

## Year 12 Student Destinations Pack – Spring Term:

### Choosing Destinations for the Future

Name: .....

Tutor group: .....

Tutor: .....

The timely and proper organisation of your destination following College is of the utmost importance in order to guarantee that all of you leave school with a viable pathway of employment ahead of you.

#### Learning Objectives:

- To know the benefits and disadvantages of applying for universities/apprenticeships/employment/other alternatives.
- To understand the grades/other requirements needed to apply for different destination pathways.
- To be able to select three possible destination pathways for next year.

#### Steps:

1. Making decisions – university or not? If not, what?
2. Establishing an accurate personal profile – who are you and what will work for you?
3. Exploring possible destination pathways for next year.
4. Selecting three possible destination pathways for next year.
5. Further steps – what next?



## **Step 1: Making informed decisions**

### a) University or not?

#### **A reminder of some of the main advantages / disadvantages of university:**

<b><u>Advantages</u></b>	<b><u>Disadvantages</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Many jobs simply require a degree – you cannot apply unless you have one.</li><li>• Often jobs that require a degree are better paid.</li><li>• Whatever you choose as your degree subject does not necessarily have to be what you want to do a job in. It means that you will be studying, and doing something worthwhile for your future, whilst still being able to keep your options open.</li><li>• Many universities are keen to recruit students in order to bolster their funding, and students from Toot Hill are often very successful in their applications.</li><li>• There is a wide and diverse range of degree subjects to cover almost anything you are interested in, at institutions all over the country and abroad.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The cost of tuition fees is very high – they currently stand at around £9000 per year, and this is not including the cost of living (especially if this is away from home).</li><li>• You will need to pay back your student loan once you are working – a small amount of your paycheck will be taken to pay it back once you are earning more than £21,000 and will keep coming out until you have paid it all back.</li><li>• Many people do degrees in subjects they do not need for their job afterwards; for some this may be seen as a waste of time or they would have done something else.</li><li>• Apart from some specialist courses, most students leave university without a great deal of work experience.</li></ul>

### b) Apprenticeships and/or direct employment or not?

#### **A reminder of some of the main advantages / disadvantages of choosing an apprenticeship**

<b><u>Advantages</u></b>	<b><u>Disadvantages</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Usually paid while you train</li><li>• Avoid the cost of university fees</li><li>• Work experience straight away</li><li>• Many different options more and more widely available</li><li>• Diverse range of apprenticeships in all areas at all levels – this includes apprenticeships that train students to degree or masters (above a degree) level</li><li>• You can apply to university later in life – there is no age limit or deadline</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Many jobs still require a degree</li><li>• For an apprenticeship you already need a good idea of what you want to do as a job in the long-term – once you choose a certain path (e.g. accountancy) it is very hard to change into something completely different</li><li>• Apprenticeships are becoming increasingly competitive</li><li>• While increasing, they are still not as wide and diverse as the range of university courses</li></ul>

c) Gap Year or not?

<u>Advantages</u>	<u>Disadvantages</u>
<p>Develop transferable skills            Increase work experience – paid employment or voluntary work            Allow you to learn a new skill            Hone other existing skills            Increase confidence and independence            Time to reapply for university if results are better at A2 than AS</p>	<p>You might lose momentum to study            Financial cost – can you afford one? How?            Future employers/universities will want to know what you have done – so is it worthwhile?            Can sometimes be lonely – are you doing it alone or with a friend? If so, do you have the same aims/expectations?</p>

d) Other?

<u>Other alternative destinations?</u>	<u>Advantages</u>	<u>Disadvantages</u>
<p><b>Art, Theatre or Drama Schools</b></p>	<p>Doing something you love to a higher level with others who also have a passion for it.</p>	<p>These are generally highly competitive and, until you reach the very top, lower paid industries to enter overall.</p>
<p><b>Direct employment</b></p>	<p>You will start being paid a wage straight out of school.            This will enable you to gain real work experience and valuable work-related skills straight away.</p>	<p>Entering a job without qualifications included in the training may limit your job prospects and, therefore, your salary later on.            In addition, it is often much harder to go back and retrain for qualifications at a later age when you may have other financial commitments such as a mortgage or children.</p>
<p><b>Further vocational education</b></p>	<p>You can gain additional qualifications related to a specific job industry you are interested in.</p>	<p>These qualifications will be the same level as your current qualifications so while they may be more specific to a career you are interested in, they won't necessarily make you any more qualified than when you leave Toot Hill College.</p>

**Task 1: Try to start making some decisions!**

*This is just a starting point, and obviously your mind may well change over the course of the next 18 months. Nevertheless, you need to start somewhere, so see where you think you sit at the moment!*

**1. Put a cross in the following - Do you want to apply to university?**

Definitely not	Probably not	Unsure	Maybe	Probably	Definitely

If you have ticked 'probably not' 'unsure', 'maybe', 'probably' or 'definitely' then you **must** research university options. This is because most students do end up applying for university next year.

If you have ticked 'definitely not' and you are totally confident with this decision, then you **must** research the other options.

**2. Put a cross in the following - Do you want to apply for an apprenticeship?**

Definitely not	Probably not	Unsure	Maybe	Probably	Definitely

If you have ticked 'probably not' 'unsure', 'maybe', 'probably' or 'definitely' then you **must** research apprenticeship options.

If you have ticked 'definitely not' and you are totally confident with this decision, then you **must** research the other options.

**3. Put a cross in the following - Do you want to organise a Gap Year?**

Definitely not	Probably not	Unsure	Maybe	Probably	Definitely

If you have ticked 'probably not' 'unsure', 'maybe', 'probably' or 'definitely' then you **must** research gap year options.

If you have ticked 'definitely not' and you are totally confident with this decision, then you **must** research the other options.

**4. Put a cross in the following – Are you interested at all in any of the others?**

<b>Art / Drama / Dance Schools?</b>					
Definitely not	Probably not	Unsure	Maybe	Probably	Definitely

<b>Direct employment?</b>					
Definitely not	Probably not	Unsure	Maybe	Probably	Definitely

<b>Further vocational education?</b>					
Definitely not	Probably not	Unsure	Maybe	Probably	Definitely

**5. What if I have ticked 'definitely not' for every option?**

If you have ticked 'definitely not' for every option then you must research all of them!!!

**Step 2: Establishing an accurate personal profile**

a) What are your academic qualifications?

Task 1: Complete the tables below

<b><u>GCSEs (or equivalents)</u></b>		
<b><u>Subject</u></b>	<b><u>Do you know the exam board?</u></b>	<b><u>Grade</u></b>

<b><u>A Level or Vocational qualification predicted grades</u></b>		
<b><u>Course</u></b>	<b><u>Do you know the exam board?</u></b>	<b><u>What was the predicted grade of your last report (12.2)?</u></b>

b) What tariff points will you have when applying? (These apply to university, apprenticeships and some employment schemes too so you will need to know whether you meet the entry requirements)

Task 2: Work out your tariff points for your A Levels/Vocational qualifications

**A-Levels:**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Tariff Points</u>
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

**Vocational qualifications:**

**Single award:**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Tariff Points</u>
D*	56
D	48
M	32
P	16

**Double award:**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Tariff Points</u>
D*D*	112
D*D	104
DD	96
DM	80
MM	64
MP	48
PP	32

Task 3: Complete the table below to work out your best and worst possible scenarios

*Most courses offer a tariff point offer based on the equivalent of three Level 3 courses, so work on this basis at the moment – what might you get for each scenario in the three highest courses you are studying?*

<u>Scenario</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Tariff Points</u>
Scenario 1 - Aspirational: The best possible grades I believe I could achieve if I worked as hard as possible are ...		
Scenario 2 – Status Quo: The grades that my teachers predicted me in my most recent report (12.2) are ...		
Scenario 3 – Back-up: If something happened that meant I dropped a grade in each of my subjects (from those predicted by my teachers), I would achieve ...		



b) How to research and explore possible apprenticeship courses:

### **What are Apprenticeships?**

An Apprenticeship is a real job with training so you can earn while you learn and get recognised qualifications as you go. If you live in England, are over 16 and not in full-time education, you can apply. They take between one and four years to complete and cover 1,200 job roles, in a range of industries, from engineering to financial advice, veterinary nursing to accountancy.

### **IMPORTANT TO KNOW:**

**All the qualifications – A Level and Vocational Courses – you are currently studying for are classed as 'Level 3' qualifications.**

### **What are Higher Apprenticeships?**

A Higher Apprenticeship incorporates a work-based learning programme and leads to a nationally recognised qualification **at Level 4 and above**.

- a Level 4 and 5 is equivalent to a higher education certificate, higher education diploma or a foundation degree
- a Level 6 is equivalent to a bachelor degree
- a Level 7 is equivalent to a master's degree

They offer a new work-based route into professions which have traditionally been the preserve of graduates. Over 40 different subjects are currently covered, ranging from commercial airline piloting to legal services, representing hundreds of job roles.

### **What are Advanced Apprenticeships?**

A Higher Apprenticeship incorporates a work-based learning programme and leads to a nationally recognised qualification **at Level 3**. This is the same level as the qualifications you are currently working towards so while you may get another qualification from this scheme, it will not be at a higher level than A Levels or vocational qualifications.

### **What are Traineeships?**

If you're interested in an Apprenticeship but need more skills and experience in order to get onto one, a Traineeship could be for you. A Traineeship can last anything from six weeks to six months and is a work placement that combines work experience with skills training.



c) How to research and explore possible jobs/direct employment:

### **I still don't know where to start! What should I do?**

Try to find out at least which job sector you are interested in. Here are a few of the most common:

Accountancy. Banking and Finance	Business, consulting and management	Charity and voluntary work	Creative arts and design	Sales
Energy and utilities	Engineering and manufacture	Environment and agriculture	Healthcare	Science and pharmaceuticals
Hospitality	Information technology	Law	Law enforcement and security	Social care
Media and publishing	Property and construction	Recruitment and HR	Retail	Teaching and education

You can find more out about different job sectors from these websites:

<http://www.prospects.ac.uk/sectors.htm>

<http://www.totalprofessions.com/profession-finder/sector-summaries>

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

➔ Click 'career tools'

○ Click 'job profiles'

▪ Have a look through the alphabet of jobs and read a bit about each!

### **How do I search for a job?**

- There are **many** job websites.
- The best ones to start with are those that target school leavers and don't already require professional qualifications:
  - [www.indeed.co.uk/School-Leaver-jobs](http://www.indeed.co.uk/School-Leaver-jobs)
  - [www.indeed.co.uk/School-Leaver-Programme-jobs](http://www.indeed.co.uk/School-Leaver-Programme-jobs)
  - [www.schoolleaverjobs.co.uk](http://www.schoolleaverjobs.co.uk)
  - [www.thebigchoice.com/School\\_College\\_Leavers](http://www.thebigchoice.com/School_College_Leavers)
  - [www.allaboutschoollleavers.co.uk](http://www.allaboutschoollleavers.co.uk)
  - [www.studentladder.co.uk/School-Leaver-Programmes/school-leaver-programmes.html](http://www.studentladder.co.uk/School-Leaver-Programmes/school-leaver-programmes.html)
- Some School Leaver programmes offer incredibly prestigious career opportunities with high profile companies:

- **In fact, if you know a company you would like to work for – they probably offer a School Leaver programme:**

[www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/school-leavers](http://www.kpmgcareers.co.uk/school-leavers)

[www.nestlecareers.co.uk/academy/content/school-leavers](http://www.nestlecareers.co.uk/academy/content/school-leavers)

[www.accenture.com/horizons](http://www.accenture.com/horizons)

[www.rbsbankyoubuild.com/school-leavers](http://www.rbsbankyoubuild.com/school-leavers)

[www.allianz.co.uk/schoolleaver](http://www.allianz.co.uk/schoolleaver)

<http://careers.marksandspencer.com/school-leavers>

[www.ey.com](http://www.ey.com)

- ➔ Click ‘Home’
  - Click ‘Careers’
    - Click ‘Students’
      - Click ‘Schools Programme’

[www.deloitte.com](http://www.deloitte.com)

- ➔ Click ‘careers’
  - Click ‘School leavers’

- There are also many organisations with excellent advice and links to follow for school leavers. Try the following:

[www.totaljobs.com](http://www.totaljobs.com)

- ➔ Career Advice
  - Unemployment advice (don’t worry – it’s just a link)
    - Scroll down to: ‘Jobs for School Leavers’ for some job ideas.

[www.allaboutschoollleavers.co.uk/employer-rankings](http://www.allaboutschoollleavers.co.uk/employer-rankings)

- ➔ List of top 5 rated school leaver employers 2014 – 15

[www.office-angels.com](http://www.office-angels.com)

- ➔ Click ‘Help and Advice’
  - Click ‘News and Opinion’
    - Click ‘Blog’
      - Scroll down to find: ‘Jobs for 16-18 year olds & school leaver programmes’

**Task 3: Complete the following table with any jobs you might be interested in:**

<b><u>Job Sector</u></b>	<b><u>Job</u></b>	<b><u>Entry requirements</u></b>

d) How to research and explore possible Gap Years

**What should I have thought about beforehand?**

Before taking one, you need a clear plan with clear aims:

- **What do you want to achieve from your year?**
- What do you want to do after your gap year? Uni? Apprenticeship? Job?
- How will your gap year help these?
- If you don't know what you want to do – can your gap year help you to explore different areas / industries / jobs to get a taste for them?

**Where can I find out more?**

- [www.realgap.co.uk](http://www.realgap.co.uk)
- [www.statravel.co.uk/gap-year-travel.htm](http://www.statravel.co.uk/gap-year-travel.htm)
- [www.gap360.com](http://www.gap360.com)
- [www.gapyear.com](http://www.gapyear.com)
- [www.prospects.ac.uk/gap\\_year.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/gap_year.htm)
- [www.gapwork.com](http://www.gapwork.com)
- [www.frontier.ac.uk/volunteer/Gap-Year.aspx](http://www.frontier.ac.uk/volunteer/Gap-Year.aspx)
- [www.gap-year.com](http://www.gap-year.com)
- [www.yearoutgroup.org](http://www.yearoutgroup.org)

Find others by typing 'gap year' into search engine

Task 4: Complete the following table with any Gap Year ideas you might be interested in

<u>Gap Year idea</u>	<u>How this Gap Year will set me up for what I want to do after it</u>	<u>What I need in order to do this</u>

## **Step 5: What next?**

- You now need to summarise everything you have found out so you have a plan for the next 18 months of your time at Toot Hill College.
- Obviously, plans change – and yours probably will too – but you need to have a plan in order to adapt it later, and to avoid ending up without a plan once you leave school.
- Finally, your tutor and the College Team also need to be aware of what you are planning so we can put in place the best support possible for you.

### **Task 1: Complete the following table.**

Scenario	Grades I achieve ...	Options that interest me that I would look into if I achieved these grades:
Scenario 1 – Aspirational: The best possible grades I think I could achieve if I worked as hard as possible are ...	...	
Scenario 2 – Status Quo: The grades that I was predicted by my teachers in my most recent report are ...	...	
Scenario 3 – Back-up: The grades that I would achieve if I dropped a grade in each of my subjects (as predicted by my teacher) are ...	...	