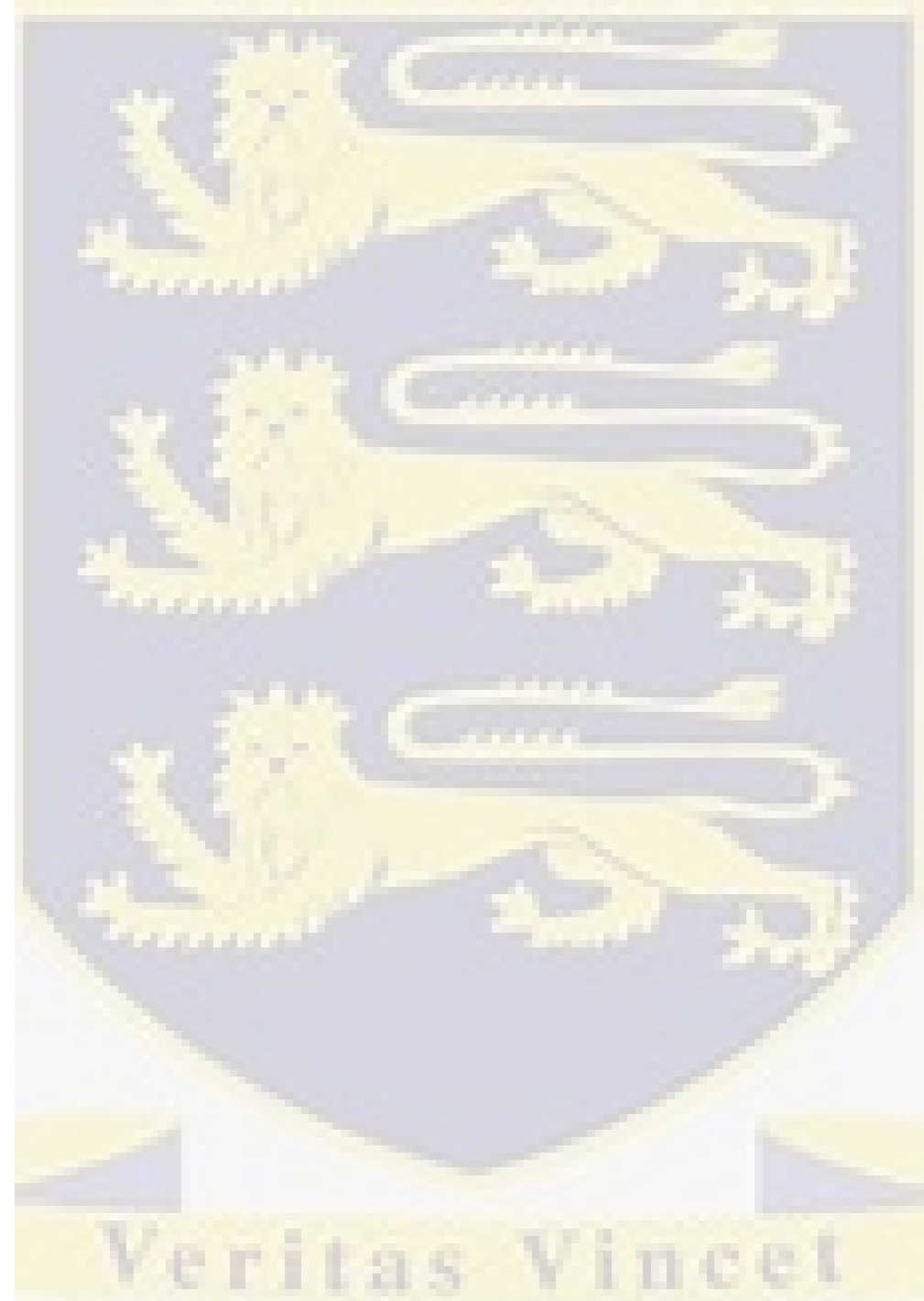


nirect.gov.uk/skills

To speak to a careers adviser phone:
0300 200 7820 or to chat with a careers
adviser online visit: nirect.gov.uk/careers



- PANIC!
- Don't follow your friends.
- Don't forget about extra curricular enrichment activities to boost your skills set and your personal statement. Don't think it is too late for you to start!
- Don't leave your thinking about your future until it is too late.



Useful Websites



- www.ucas.com
- www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk
- www.discoveruni.gov.uk
- www.swc.ac.uk
- www.cafre.ac.uk
- www.ulster.ac.uk
- www.qub.ac.uk
- www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers
- www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices
- www.careersandstuff.com
- <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/subjects>
- www.firstcareers.co.uk/subjects/
- www.informedchoices.ac.uk/degrees

Very useful for looking at A level subjects and how they relate to specific degrees or careers



Online tool for pupils and parents

OA Careers Padlet

Accessed via School Website

The screenshot displays a Padlet interface titled "OA CAREERS" by user L.Dickson, created 7 hours ago. The interface is organized into several columns and rows of content cards:

- GENERAL INFORMATION:** A card explaining that the padlet is an interactive tool for finding specific careers information for Omagh Academy pupils and parents/guardians.
- Recent/ Upcoming Events:** A card for the "Nuffield Research Project" featuring the Nuffield Research Placements logo. The text states: "Welcome to Nuffield Research Placements. The Nuffield Research Placement programme are open for applications for 2023. This successful programme offers a variety of placement opportunities in the diverse area of STEM. Closing Date: 31st March 2023. Places are limited so Apply using the link above."
- USEFUL CAREERS WEBSITES:** A card for "careersandstuff.com" with a large blue 'E' logo. The text reads: "Careers & Stuff. This website is where you will find up to date careers information, including current labour market and job information, useful websites, virtual work experience..."
- UCAS & CAO:** A card for "UCAS" with the UCAS logo. The text explains: "UCAS stands for 'University and Colleges Admissions Service'. It is through UCAS where pupils will apply to their chosen courses. They will begin the UCAS process at the end of Year 13 and all applications will be sent by December of Year 14. (Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry and Oxbridge applicants will send their UCAS application by 15th October)." Below the text is a "UCAS Website" link.
- OPEN DAYS/ EVENTS:** A card for "SWC Open Days" featuring a photo of students and a "SAVE Full-Time & A OPEN" banner with dates for January 24 and 25 in Dungannon and Enniskillen.
- QUB:** A card for "QUB" (Queen's University Belfast) with a photo of a building.

The interface includes a search bar at the top, a plus sign for adding new content, and heart icons for liking items.

What's next?

- Visit the subject departments at the various locations throughout the school.
- Prefects are outside the canteen to guide you.
- A list of relevant rooms and a map is available on the table outside the canteen.

Evening timetable

Subject presentations take place every 20 minutes.

These last around 15 minutes and you will have 5 minutes to move to the next presentation of your choice.

- **Presentation 1 begins at 6pm and ends at 6.15pm.**
- **Presentation 2 at 6.20pm**
- **Presentation 3 at 6.40pm**
- **Presentation 4 at 7pm**
- **Presentation 5 at 7.20pm**

A bell will sound to signal the end of each session.





- Speak to your teachers this evening and in class.
- Have a detailed read through the post-16 options booklet for more specific information.
- Speak to Mrs Dickson if you need more info or advice on more careers specific information, or Mr Arbuthnot if you need info about curriculum options.