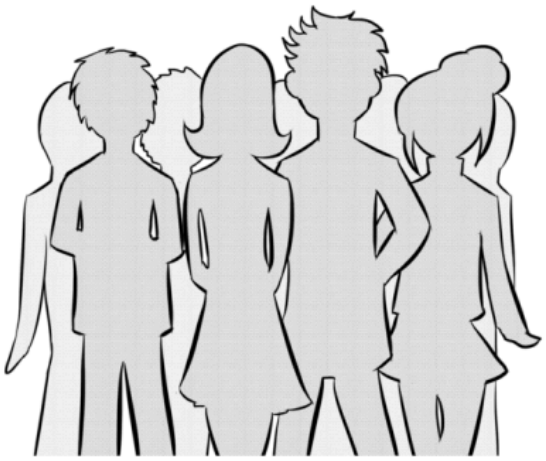
Aspirations

Information for parents and carers

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Did you know?

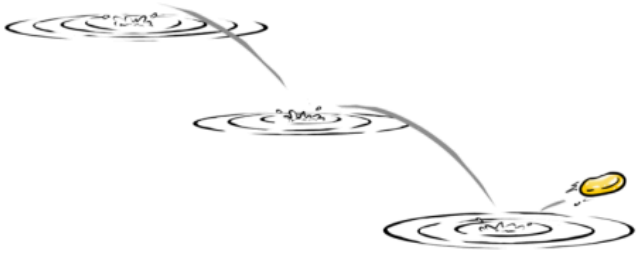


Aspirations reflect teenagers' hopes or desires to reach a particular level of education or reach a career. Studies shows that students with either high aspirations or high expectations have higher school achievement than those with both low aspirations and low expectations.

Research suggests that there is a correlation between teenage goals, aspirations and psychological wellbeing. Raising aspirations is also believed to incentivise improved attainment.

Further studies have shown that parents believe their child will find it harder to achieve their life goals than they did because there is more competition for job roles than they faced when they started their careers. According to research from the Education Endowment Foundation, most young people actually have high aspirations.

What can you do?



Talk to your child about their career, education or life aspirations. Be positive about what their hopes and dreams are and encourage them to start to be proactive in achieving them.

Try to raise your child's aspirations by highlighting new opportunities. Develop their self-esteem, motivation and expose them to role models to look up to. Inspire your child to be excited about their future and motivate them to pursue their dreams.

Young people who take part in family time or activities with their parents are more likely to continue these, achieve in education and seek out career opportunities. Arrange to do things with your child such as theatre trips, cultural activities, concerts, museums, hobbies or exercising.

Three Key Points

Apprenticeships – An Alternative to University

Information for parents and carers - CareerMap by Sharon Walpole

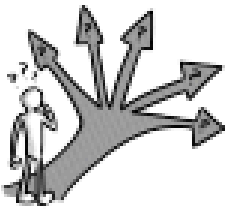
Did you know?



University is not the right pathway for every child, but sometimes it takes courage to choose an alternative route. You may have heard a great deal about apprenticeships, but are not convinced they are a viable alternative for your young one. Doing your homework may change your mind.

What is an apprenticeship?

It is a real job where you learn as you earn, often at a college, university or with a training provider. You can start from the age of 16, but there are no age limits. It can take one to six years to complete, depending on the apprenticeship. There are hundreds of different apprenticeships across a wide range of industries.



What can you do?

Deciding what to do

Before embarking on an apprenticeship, it is worth taking the time to talk to your young person about what interests them. Going to events such as WorldSkillsUK and Big Bang Fairs can open their eyes to a whole world of careers and jobs they may not even know exists. Getting inspired and being passionate is the key to success. You don't know what you don't know.

For many young people, going to university just does not appeal. Rather than falling in step, investigate what the options are. If it is inspiration you need, CareerMap publishes CareerMag with plenty of quality independent information about different careers and qualifications, dispelling many myths that exist.

And if wearing a cap and gown is important, consider a Degree Apprenticeship. A Degree Apprenticeship offers training on the job whilst gaining a full diploma, but without the debt. Once the apprenticeship is completed, most get a job straight away with their employers. Imagine competing for a job with up to six years' work experience with a degree and no debt! It will make your young person very employable in a competitive market.

How do I find an apprenticeship opportunity?

The Government has set up the Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers to ensure universities, colleges and learning providers provide quality apprenticeship training. The full list of available apprenticeships available near you can be found at www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk. You can either apply for Degree Apprenticeships on the UCAS website or direct with an employer or learning provider.

However, many parents and carers feel they would like much more information before applying straight away. Have a look at www.careermap.co.uk for live apprenticeship vacancies with plenty of information to help make the right decision.

Careers are no longer a linear path. Our young people will typically have five or more careers in a lifetime. Whichever path your young person takes, the more experience and skills they gain along the way, the more successful future they will have.

LINKS

Careermap https://careermap.co.uk/
CareerMag https://careermap.co.uk/careermag-registration/
WorldSkillsUK https://worldskillsuk.org
Big Bang Fairs https://nearme.thebigbangfair.co.uk
www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

ABOUT SHARON WALPOLE

With over 10 years' experience leading in the careers sector, Sharon Walpole is a Director at CareerMap, Editor of CareerMag and Head of Friends and Partnerships. Her passion is to provide young people support and access to quality information about careers and qualifications to help with making the best decisions for their futures.

Work experience to prepare for their future?

Information for parents and carers

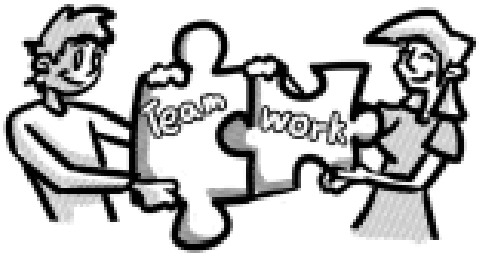
Did you know?



Employers are really keen on work experience and what it gives young people such as the confidence and skills to succeed in a workplace and become 'workplace-ready'. Work experience stands young people in good stead for their future employability. A prospective employer will always look favourably on the effort taken by those who have done work experience, which empowers new talent and gives them an edge to push for the most sought-after graduate positions.

A recent survey (UCAS) showed two thirds of employers look for graduates with relevant work experience because it helps them prepare for work and develop general business awareness.

As well as the many benefits that work experience provides, such as giving young people skills, fostering teamwork, developing communication and providing commercial awareness, experience allows them to stand out to potential employers and helps them choose the right sector to work in.



What can you do?

Work experience isn't just about 'workplace' settings but is a lot broader. All kinds of activities can help your child gain experience, so do encourage them to do an apprenticeship, volunteer, fundraise, complete the Duke of Edinburgh award, take on a part-time job or be an entrepreneur. Help your child apply for placements and get them to start building a CV.

Encourage your child to differentiate themselves and to make themselves more employable. Help them to find work experience placements or new opportunities to try out - which will impress employers and improve their personal development. Try looking on websites with your child, such as targetcareers.co.uk and gothinkbig.co.uk/opportunities. Suggest to your child that they could also speak to a careers advisor through school to help them find the right experience for them.

Help your child understand what they are passionate about and the different job roles they would like to experience. Start by looking at local companies, charities or by contacting family friends to see if they can help out. Watch this video with your child to help inspire them to find the right experience for them:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=102&v=o2F4bZX2yUg