

## 1. GCSE OPTION CHOICES

How many choices  
have you made that  
directly affect your  
future?



## 1. GCSE OPTION CHOICES

### The reality is...

For lots of secondary school students, **making GCSE options choices** is one of the first “adult” decisions they have to make...

...the decision can be overwhelming!



## 1. GCSE OPTION CHOICES

1. What do GCSE's do?  
**DISCUSS**

2. What does the abbreviation GCSE stand for?

Ideas on next slide



# Careers Module: Year 8

## GCSEs prepare you for life in one of several pathways:

- Sixth Form
- Further Education at college
- Higher Education at University
- Apprenticeship
- Employment
- Armed Forces

Most of you won't have considered which pathway is best for you yet, and even if you have, may even change your mind at a later stage.

Your GCSEs are a **stepping stone** to the next chapter in your lives, making choices now that keep a range of **options open** is a perfectly normal and sensible decision.

At Barking Abbey School GCSE's are completed in 3 years and end when you finish year 11.

You have to choose the subjects that you want to carry on with, you cannot take all the subjects that you are currently studying.

## What does the abbreviation GCSE stand for?

- General Certificate for Secondary Education
- These are the general qualifications.

The biggest problem for many students is deciding which subjects to drop!



# Careers Module: Year 8

## Changing Expectations of Universities: Language at GCSE

- **Russell Group:** These are the best 24 universities in the UK and degrees from these are highly valued globally.
- They include many in London such as UCL, LSE, QMW, Imperial College and Kings College.
- They also include Cambridge, Oxford, Manchester, Warwick, Durham and Bristol.
- Our aim is to get as many of our students into Russell Group Universities as possible, to enhance their future global employment opportunities (84 students in 2020, plus 21 scholarships to the USA).



# Careers Module: Year 8

## Changing Expectations of Universities: Language at GCSE

- Some of our best Universities request the **study of a language at GCSE** as an entrance requirement for certain degrees.
- Many offer the opportunity to spend a year studying abroad under the ERASMUS scheme, e.g. a year in Lyon for Aeronautical Engineering.

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| ➤ University of Birmingham | ➤ London School of Economics & Political Science |
| ➤ University of Bristol    | ➤ University of Manchester                       |
| ➤ University of Cambridge  | ➤ Newcastle University                           |
| ➤ Cardiff University       | ➤ University of Nottingham                       |
| ➤ University of Edinburgh  | ➤ University of Oxford                           |
| ➤ University of Glasgow    | ➤ Queen's University Belfast                     |
| ➤ Imperial College London  | ➤ University of Sheffield                        |
| ➤ King's College London    | ➤ University of Southampton                      |
| ➤ University of Leeds      | ➤ University College London                      |
| ➤ University of Liverpool  | ➤ University of Warwick                          |

For example UCL requires all UK Honours Degree students to enter UCL with, or have developed by graduation, a basic level of language competence.



## Why study MFL at GCSE?

- It is clearly an advantage to have MFL GCSE in order to successfully apply for a university.
- It is the government's expectation that 75% of all pupils should begin studying the full set of EBacc subjects by 2022, in order to increase the number with a Language GCSE.
- 2021 will see Spanish offered at GCSE for the first time at Barking Abbey.
- We have a very strong MFL Department!



# Careers Module: Year 8

## English Baccalaureate (EBACC)

- Schools are judged on the percentage of students entered for, and achieving the EBACC.
- The EBACC is not a qualification but a group of subjects: English, Maths, Science (including Computer Science), Geography, History and a Language
- English, Maths and Combined Science are compulsory and many top set students will study Triple Science, especially if they are aiming for a pathway into Medicine
- Students are also expected to choose either Geography or History and a Language (they can choose both Geography and History)





## 2. What subjects can I opt for? Core Subjects

There are some subjects that are compulsory at KS4, and everyone has to study them.

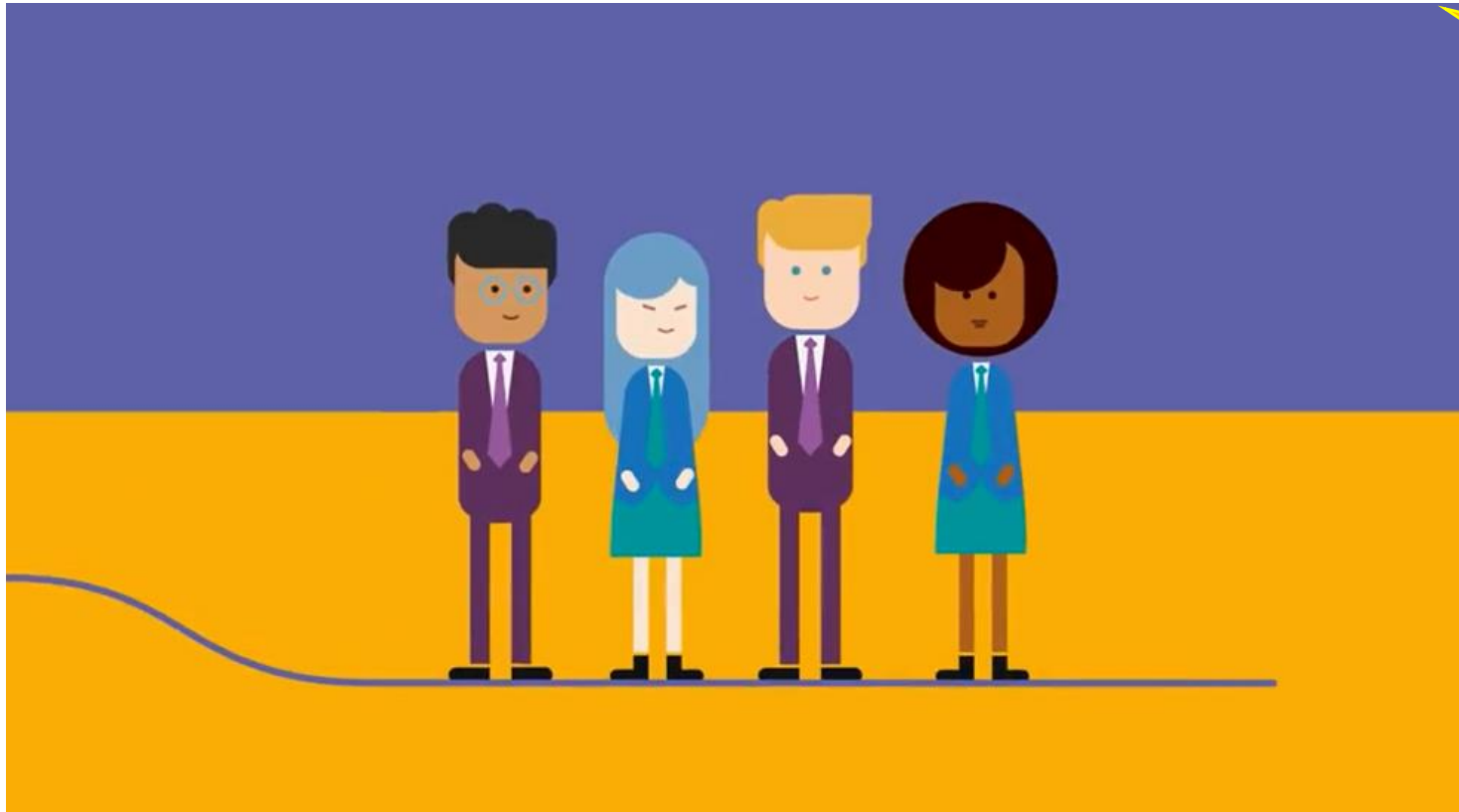
Can you guess what they are?

Answer on next slide



## 3. How should I choose option subjects?

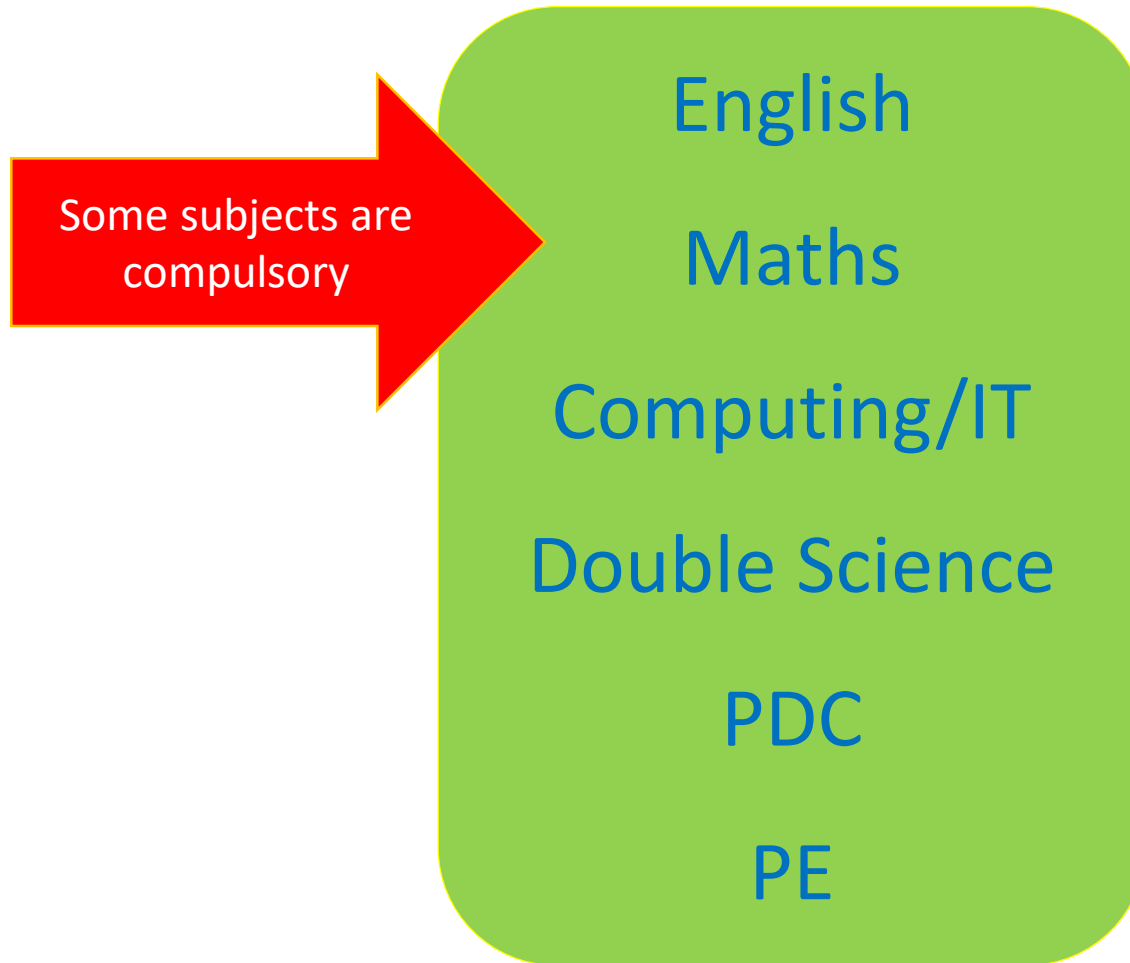
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d\\_ssJV\\_XfjQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_ssJV_XfjQ)



Watch this video. It gives excellent advice about how to choose your options



## 2. What subjects can I opt for? Core Subjects



# Careers Module: Year 8

## 2. What subjects can I opt for? Option subjects:

You can opt for these GCSE and BTEC subjects (they are not core)

HISTORY	MUSIC
GEOGRAPHY	RELIGIOUS STUDIES
FRENCH	ECONOMICS
SPANISH	TRIPLE SCIENCE
ART	FURTHER MATHS
GRAPHIC DESIGN	BTEC BUSINESS
BUSINESS STUDIES	BTEC MUSIC
DRAMA	BTEC DANCE
ENGINEERING PRODUCTS	BTEC HOSPITALITY
SOCIOLOGY	BTEC HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
	BTEC SPORT

BTEC stands for Business and Technology Education Council, they are qualifications that are vocational rather than purely academic. Vocational definition: providing skills and education that prepare you for a job.

1. You can choose 4 subjects from the list
2. GCSE History or Geography (Need to pick one / can do both) (EBACC and Russell Group Uni)
3. Need to pick MFL (EBACC and Russell Group Uni)
4. Triple science is for students excelling in Science. (Invite only)
5. Further Maths is for students excelling in Science. (Invite only)

You will get more information about the subjects from January 25th.

The biggest problem for many students is deciding which subjects to drop!



# Careers Module: Year 8

## 2. What subjects can I opt for? To conclude...

All Students study the following CORE GCSE subjects. English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science, Computing and Citizenship (plus Core P.E.). Then choose their OPTIONS:

This is what an option form looks like

OPTION A	OPTION B	OPTION C	OPTION D
<b>Geography</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>Geography</b>	<b>French</b>
<b>History</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Geography</b>
<b>French</b>	<b>*Triple Science</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>History</b>
<b>Spanish</b>			<b>*Triple Science</b>
	Art	Engineering Products	Engineering Products
Art	Business	Health and Social Care	Hospitality
Business	Economics	BTEC Sport	Religious Studies
Drama	Music	Sociology	Sociology
Further Maths	Religious Studies	Religious Studies	Dance
		Graphic Design	

\*invitation only

### KS4 Subject Choices

- You must choose **ONE** subject from **EACH** of columns **A** to **D**.
- **STRONGLY** recommended that you choose a language, studied at KS3 (**French/Spanish**) if you are hoping to go to university.
- You **MUST** choose either a **Geography** or a **History** option (you can choose both).
- You can **ONLY** choose **Triple Science** or **Further Maths**, if you have received a letter of invitation.

### IMPORTANT NOTES

- English Baccalaureate subjects are shown in bold.



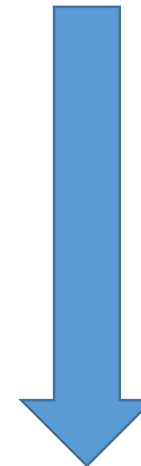
# Careers Module: Year 8

## 3. How should I choose option subjects?

Choose subjects that you like.

These are the subjects that you currently study	
SCIENCE	PDC
MATHS	PE
ENGLISH	DRAMA
HISTORY	DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY	IT
FRENCH/SPANISH	MUSIC
ART	RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Rank subjects in order:  
LIKE



DISLIKE



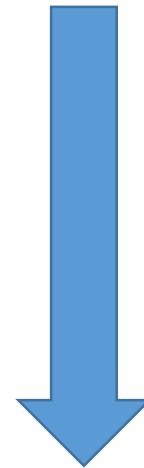
# Careers Module: Year 8

## 3. How should I choose options subjects?

Choose subjects that you are good at.

These are the subjects that you currently study	
SCIENCE	PDC
MATHS	PE
ENGLISH	DRAMA
HISTORY	DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY
GEOGRAPHY	IT
FRENCH/SPANISH	MUSIC
ART	RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Rank subjects in order:  
GOOD AT

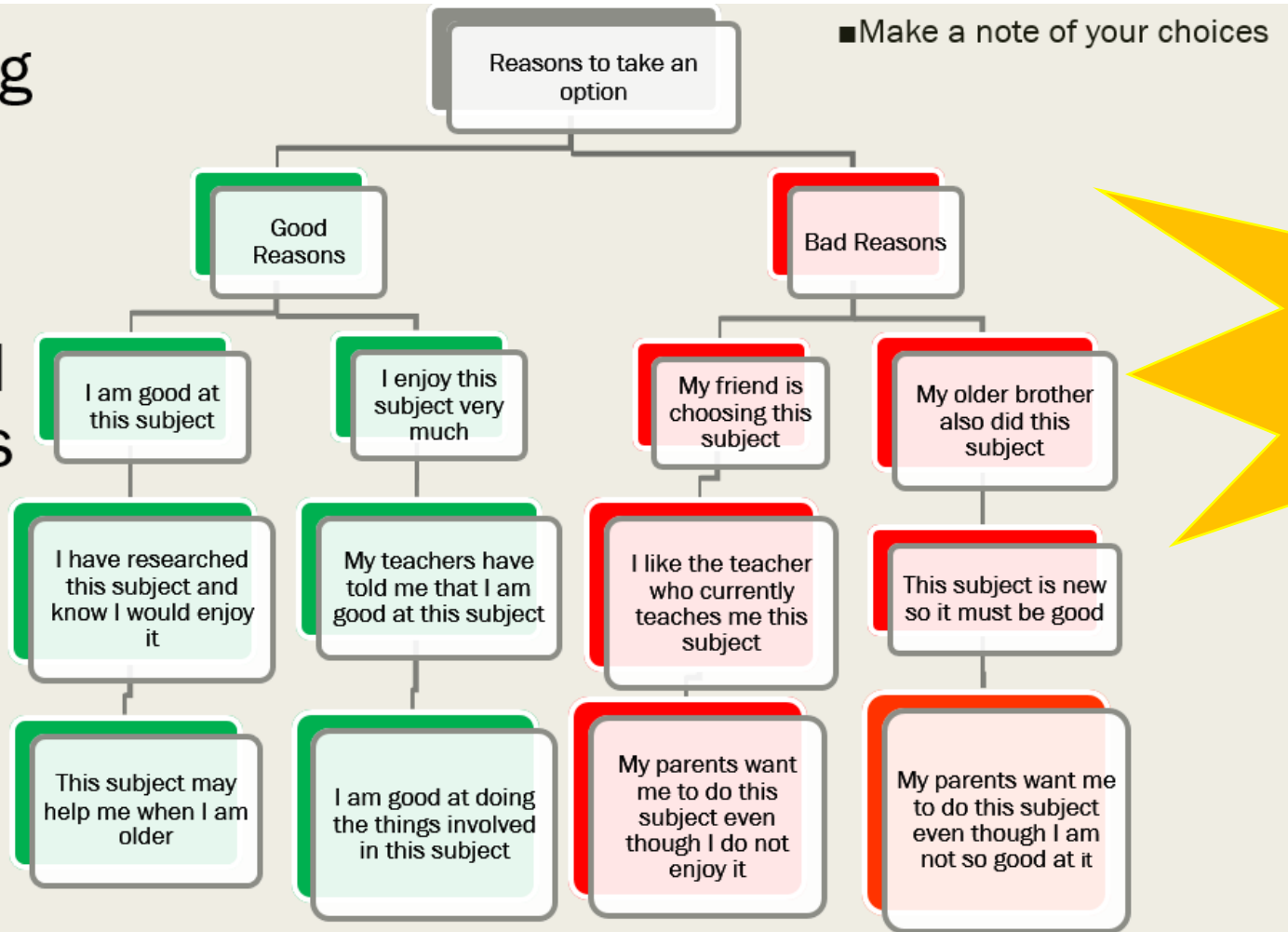


LESS GOOD AT



## 3. How should I choose option subjects?

Choosing your options:  
Good and Bad Reasons



Discuss why some reasons are good and some are bad.





## 3. How should I choose option subjects?

1. My favourite subject is.....

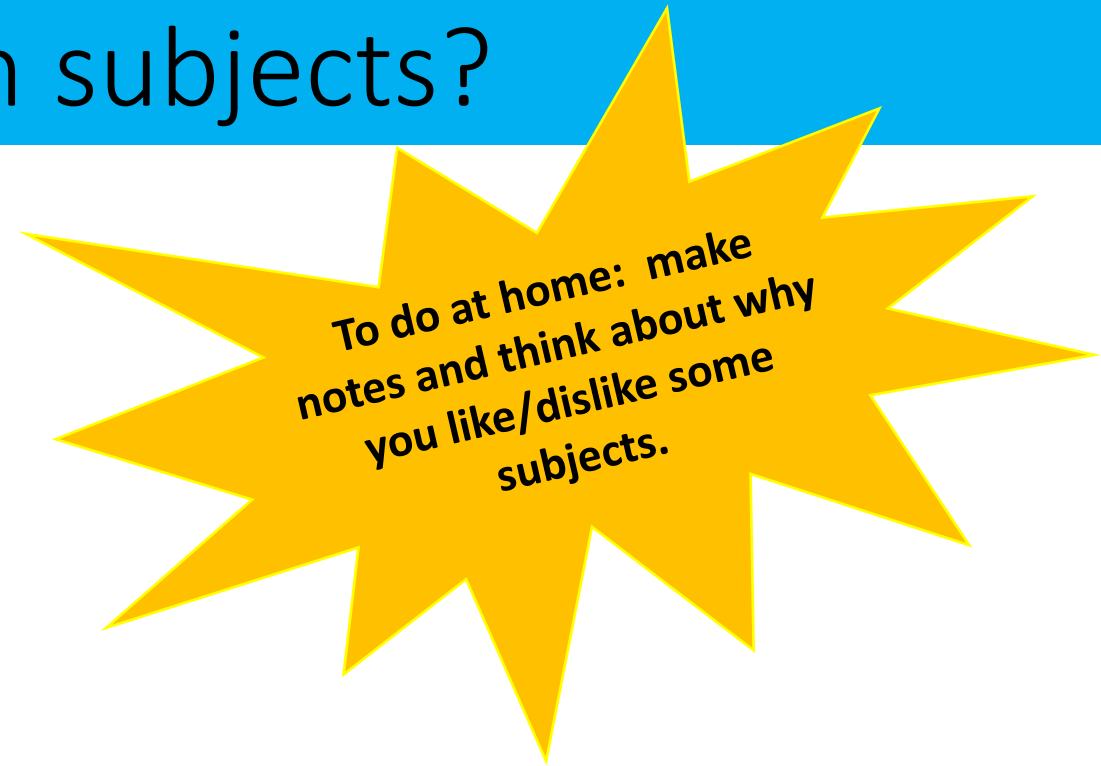
because..

2. My least favourite subject is .....

because...

3. The subject that I excel in is.....

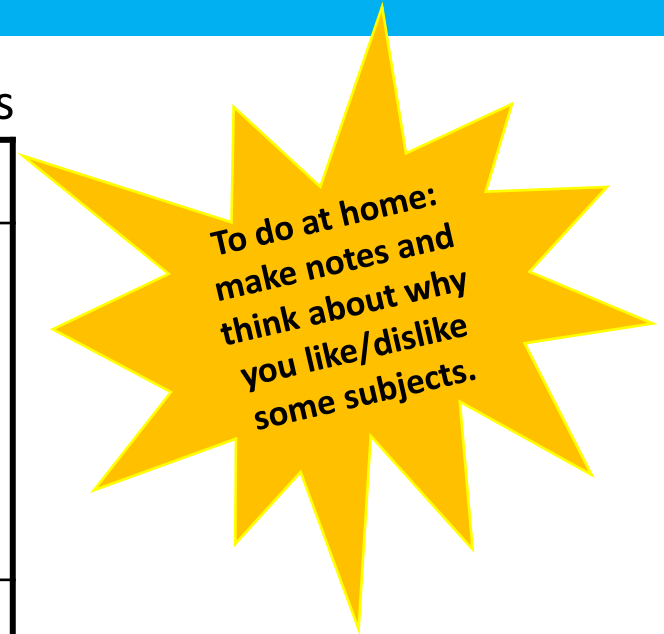
because...



## 3. How should I choose option subjects?

Thinking about yourself will help you make good option choices

Strengths in school	Weaknesses in school
Likes in and out of school	Dislikes in and out of school



# Careers Module: Year 8

## 4. Do you know which subjects you want to study?



# Careers Module: Year 8

## 4. Do you know which subjects you want to study?

What subjects would be useful for these jobs?



MATHS	SOCIOLOGY
ENGLISH	MUSIC
SCIENCE	RELIGIOUS STUDIES
HISTORY	ECONOMICS
GEOGRAPHY	TRIPLE SCIENCE
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- Assemblies
- PDC lessons including Careers talks
- In-class subject talks
- Online subject talks on School Website
- Tutor time sessions
- Your teachers
- Your form tutor
- Your Head of Year



# Careers Module: Year 8

## 5. Jobs for the future.



1. What job do these people do?

2. How might these jobs change in the future?





## 5. Jobs for the future

A scientist who uses genetic information alongside drug development and clinical techniques to allow better medical treatments that are personalised to the patient. This reduces the side effects that are often a result of general treatments.

Weather modification could become an important tool to combat climate change. A cloud controller would use cloud seeding—a technique where chemicals are sprayed into the clouds to increase rain. Trials are underway in the USA, India and China to increase the amount of rain in regions that suffer droughts.

This job would involve the manufacture of self-healing composite materials for use on aircraft, ships and spacecraft. Selfhealing materials are artificial or synthetically-created substances that have the built-in ability to automatically repair damage to themselves without any external diagnosis of the problem or human intervention This would cut down on costs of repairs or vehicles being out of service.

These robotic domestic assistants will work 24/7, cleaning the house, fixing things, doing the shopping, gardening, looking after the children—the list is endless.

This job involves designing wearable robots that would assist and protect soldiers, construction workers and other workers that work in dangerous environments.

- Bioinformationist
- Metal Skin consultant
- Cloud Controller
- Powered Exoskeleton Engineer
- Personal Bot Mechanic





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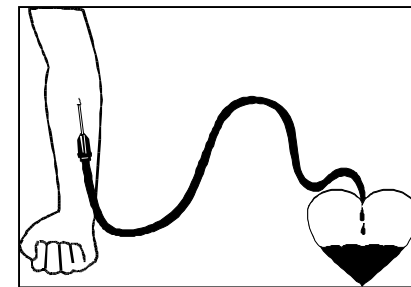
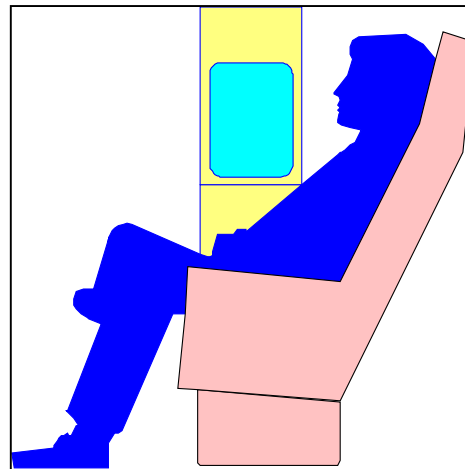
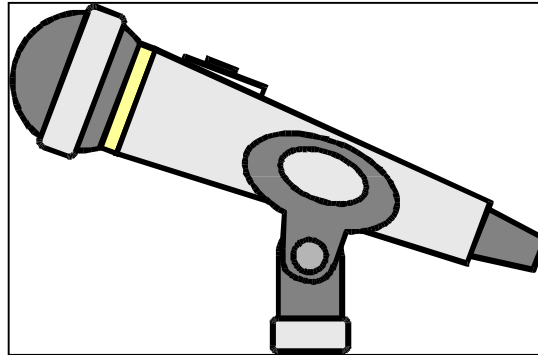


## 5. Jobs for the future

### New jobs are appearing

- Air Marshall
- Phlebotomist
- Boom operator
- Sommelier

Match the picture to the job

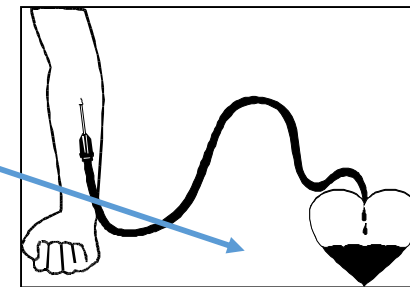
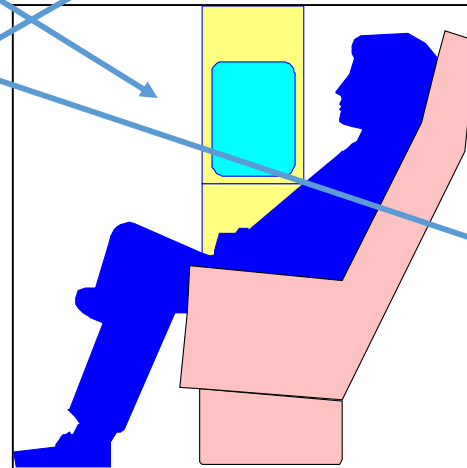
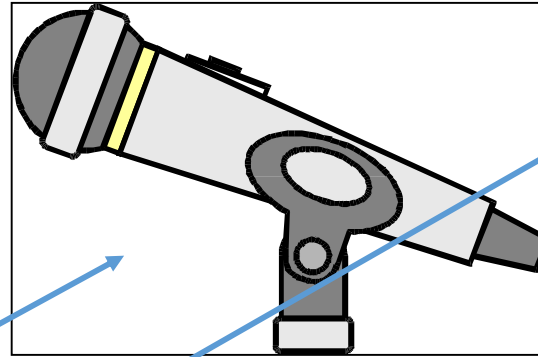


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## 6. Choosing the right subjects. CONCLUSION

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsLfssAa10Y>

Hi, I'm Donna, Donna Don't.

I'm in Year 11.

I'm going to tell you about some of the mistakes I made when I chose my GCSE options.



I hope you learn from them!



Watch this video.  
It gives excellent advice about what NOT TO DO!!



## 6. Choosing the right subjects. CONCLUSION

- You like it or find it interesting
- Your parents think it is a good idea, but you don't
- You're good at it
- It sounds good even though you haven't found out about it
- It will combine well with other subjects
- It's useful for your future career
- Your friends are doing it
- You think it will be easy
- You can develop new skills
- You can't think of anything else to choose
- You like the teacher who teaches it
- Your teachers think it is suitable for you
- You think you should do it- even though you haven't found out about it
- You think you will do well

What should be the **positive** reasons for making your choices?



Positive choices are balanced choices



## 6. Choosing the right subjects. CONCLUSION

### Some reasons for making your choice

#### Positive

- You like it or find it interesting
- You think you will do well
- You're good at it
- You can develop new skills
- It will combine well with other subjects
- Your teachers think it is suitable for you
- It's useful for your future career



#### Negative

- Your friends are doing it
- Your parents think it is a good idea, but you don't
- You think it will be easy
- You can't think of anything else to choose
- You like the teacher who teaches it
- It sounds good
- You think you should do it- even though you haven't found out about it



# Careers Module: Year 8

## 6. Choosing the right subjects. CONCLUSION

Beyond 14 – Factors to consider...smart choices

- What subjects do I enjoy?
- What am I good at?
- How can I achieve a balance of subjects?
- What do I want/need to study in future A Levels/BTEC



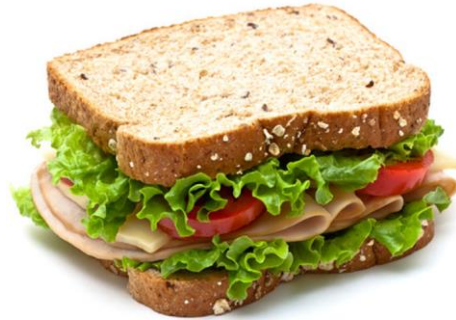


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## 6. Choosing the right subjects. CONCLUSION

*It's all about choice!*



- Select your ingredients carefully!
- Combine flavours to suit your taste.
- Know what works...
- ....and what doesn't!

*Be happy with **your** sandwich,  
The more to your taste it is, the  
more you will like it!*

