

Career Kickstart

Making Decisions and Making Them Happen

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We are here to help

Life is full of decisions – some more important than others. Things like deciding on a career path can be quite scary, but we're here to help you make the choices that are right for you.

You might be thinking about what you want to do with your life. Or you may want to change the direction you're heading in. Either way, there are a number of things to consider – like your hobbies and interests, strengths, values and ambitions for example. It's better to be doing something you love, rather than something you think you should do.

Emotions are also important as they influence the choices we make. So make sure you weigh up the pros and cons and take time to think about what is important to you before jumping into a decision.

It's a good idea to share your plans and ideas too. Because talking things through with people who know you will help you see what is realistic and how likely you are to succeed.

Once you've thought carefully about your next move, start researching into the role or the industry that you're interested in. You'll need to think about the qualifications required and how you can go about achieving them, as well as how to get a foot in the door. We've come up with a few hints and tips that will help you get started.

- **Connections** – Do you know anyone that works in the industry you are interested in? If so, have a chat with them and ask plenty of questions
- **Go online** – Research the industry or company you are interested in and see if they have an online community or social network page you can join. This will help you make connections and get your name out there
- **Where to begin** – Look into apprenticeships, graduate placements and internships, find out what the company is looking for and decide whether it's right for you
- **Work experience** – A placement will not only help you find out more about the industry and the role, but give you the chance to impress. You can find out more about work experience and part time work here
- **Trust your own judgement** – Even if things don't turn out the way you'd planned, at least you've tried. Just take on board what you've learnt and move forward