

ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE USE OF 'FOCUS ON CAREERS' RESOURCES

The learning activities contained within these twelve lessons are designed to provide a gateway for students to use the 'Focus on Careers' information resources. They have been written with Y9, 10 and 11 learners in mind, to be delivered by a non-specialist, typically a tutor with a twenty-minute session per week within a broader tutorial programme. They are not intended to replace any of the excellent resources currently in use in schools for Careers lessons, but to give tutors a means of generating and sustaining a dialogue about future careers with groups and individuals. They are, however, based on the assumption that to be a tutor is to take a proactive interest in the future economic wellbeing of your students.

While access to the 'Focus on Careers' website during the activities may enable students to enrich and extend their learning, the lessons have been planned to run independently of the website, using the printed versions of the resources.

Activities to focus in greater depth on decision-making skills for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 transition have been deliberately omitted. There are well-trying resources based on the concepts in the former 'Progress File' that comprehensively deal with these issues, in partnership with Connexions Personal Advisers.

The activities are designed to draw on students' current awareness of jobs, however limited or incidental, and to generate an enquiring approach to information about future education, training or employment. Thus, each activity is structured in a similar, three-part, way:

- pre-learning
- main activity (approximately 20 minutes)
- post-learning/self study

The lesson plans also allow for a flexible 'mix and match' approach. Pre- and post-learning activities can be adapted and combined with the main activity to create a typical 50-minute lesson. Teachers will need to match the activities to the appropriate level for their own students and may wish to re-order the sequence of lessons. However, it is advisable that the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) activities precede the Routes to Higher Education section. The format of the pack enables teachers to selectively omit some pre- or post-learning activities to create a smoother 'flow' of one lesson into another, from week to week.

Thematically, the lessons can be categorised as follows:

- Occupational Categories
- The National Qualifications Framework
- Employability skills
- Job trends
- Routes to Higher Education

There has never been more Career information available to students, nor a wider range and flexibility of progression routes. The overall objective of this lesson pack, supported by the 'Focus on Careers' website, is to enable students to reflect on the relevance and usefulness of that information to themselves. This generation of students faces the greatest challenges so far, in terms of acquiring the knowledge, skills and attitudes to face an increasingly unpredictable economic future. This pack will hopefully make a small but significant impact on that challenge.