

Career Kickstart

Role Models

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Inspiration is great



We all look up to people – it is human nature. Success is something to be admired. And the people we admire are known as our role models. We're here to help you find yours.

Looking to someone successful for inspiration is great. It makes us determined to achieve something similar and helps to guide our career choices. You might already have a positive role model in mind; whether it's a family member, friend, teacher or a famous person. But if not, have a think about your own characteristics and the kind of person you hope to be one day.

It's a good idea to choose a role model that you know and can have open and honest conversations with. Learning first hand from their successes and failures will help you believe in yourself. We've added some links below, to help you choose positive role models.

- **How do you plan on reaching your goals?** What would your role model do differently? Think about the good examples they've set
- You're bound to have to face some challenges in life. **Think about how your role model would overcome them**
- It's important to organise and **plan your time, just like your role model** would
- Reflect on your experiences and compare them to your role models. **How can their actions help you with your own aspirations?**

We've come up with a few hints and tips that will help you to focus on your positive role models characteristics and influence your career decisions.

- **Having a realistic but positive view** Make sure you understand the kinds of skills and qualities that potential employers are looking for. Researching into the area of work you are interested in and speaking to people in the industry will help

- **Use your support network** Think carefully and do lots of research before you make choices. Talk to colleagues, friends, family members, teachers and tutors, potential employers and Careers Advisers for advice and support too
- **Weighing up the pros and cons** Knowing you have made the right decision will give you confidence
- **Admitting mistakes** Making mistakes is an important part of the learning process. But it is not the end of the world. The secret is to learn from them, think about how you can make amends and what you have achieved
- **Finishing the job** Sticking to your commitments and talking about your goals out loud will be a good influence on your behaviour
- **Having self-belief** Learn from and reflect on your experiences, and never underestimate what you are capable of

Chances are you'll start to look for different qualities in your role model as your career progresses. And that's fine. It's important to explore what works best for you and stay focused on your development.

To learn more about choosing a role model, visit:

<https://hbr.org/2016/06/how-women-and-men-can-find-role-models-when-none-are-obvious>

<http://www.sec-ed.co.uk/best-practice/careers-advice-lessons-from-top-female-role-models/>

<https://thebookofman.com/heroes/role-models/role-models-2018/>

To find out more about how you can develop your career aspirations, visit:

<https://icould.com/explore/>

<http://www.careersbox.co.uk>

The National Careers Service website: www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk (England)

Careers Wales website:

www.careerswales.com (Wales)

Careers in Scotland website:

www.myworldofwork.co.uk (Scotland)