



Beyond Subjects: Exploring Your Future Pathways

Hosted by:

Donna Trusler, Associate Principal Students & Welfare

Dr David Manning, High Achievers' Champion

Welcome to our community ...



Students learn from teachers who “are experts in their subjects” (Ofsted, 2024).

“Students develop significant new knowledge, skills and behaviours. They are well prepared for their next steps” (Ofsted, 2024).

University-style campus where students “appreciate the high expectations that teachers have of them, and the way in which they treat them like young adults” (Ofsted, 2024).

Having done GCSEs

What are you thinking and feeling...

- Set view on future career, university, apprenticeship etc
- Not too sure, perhaps a bit overwhelmed
- Looking forward to studying what I enjoy with no set plan
- Worried about workload, so want to make future studies are manageable
- Worried about other pressures and how to negotiate these alongside studies
- Worried about university

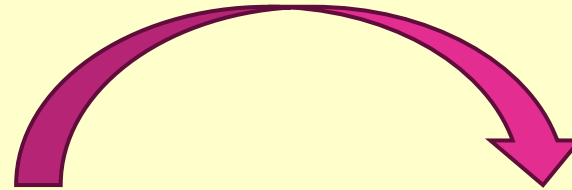
Moving to WQE

What will it be useful to bear in mind...

- You cannot predict what your 18-year-old or 21-year-old self might be like
- Reflecting on the nature and scope of your ability helps guide realistic aspiration
- Being flexible and adaptable are highly prized characteristics
- Effort needs to be matched by application and taking opportunities
- The world is a big place

Why do we study level three courses ...

- To acquire knowledge, understanding and skills in subjects
- Pathway to further study, usually at university
- To develop academically and personally
- To get good grades
- As a staging post to career
- To see how things go
- Interest and enjoyment



How do these points inform
what we study?

Some Guiding Principles, or “Do’s”

Do have a full A-level programme

Do cluster together at least two complementary subjects to give you a sense of academic direction

Do back yourself to take on the challenges of tough academic subjects

Do understand the skills required for particular degree courses and careers

Do understand the subject prerequisites for particular degree course

Do understand when four A-levels is likely to help or hinders one’s chances

Do understand that most degree apprenticeships are as competitive as Oxbridge

Scenarios



I want to become...

a forensic psychologist

a lawyer

a medical doctor

an economist

a journalist

a computer scientist

an engineer

etc.

Lawyer: BTEC Criminology, A-Level Law and Sociology;
or... A-level History, Law, and French?

Engineer: A-level Electronics, Computer Science and
Business; or... A-Level Maths for Further Maths, Physics
and Chemistry?

Medical Doctor: A-level Biology, Chemistry, Maths and
Further Maths; or... A-level Biology, Chemistry and
Psychology?

Economist: A-level Business, Accounting, and Sociology;
or... Maths for Further Maths, Economics, and Politics?

Journalist: A-level Media, Sociology, and Business; or... A-
level History, Economics, and English Literature.

Scenarios

Biology, Chemistry and Maths? The world is a lot bigger than Medicine! Bio-chemical engineering, marine biology, food science, plant science, biotechnology, environmental science, natural science, scientific policy or journalism, neuroscience, etc.

Craft Design, Maths, Physics – The world is a lot bigger than Engineering! Architecture, product design & technology, material science, surveying, industrial design, conservation and heritage, etc.

History, English Literature, Law – the world is a lot bigger than Law! Archaeology, History, English Literature, Asian studies, Assyriology, Classics, Philosophy, Art History, Islamic studies etc.

Scenarios

I'm not sure what I want to do in the future, nor what A-levels to choose.

No problem! Enjoy the discovery, but be empowered to make informed decisions and choices...

What do you lean towards...

Natural Science

Physical Science

Computer Science

Social Science

Humanities

The Arts

The Path Ahead

- The Jump from GCSE to A-level
- Internal Assessments – Nov., Feb., Apr. – university predicted grades June '27
- Support for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
- Negotiating Academic and Personal Challenges
- High Achievers Enrichment / Medicine Enrichment
- EPQ
- Oxbridge

University Fees Overview - Myth Vs Reality

- Most UK universities charge up to £9,250 per year
- Courses typically last 3 years (longer for some degrees)
- Tuition fees are paid through a student loan
- No upfront payment required
- Tuition Fee Loan covers full cost of course
- Maintenance Loan supports living costs
- Amount depends on household income
- Paid to you (maintenance) and university (fees)
- Start repaying only when earning above threshold
- Repayments based on income, not total debt
- Any remaining balance written off later
- System designed to be manageable

Student Loan Repayment Thresholds 2025/26

Student loan repayment thresholds for the 2025/26 tax year: Plan 1 is £24,990, Plan 2 is £27,295, Plan 4 is £31,395, Plan 5 is £25,000, and Postgraduate is £21,000. You repay 9% of income above your plan's threshold (6% for Postgraduate loans). Repayments are deducted automatically through PAYE.

All plan thresholds and rates

Plan	Threshold	Rate	Who	Write-off
Plan 1	£24,990	9%	England/Wales loans before Sept 2012, or Northern Ireland	Age 65
Plan 2	£27,295	9%	England/Wales loans from Sept 2012	30 years after graduation
Plan 4	£31,395	9%	Scottish undergraduate loans	30 years after graduation
Plan 5	£25,000	9%	England loans from Aug 2023 onwards	40 years after graduation
Postgraduate	£21,000	6%	Postgraduate Master's or Doctoral loans	30 years

How Repayments Work

You only repay student loans on income **above** your plan's threshold. For example, on Plan 2 with a £30,000 salary:

- Income above threshold: $£30,000 - £27,295 = £2,705$
- Annual repayment: $£2,705 \times 9\% = £243.45$
- Monthly repayment: £20.29

Support and Guidance

- Support for students through Personal Progress Mentors
- Great teaching & support from subject specialist teachers
- 24/7 Student assist programme
- Support for specific or individual learning needs
- Peer Support and Peer Mentoring
- Health & welfare support, with counselling available
- Expert advice on HE/Apprenticeships and Careers
- Enterprise Advisors and strong business links
- Extensive range of curriculum events and visiting speakers
- Groundbreaking University of Leicester 'Safezone' Partner
- Safeguarding freephone line



Be Inspired!

[High Achievers@WQE Webpage](#)

We Look Forward to Seeing You!

Any Questions....