

Careers Counselling for Year 10 Students

Career Definition

Subject and/or pathway choice is one step towards career planning.

The term “career” was historically associated to paid employment & referred to a single occupation. “Career” has a more holistic meaning and refers to the sequence & variety of roles (paid or unpaid) which an individual undertakes throughout a lifetime. Broadly speaking career includes life roles, leisure activities, learning & work.

Future Forecasts

Future forecasts predict that your children may be engaged in between 8 and 10 different occupations throughout their lifetime. Their experience of work is likely to be much more segmented than our own experience. This may include short-term contracts, casual or part-time work being balanced with running a small business or studying part-time, along with periods of transition from one job to another.

Transition

As such our responsibility as teachers and parents/carers is to assist these young people to be as best prepared as they can be to manage their future careers. One way we can do this is to ensure they have the skills to manage themselves through their periods of transition.

Year 12

We also need to do whatever we can to assist these young people to make the decisions about their future pathways and ensuring they continue to be engaged in education or training through to Year 12, whether it be VCE, VCAL, ASBA or other. The Dusseldorf Skills Forum found that 45% of Year 10 school leavers were “at risk” in the labour market six months after leaving school.

Keeping Options Open

Due to the predictions about the future world of work, it is considered important not to narrow down options. Historically a student may have been encouraged to follow a maths/science stream or an arts/humanities stream. This is no longer strictly the case.

Our guiding principle on choosing a course of study including VCE and or VE&T is to choose subjects the student:

- Enjoys
- Is good at

...and will lead to a variety of options rather than a narrowing down of possibilities.

Preparation for decision-making

As stated in the recent correspondence, Year 10 students have been involved in the following activities in preparation for their decisions for next year:

- Career exploration using Jobguide

- Career Your Lifestyle Expo
- Self-directed search
- Further career exploration linking Self-directed Search results to Jobguide and VICTER 2010.

Following on from here, each student will make their first attempt at subject selection. Each student will have an individual career counselling session with me. We will review the work they have done with Jobguide and the Self-directed Search and discuss their thoughts about the future. It is not expected that students will have a definitive idea about their future, and even if they do, it may very well change.

We will also endeavour to ensure that all prerequisites for future tertiary studies are covered. For example, for entry 2009 there were 2 institutions that did not state maths as a prerequisite for Primary Teaching. For 2010 all institutions offering Primary Teaching state maths as a prerequisite.

Parents supporting their children

When it comes to making decisions about future subjects or educational pathways we need to work together in partnership to ensure that the decisions reached are in the best interest of each young person. As was said in the recent correspondence, family is the single most important influence on young people's career decision-making. Where possible we would encourage you to be active in this current process of deciding "what next" after Year 10.

There are a number of ways you can support your child in career decision-making.

- Initiate conversation about careers of family members and friends & discuss varying pathways
- Refer to the "target" (possible careers for those who enjoy or are good at:)
- Take your child to University & TAFE Open Days
- Explore occupations together in Jobguide

Resources

Job Guide 2007 – a hard copy of this extensive publication will come home with your child once they are finished referring to it in tutorials. It is also available at www.jobguide.dest.gov.au

Parents help with Careers – this booklet was distributed during the information session. It has the "bullseye" graphics of "Do you enjoy or are you good at.....?" for each major subject area. These diagrams are very useful tools for initiating discussion about and exploring occupations. These are also available through the following website: www.myfuture.com

Where to Now – VCE, VCAL, Apprenticeships & Traineeships – this booklet was distributed during the information session. More are available upon request.

FHS Subject Handbook 2008 – students have already received a hard copy of this booklet and it is available on the FHS website

IMVC 2008 VE&T Handbook – a guide to all VE&T courses on offer in 2008. More copies available on request

VTAC Guide 2008 a guide to tertiary courses – we have one hard copy of this comprehensive publication. It is also available online at www.vtac.edu.au but it will require a lot of memory to fully download. It is also currently available in newsagents for about \$12.95. This is useful for looking at past ENTER scores and course prerequisites

VICTER 2010 – a condensed version of the VTAC guide, it includes essential course prerequisite information for tertiary course commencing 2010. All Tutors have a copy of this booklet. This can also be downloaded from www.vtac.edu.au

CHOICE! VCE studies and the ENTER – this is a companion booklet to the VICTER 2010 and provides a snapshot of the tertiary system to Year 10 students. It will be distributed to all students proceeding on to VCE in 2008.

FHS Course of Study 2008/09 Form – this is the form where students indicate their preferred course of study for 2008. It will be distributed to all students.

Additional Websites

www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au Information about apprenticeships

www.dest.gov.au/sectors/career_development/audience_segments/for_parents.htm Information for parents – Department of Education, Science & Training

www.education.vic.gov.au/senseyouth/careertrans/default.htm Information related to career transition and the senior years of secondary education

www.imvc.com.au Inner Melbourne VE& T Cluster – information relating to PACTS (Parents as Career Transitions Support) program, VE& T subjects and Careers at Work programs

www.jobjuice.gov.au Includes information about job searching, career quiz and resume building

www.myfuture.edu.au Career information service

www.youthcentral.vic.gov.au Website targeting youth, includes information pertaining to jobs & careers and studying & training