

Case studies

Jonathan is in Year 9 where he is in top sets for English, history and geography, and middle sets for maths, science and French. He enjoys design & technology where he gets good grades, but isn't particularly interested in any of the arts subjects. Your school offers applied/vocational GCSEs in science, engineering, and leisure and tourism. Jonathan has no definite career plans and no one in his family has been to university. His hobbies are watching football and re-enactment history, and he sometimes goes to events with his father. He thinks he might like to go for an apprenticeship in aerospace engineering (which is available locally) when he finishes Year 11.

- What subjects should he definitely take in KS4?
- What other information would be useful to him in developing his career plans?

Surinder is in Year 11 where she is in top sets for every subject. She is an accomplished sportswoman and has had paintings exhibited in the annual school art exhibition. While she achieves high grades in all her subjects, her favourite subject is English. Her current career aim is to become an actress, but her family would like her to go to medical school.

- What ideas about the future should Surinder be helped to explore before deciding what to do after Year 11?
- What subjects should she take at A-level?
- Is there an alternative route she might take when she finishes Year 11?

Helen is in Year 11. She does not find schoolwork easy but she tries hard and behaves well. She prefers subjects in which she can use her hands, rather than reading and writing. Her hobbies are knitting and making jewellery from kits. She is perhaps rather immature compared with her peers. Helen lives with her single mother whose income is low, and she does quite a lot of babysitting for a neighbour. She feels she should get a job when she finishes Year 11 and would like it to involve looking after children.

- What advice could you give her to help her feel she does not *have* to leave full-time education?
- Helen may have already had an interview with the Connexions PA. Can you, as her form tutor, give Helen any further support?



John is in Year 9, where he is now in low sets for all his subjects, having started in high sets for maths and science in Year 7. His attendance is good, but he can be disruptive and rarely does his homework in classes where he has no interest in the subject. His favourite subject is PE. He has a morning paper round and his weekends are spent at the local speedway track, mending his own and friends' bicycles or watching sport on TV. He has no idea what he wants to do when he leaves school and is not particularly interested in choosing his KS4 subjects.

- What ideas might you encourage him to explore, assuming your school is able to offer a wide range of options to its students?

