



Choices, choices...

Get your hands on

Your essential guide to vocational education

www.voced.co.uk



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Thinking about your options,
but don't know where to start?

So many courses you
just can't decide?

Need to know what's
best for you, but not
sure who to ask?

Vocational learning: Get your hands on education!

Up until now, you may not have had much choice about what subjects to study – but now's the time for you to have your say and get your hands on an education that suits you!

Did you know that GCSEs and A levels aren't your only options?

Over the last few years, schools and colleges – in partnership with employers – have made huge changes to the courses 14–19-year-olds can study. Many have introduced lots of new vocational qualifications that can be studied alongside more traditional or compulsory qualifications.

Vocational subjects can offer you a more hands-on approach to learning, as well as giving you more responsibility for the work you do. And – depending on your skills and interests – they can be tailored to your career choices and the way you learn.

This booklet explains the sort of vocational courses you can do between ages 14 and 19, what it's like to study vocational qualifications, and where these qualifications could lead you.

And don't forget – you aren't making these choices on your own. Your teachers, tutors, Connexions Personal Adviser and your family and friends will all be there to help.



Looking for a new challenge?

Want to do something that suits your skills and interests?

Want a qualification that's valued by employers, colleges and universities?

Fancy finding out more about the world of work?

Vocational qualifications: What's on offer?

Here are some examples of the different types of vocational qualifications that may be on offer to you in South Yorkshire from Year 10 onwards.

Check with your school, college or Connexions Personal Adviser to find out which vocational courses are available to you or visit www.voced.co.uk/findacourse

Vocational GCSEs

GCSEs are graded A*–G. Most GCSEs in vocational subjects are Double Awards – a bit like Dual Science – so they're worth the same as two single GCSE subjects.

Some of the vocational GCSEs you can choose from are:

- Applied Art and Design
- Applied Business
- Applied ICT
- Applied Science
- Engineering
- Health and Social Care
- Leisure and Tourism
- Manufacturing
- Construction and the Built Environment

NVQs

If you want to get a recognised qualification related to a particular industry or sector, an NVQ may be for you. NVQs, or National Vocational Qualifications, are available in lots of vocational subjects, including Catering, Hairdressing and Engineering.

You can take an NVQ if you already have skills and want to improve them, or if you are starting from scratch. NVQs can be studied from Level 1 (equivalent to a GCSE at grade D–G) up to NVQ Level 5 (manager/supervisor level), depending how far you want to take your qualifications and the range of subjects you choose to study.

On the whole, NVQs are more practical than traditional GCSEs and A levels, but they do contain some theory. To get a full NVQ qualification you have to have some real-life experience in the workplace, so most NVQs include practical work experience.

Many schools offer NVQs alongside GCSEs, or you may prefer to study NVQs at work, college or as part of an Apprenticeship.

Young Apprenticeships

Well-motivated pupils of good ability may have the option to pursue general or industry specific vocational programmes outside of school, in partnership with employers and involving extended work placements. The Young Apprenticeships route links into and offers the chance to pursue Apprenticeships beyond Year 11.

This provides the chance to gain high quality, extended experience of work coupled with a Level 2 qualification that is nationally recognised both by employers and the Further and Higher Education sectors.

Apprenticeships/Advanced Apprenticeships

On an Apprenticeship/Advanced Apprenticeship you are based with an employer while you study for qualifications through a training provider. In many cases you have a ‘real job’ while you get:

- a nationally recognised qualification (generally at Level 2, or Level 3 for Advanced Apprenticeships), eg an NVQ
- Key skills qualifications
- technical certificates
- a wage (this varies but it should be at least £80 a week)

Advanced Apprenticeships generally require 4 GCSEs at grades A–C or equivalent but entry requirements can vary, depending on the employer or training provider.

BTECs and OCR Nationals

BTEC qualifications and OCR Nationals are particular types of practical, work-related qualifications, available in a wide range of subjects.

You can take one if you want to learn more about a particular sector or industry. Many have been designed with employers, so they can give you the skills and knowledge that employers are looking for.

The qualifications offer a mix of theory and practice, and can include an element of work experience. They can take the form of (or be part of) a technical certificate, one of the key components of an Apprenticeship. BTECs and OCR Nationals are available in a wide range of subjects from Retail and Distribution to Construction and Health and Social Care.

Key skills/Functional skills

Basic numeracy and literacy, including computer literacy and good communication skills are amongst the key transferable skills required by employers. Wider key skills include improving your own learning and performance, working with others and problem solving.

Entry level qualifications

For some students, entry level qualifications will be the most appropriate starting point to access other qualifications.



Vocational A levels

If you're over 16 and interested in an A level that focuses on a specific sector, eg Travel and Tourism or Engineering, one of the range of vocational A levels may suit you.

Vocational A levels are available in around 80 different subjects including:

- Applied Art and Design
- Applied Business
- Applied ICT
- Applied Science
- Engineering
- Health and Social Care
- Leisure Studies
- Media: Communication and Production
- Performing Arts
- Travel and Tourism



Diplomas

If a more hands-on approach to learning appeals, you may also be interested in a new set of qualifications being introduced by the Government from September 2008.

Based around specific employment sectors, Diplomas combine practical learning with academic study. They can be taken alongside GCSEs, A levels or vocational qualifications. Students will also develop their ability to apply their English, Maths and ICT skills in situations relevant to work and life.

In South Yorkshire, from September 2008 you may be able to choose a Diploma in:

- Information Technology
- Construction and the Built Environment
- Creative and Media
- Engineering
- Society, Health and Development

Initially, selected schools and colleges will be teaching the Diploma courses but they will become more widely available every year until September 2013.

There are three levels of Diploma. Starting in Years 10 or 12:

- The Foundation Diploma is a Level 1 qualification and takes about the same amount of time as four or five GCSEs.
- The Higher Diploma is a Level 2 qualification. It takes about the same amount of time to do as five or six GCSEs.
- If you're starting in Year 12 (around the age of 16), the Advanced Diploma is a Level 3 qualification. It takes broadly the same amount of time to do as three A levels. A Progression Diploma, which takes about the same amount of time to do as two A levels, may suit students who do not wish to complete a whole Advanced Diploma.

From a Foundation Diploma you can progress onto a Higher, Progression or Advanced Diploma or onto a different type of qualification, eg GCSEs, A levels or an Apprenticeship.

To find out if Diplomas are available to you, speak to your school, college or Connexions Personal Adviser.

For general information about Diplomas, visit

www.direct.gov.uk/diplomas

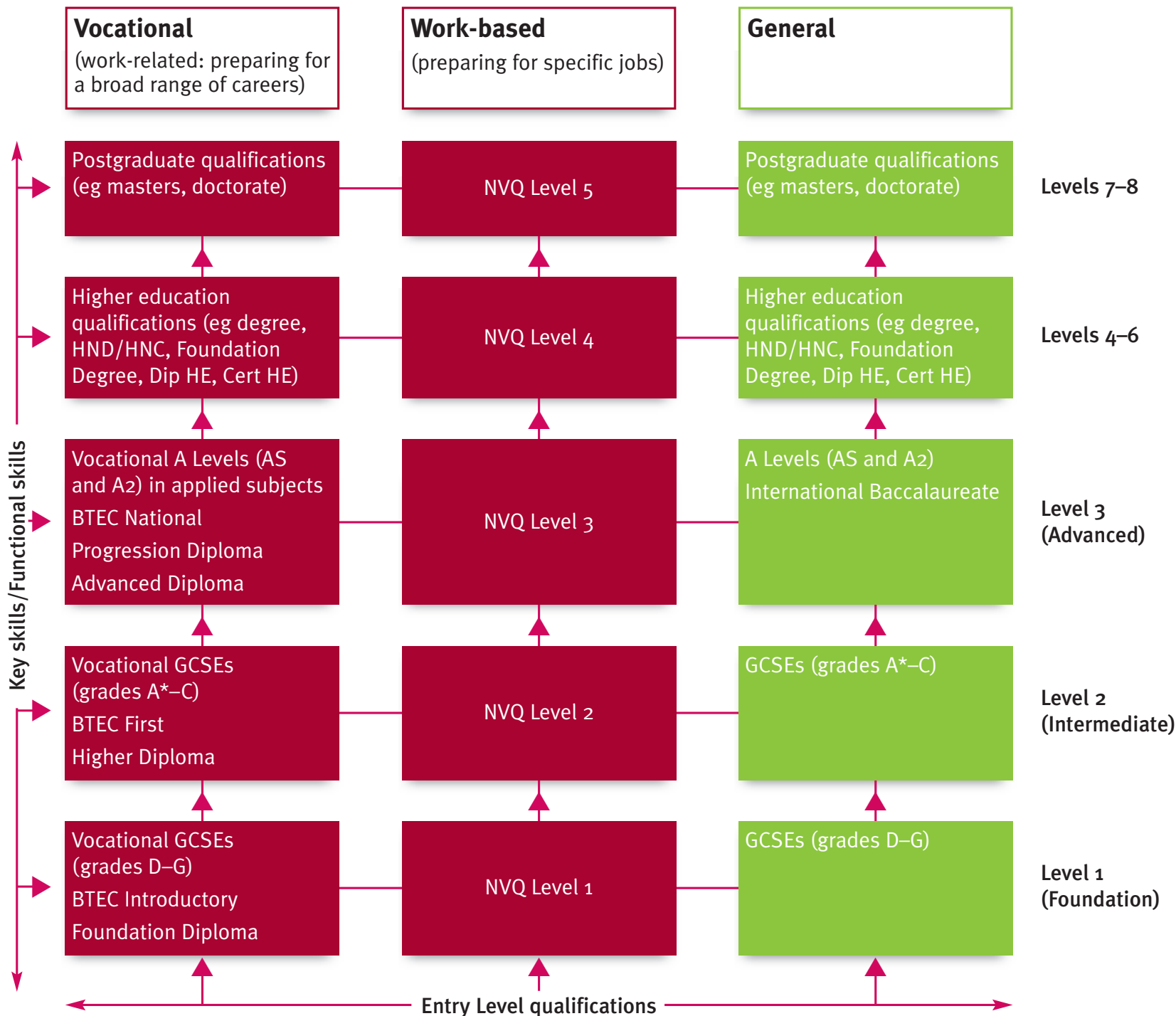
Vocational qualifications: Where could they lead?

Not sure what a qualification is worth or where it will lead you?

The chart opposite compares various routes to further education, training, university and employment that could begin from Year 10 or Year 12. It is a guide and so does not represent the full range of courses or routes available to everyone.

Check with your school, college or Connexions Personal Adviser to find out which options are available to you, or view the online prospectus at

www.voced.co.uk/findacourse



For some careers and courses you may need a combination of vocational, general and work-based subjects. Grades will be important. For example, if you take a Level 2 vocational qualification you may need additional subjects and grades at GCSE to progress to Level 3 after Year 11.

So you know where
vocational qualifications
could lead you,

but what's
so good
about them?



Vocational education: What are the benefits?

- Many vocational courses are practical, relate to work, give you the chance to learn by doing or find out more about jobs.
- They can be mixed and matched with a variety of other courses to give you a wide range of skills.
- You have more optional units to choose from, giving you the opportunity to study the areas you are really interested in.
- They are challenging, flexible and offer plenty of scope for specialisation.
- They're mainly assessed by coursework or exams that are based on applying what you've learned – so you don't have to try to remember absolutely everything.
- They give you a good understanding of a particular vocational area and let you apply your knowledge to real-life situations.
- In addition to a recognised qualification, they give you the breadth of skills employers are looking for, like teamwork, organisation and communication skills.
- They can be taught in school, but are often taught in college or at an off-site training provider.
- They give you the chance to build a portfolio of work to show how much you've learned.
- They'll help you get you a job, further training, or get into college or university.



You're not alone!

Thousands of students are studying vocational qualifications alongside their GCSEs and A levels in South Yorkshire. Here are just a few stories to explain what it's like to study vocational subjects and the careers these courses could lead to.



Jason's story

“My tutor says I've become more organised and independent during the last year.”

When Jason (16) from Rotherham was choosing his options, his Connexions Personal Adviser asked him what he was interested in. “I suppose I'm practical and like taking things apart to find out how they work!” With guidance from Connexions, his school and his dad, Jason chose to study ten GCSEs including Engineering.

“On the Engineering GCSE I've learned about the practical sides of engineering and the jobs that I could go into. The visits to employers and the talks we had from people who came in to tell us about their work were really useful. My tutor says I've become more organised and independent during the last year, which he says will be useful for me when I go to college to do A levels. Eventually I want to do a degree in Engineering Design because I want to be a design engineer in the aerospace industry.”

Engineering and Manufacturing

We spend half our money on manufactured goods. Life without the benefits of modern industry would be unthinkable!

The careers

Engineering and manufacturing jobs are found in many industries including: aerospace, chemical engineering, forensics and pharmaceuticals – to name just a few. Manufacturing is used to produce new cures and treatments for illnesses and diseases, and to make furniture, computers, food, motor vehicles, tyres, clothes and trainers!

Did you know?

- South Yorkshire is home to some of the most advanced engineering companies in the world, offering a huge range of well-paid and satisfying careers. From swing bridges to ice skates, hip joints to Formula 1 engines, all these and more are made right here in South Yorkshire.
- There are over 79,000 people employed in manufacturing in South Yorkshire – that's 12% of the overall workforce.
- 43 of the top 100 South Yorkshire firms (by turnover in 2006) were in the engineering and manufacturing sectors.
- Chartered engineers are some of the highest paid graduates in the UK.
- South Yorkshire will need 6,000 more engineers over the next 10 years, including software engineers, professional engineers and technicians.
- South Yorkshire produces over 1 million tonnes of steel, with a turnover of £400 million every year. In fact, thanks to new technology, steel production in South Yorkshire is now at its highest level ever.
- A major high-tech printing centre has recently relocated to South Yorkshire, creating up to 1,600 print-related jobs.
- 7 out of 10 aeroplanes flying overhead include parts made in South Yorkshire.

To find out more about the Engineering and Manufacturing sectors, visit:

www.voced.co.uk/jobsinsy



Paul's story

“I'm going to college to do an NVQ Level 2 in Business Administration and then hopefully get a good job in a big local company.”



Paul is in his final year at school and wants to be a personal assistant. To help him get there he is studying an NVQ Level 1 in Business Administration alongside his GCSEs. On the course Paul feels that you are treated like an adult and learn practical office skills like how to deal with customer enquiries, booking rooms and ICT, which all help him feel a step closer to the world of work.

“I love this course. People say I'm friendly and I've always been quite assertive and organised so becoming a personal assistant would be an ideal job for me and I could put my ICT skills to use. After school I'm going to college to do an NVQ Level 2 in Business Administration and then hopefully get a good job in a big local company.”

Business

A successful business doesn't run itself. It takes a lot of hard work and dedicated staff to satisfy business customers and stay ahead of the competition. While ICT has improved the way businesses work over recent years, it's no substitute for skilled workers.

The careers

Businesses of all shapes and sizes need managers, marketing teams, administration, finance, human resource and clerical staff. Useful, transferable skills for jobs in business include English, Maths, ICT, good communications skills, team working and organisational skills.

Did you know?

- At 18% of the workforce, this is the largest employment sector in South Yorkshire.
- More than 89,000 people work in business and finance in South Yorkshire, 20,000 of whom work in banking and insurance jobs.
- Over 38,000 people work in call centres across South Yorkshire – more than 640,000 across the UK.
- In 2004/05 the Connexions service advertised over 600 clerical and administration positions for 16–18-year-olds – the single biggest job area for school and college leavers in South Yorkshire.
- It is expected that there will be an increase of 4,000 jobs for business managers, administration and clerical workers.
- Business services is the biggest single job area for school leavers in South Yorkshire.

To find out more about the Business sector, visit:

www.voced.co.uk/jobsinsy

Jenny's story

“It's really good learning the tricks of the trade and practising what I've learned...”



Jenny is creative and loves home improvement programmes. When she was choosing her options she didn't realise she could put her talents into practice on a vocational course alongside her GCSEs.

“After talking to a teacher I chose a Building Craft Occupations Level 1 qualification in Sheffield. I spend one day a week out of school doing a range of crafts including joinery, bricklaying, tiling, plastering and painting and decorating. It's really good learning the tricks of the trade and practising what I've learned by redecorating my bedroom and helping my dad with DIY!”

Jenny needs four Ds in her GCSEs to do the Craft Apprenticeship Awards programme. The college matches apprentices with employers so she'll do four days a week working and one day at college, which means she can earn while she learns.



Construction and the Built Environment

It's not all hard-hats and mixing cement you know! Construction jobs are increasing for both skilled trades and building professionals.

The careers

As well as the traditional trades of bricklaying, plumbing, plastering and joinery, there are jobs available at all levels in South Yorkshire, from basic labourers to architects, designers and chartered surveyors. The good news is that they're all accessible through vocational courses.

Did you know?

- 8% of South Yorkshire's workforce is employed in construction.
- By 2010 the construction sector across Yorkshire and the Humber will have expanded by 20,000 businesses.
- We're not just talking about 'jobs for the boys' – almost 200,000 women work in construction in the UK.
- Investment in housing and regeneration projects is creating the need for lots more construction trainees in South Yorkshire. By 2010, the number of architects, surveyors, planners, building services and civil engineers will all need to increase.
- The largest demand is expected to be for architects, carpenters and joiners, followed by managers, bricklayers, electricians, plumbers and steel erectors. There is also a serious need for clerical staff. Even labourers seem to be in short supply.

To find out more about the Construction and the Built Environment sector, visit:

www.voced.co.uk/jobsinsy

Emma's story

“I met some really great people on my work experience and loved it!”

In Year 9 Emma decided to take an Applied GCSE in Art and Design and did her work experience at a graphic design agency in Doncaster. Most of the design work is done on computers so she did a GCSE in Applied ICT too.

After finishing her GCSEs, she decided to carry on down the vocational route and do a BTEC in Art and Design. Emma wants to study an HND in Graphic Design and Multimedia and she would like to become a graphic designer or illustrator.

“To be honest, at first I wasn't sure what graphic designers did, but I met some really great people on my work experience and loved it! Graphic design is really varied. On my placement I helped design a logo, packaging, some signs and advertising.”



Creative and Digital Media

In South Yorkshire there are over 1,000 leading design, production and distribution companies fuelled by talented artists, film makers, graphic designers and musicians.

There are all sorts of exciting careers on offer in design, film, photography, music, publishing and interactive media such as computer games and animation.

The careers

Photographers, graphic designers, advertising executives, architects, musicians, software developers, programmers, web designers and broadcasters are just some of the jobs available.

Did you know?

- Along with ICT, the creative and digital industry is the fastest growing sector in South Yorkshire.
- 123,000 people are employed (or self-employed) in the creative industries across Yorkshire and the Humber.
- As many as 1,000 new jobs could be created in the creative industries each year between now and 2010.
- Even if you don't see yourself as a creative specialist, more and more office jobs require digital skills beyond word processing and email – to design publications, create presentations and update websites.
- In the UK there are 122,000 creative and digital companies, employing 1.3 million people – around 4% of the UK workforce. Half of them are freelance (they sell their services to employers on a short-term basis).
- There are nearly 5,000 cultural enterprises in South Yorkshire, with a turnover of £1.1 billion.

To find out more about the Creative and Digital Media sector, visit:

www.voced.co.uk/jobsinsy

Karen's story

“I didn't realise there were so many different ways into nursing.”

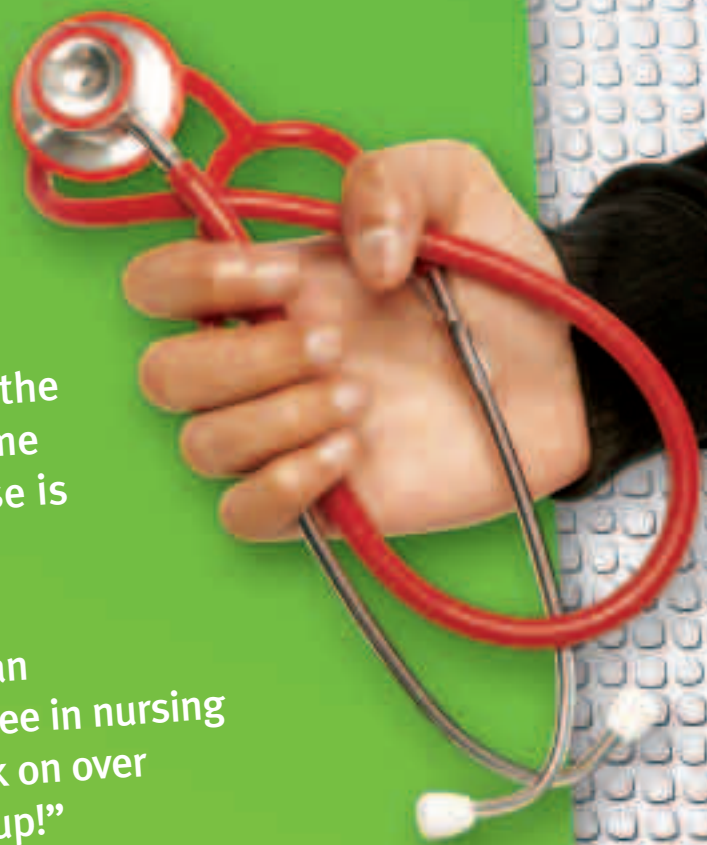
Karen lives in Rotherham and at home she cares for her disabled mum.

Being a carer helped her decide that she wants to work in the health care sector, but she was unsure exactly what to do.

Karen decided to do some research. By speaking to her school's career co-ordinator, she looked at the different options and decided that nursing would really suit her skills and personality.

“I didn't realise there were so many different ways into nursing. At school I started with a vocational GCSE in Health and Social Care which gave me a great taster of the healthcare industry. I did work experience at a care home and learned what it's really like! I'm glad that the course is quite academic, but I also like the fact that it is mainly coursework with one exam module.

“I'm staying on in sixth form to do my A levels including an A level in Health and Social Care, and I hope to do a degree in nursing at university. It'll be quite hard but they say I'll start work on over £17,000 for doing what I enjoy – and I can work my way up!”



Health and Social Care

As well as the National Health Service (NHS) there are many private companies that provide a range of jobs in health and social care. But within the NHS alone, there are over 70 different professions. There's not much you can do outside the NHS that you can't do inside it!

The careers

There are roles for technicians, managers, care assistants, paramedics, doctors, therapists and nurses. Whichever career you choose, you know you'll be part of the thousands of teams of people helping and caring for others.

Did you know?

- Approximately 330,000 people are employed by the NHS and the private care sector in Yorkshire and the Humber – within South Yorkshire it accounts for 14% of the entire workforce.
- The health sector is forecast to grow by 10,000 by 2010.
- There are 600 residential and home care providers in South Yorkshire employing around 30,000 people, with another 7,000 jobs expected by 2010.
- The health and social care sector will be a major recruiter between 2006 and 2010.
- With the Government increasing the number of childcare places available in the UK, there will be more childcare jobs.

To find out more about the Health and Social Care sector, visit:

www.voced.co.uk/jobsinsy

Sara's story

We are treated like adults and investigate lots of different retailers.



Sara is from Sheffield. She didn't know what to do as a career and so she found it difficult when it came to choosing her options. She went to see a Personal Adviser at Connexions who asked her about her interests. Sara had always been into fashion and shopping and liked the idea of working in retail. She looked at the vocational courses with her tutor and liked the sound of a BTEC First Diploma in Retail.

After the first year on the course, Sara has picked up lots of new skills like dealing with customers, taking part in team project work and presenting to a group.

"The BTEC is helping me build my confidence and will give me the practical experience I'll need in a real job. I've made friends from all over and I get to go shopping in my lunch break."



Retail

There's a lot more to retailing than the work you see in the store. Management accounts for around 13% of retail staff and sales or customer service makes up around 50%. Sales staff often move up into supervisory and management positions and the industry requires professionally-trained people in design, marketing, ICT and administration.

The careers

Every retail outlet needs good staff to function well and hit its sales targets, no matter how large or small. Jobs include retail manager, window dresser, accountant, sales assistant, customer service manager, security guard, stock manager, buyer, personal shopper and marketing manager.

Did you know?

- By 2012, one in five of the workforce will be employed in the retail sector.
- Retail is the third largest sector across Yorkshire and the Humber, employing approximately 280,000. Within South Yorkshire it accounts for 10% of the workforce.
- Skills shortages mean employers are looking for people with technical, practical and communications skills.
- 40% of the workforce is trained to at least NVQ Level 3, and 35% have NVQ Level 2.
- Across Yorkshire and the Humber employment in the retail sector is forecast to grow by 10,000 by 2010.

To find out more about the Retail sector, visit:

www.voced.co.uk/jobsinsy

Jon's story

“I'm going to be better than all the top chefs on the telly!”

Jon took an NVQ Level 1 in Catering and Hospitality in Barnsley to help broaden his skills. When he started the course he found out he really enjoyed working in a kitchen.

Jon has learned how to manage his workspace, how to prepare fish, meat and vegetables, and why teamwork is important. He's already got his Food Hygiene and Health and Safety certificates, which he'll need if he decides to start a career in catering – but first he wants to get his NVQ Level 2.

“I'm going to be better than all the top chefs on the telly! One day I'd like to have my own restaurant so the skills and practical experiences I am getting on the NVQ will be a great help.”



Catering and Hospitality

Hungry for a career in catering and hospitality? Hotels, restaurants, pubs, bars, clubs, contract food service providers and hospitality services all need qualified catering and hospitality staff. It's a sociable job – and you can even travel the world!

The careers

There are so many jobs to choose from: dietician, food scientist, nutritionist, teacher, wine merchant, baker, cake decorator and chef. And that's just for starters!

Did you know?

- The hospitality industry is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK.
- The number of hotels, restaurants, leisure businesses and visitor attractions throughout South Yorkshire is growing, with people coming to the area for business conferences and meetings too.
- Of the 77,000 engaged in the Yorkshire and Humber tourism industry, 55% are in the hotel and restaurant sector.
- Nearly 300,000 people in the UK have an NVQ in Hospitality and over 1,200 colleges, employers and training providers have been approved as NVQ centres for hospitality.
- Nationally there are skill shortages in jobs such as chefs, kitchen and housekeeping staff.

To find out more about the Catering and Hospitality sector, visit:

www.voced.co.uk/jobsinsy

Tariq's story

“I get on well with the people I work with and it's great meeting everyone who comes into the shop.”

Tariq has always been into travel. He's been to Europe and he loves talking to people about their holidays. He'd love to go on a round-the-world trip.

At school he did an NVQ Level 1 in Leisure and Tourism. Although he didn't do as well as he hoped in his GCSEs, his NVQ has helped him to get his dream job in a travel agency. He wants to work his way up, so his employer is supporting him to study an NVQ Level 2 in Leisure and Tourism one day a week.

“I was always keen to get a job. I get on well with the people I work with and it's great meeting everyone who comes into the shop. The skills I've learned at school and on my NVQ – like ICT, teamwork and customer service – have all helped give me the confidence to go back to college and get more qualifications.”



Leisure and Tourism

When you think of tourist destinations, you don't immediately think of South Yorkshire! But tourism contributes £193 million to South Yorkshire's economy.

The careers

There are jobs at all levels depending on your qualifications and experiences. These can include working in hotels, restaurants, sports arenas, gyms, leisure parks, travel and tourist services and holiday centres.

Did you know?

- There are 5,214 tourism-related businesses in South Yorkshire. The majority of these are in restaurants and hotels, but there are many involved directly in tourism, visitor attractions and leisure parks.
- 157,000 people work in the leisure and tourism industry in Yorkshire and Humber. Just over a fifth are aged 16–19, with a further 19% aged between 20 and 24.
- Tourism accounts for 10% of the South Yorkshire workforce.
- The number of hotels, restaurants, leisure businesses and visitor attractions throughout South Yorkshire is growing.
- Between 2005 and 2010 there could be 1,500 new leisure and tourism jobs in South Yorkshire, plus another 10,800 to replace those leaving the industry.

To find out more about the Leisure and Tourism sector, visit:

www.voced.co.uk/jobsinsy

Aaron's story

“At the centre we’ve got access to all the latest software and hardware and the staff always treat me like an adult.”

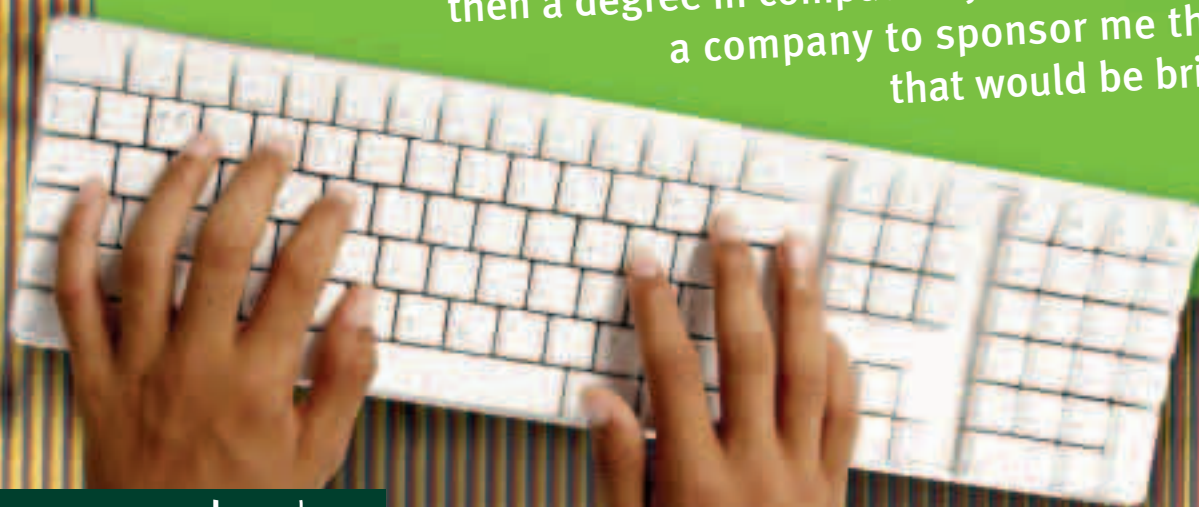


Aaron is a bit of an expert when it comes to ICT. He can do everything from networking to programming, but his ideal job would be working for a multi-national gaming company.

He’s doing his GCSEs at the moment but he’s also taking an iPRO, which is a professional IT qualification in systems support, and is equivalent to two GCSEs.

“At the centre we’ve got access to all the latest software and hardware and the staff always treat me like an adult. I get to work on my own projects and don’t even have to wear a uniform!

“When I leave school I want to do A levels in Spanish, Maths and ICT, then a degree in computer systems maintenance. If I can find a company to sponsor me through university, that would be brilliant.”



ICT

From the smallest sole trader to a large, multi-national business, it's hard to find a business which doesn't rely heavily on ICT. Over the years ICT and the internet have had a massive impact on how we work and communicate – even in lessons at school!

The careers

Most organisations need ICT professionals – particularly in retail, financial services and the public sector. But if you want to go into specialist ICT areas there are lots of jobs like: hardware developer, program designer, software tester, data processor, games programmer, database manager and telecommunications engineer.

Did you know?

- ICT employs a large number of highly-skilled workers and professionals and, along with the creative and digital industry, is the fastest growing sector in South Yorkshire.
- In Yorkshire over 26,000 people work in the ICT industry.
- Over 1.5 million people in the South Yorkshire workforce use ICT at all levels.
- Over 40,000 ICT professionals work in other industries – mostly in business services, government, finance and social sectors.
- The largest growth has been among sales and customer service jobs.
- E-commerce (buying and selling on the internet) is growing in all sectors and will increase the opportunities for ICT professionals.

To find out more about the ICT sector, visit:

www.voced.co.uk/jobsinsy

Nina's story

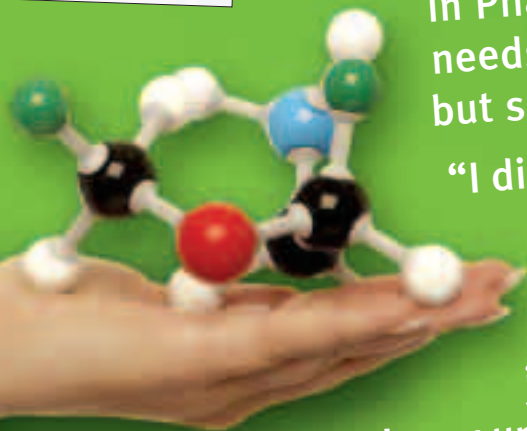
“I now understand the different jobs I can do and use the skills I learned at school to help with my A levels.”

Nina from Doncaster got nine As and a B in her GCSEs, including an A in Applied Science. She wants to be a pharmacologist, which is all about developing and investigating the safety and effectiveness of drugs.

Studying the Applied Science GCSE meant that Nina could spend more time doing what she enjoyed, and because it was a double award she got two valuable qualifications.

Nina wants to go to university to do a degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences. She knows she needs really good A level results to get in, but she's hopeful!

“I didn't really know much about vocational GCSEs before I took my options, but my teacher thought it would be a good idea to do something related to the job I want to do. I'm really glad I did because I now understand the different jobs I can do and use the skills I learned at school to help with my A levels.”



Bioscience

Bioscience involves working with living organisms like plants, bacteria, viruses and fungi, to discover how they work and how they can be used. The UK is a world leader in bioscience research, which is used to help develop products such as pharmaceuticals.

The careers

You could be working in drug discovery and development, plant biotechnology or tissue engineering. Bioscience is a highly-skilled area and around 70% of employees are graduates, but there's also a big demand for lab technicians and process workers.

Did you know?

- The British bioscience sector is the second largest in the world after the USA.
- There are over 150,000 professional scientists in the UK, working in the physical, chemical and biosciences industries.
- In South Yorkshire there are 10 major bioscience companies and about 130 support organisations in areas like healthcare, pharmaceuticals and universities.
- The biosciences industry is predicted to grow by over 10% over the next five years in the Yorkshire and Humber region.
- Highly qualified and skilled chemists will be required for drug discovery and development work.
- Other specialisms likely to see significant growth are: tissue engineering and biomaterials, plant biotechnology, and bioinformatics (the analysis of bioscientific data using mathematical and computational methods).

To find out more about the Bioscience sector, visit:

www.voced.co.uk/jobsinsy

Over to you!

We hope you found this booklet useful. If you'd like any more information about vocational choices in South Yorkshire, visit: www.voced.co.uk

Our website's packed full of useful links, information and advice, including video clips from students on vocational courses who were in your situation a couple of years ago. There's also more information about vocational qualifications, the jobs they could lead to and which industries are on the up in South Yorkshire.

Don't forget to talk to your school, college or Connexions Personal Adviser, and your family and friends who will all be there to help.

Useful information

Whether you're thinking about staying on at school, going to college or looking for a job with training, you will be making decisions about what courses to study to help you get there.

There are a number of things you can do to help you decide what you want to do and which qualifications suit you best. Kudos is a computer program available in schools and Connexions centres and is a good start to help you find out which careers might suit your personal interests.

Details of qualifications and the choices available to you can also be found in the following local publications available from your local Connexions Centre:

- Look Ahead – information to help students make choices in Year 9
- Options 2008 – information to help students make choices from Year 11
- Parent/Carer Guide – information and advice for parents/carers about careers.

You will also find useful advice and guidance on the following websites:

If you're in Barnsley, Doncaster or Rotherham visit:

www.ypzone.co.uk

If you're in Sheffield visit:

www.connexionsinsheffield.org.uk

Useful contacts

For more information about the full range of courses and career options in South Yorkshire, speak to your school or college careers co-ordinator or Connexions Personal Adviser. To view an online prospectus of courses in your area visit www.voced.co.uk/findacourse

Connexions Personal Advisers in your area:

Barnsley Nord Anglia Lifetime Development & Connexions Centre

Temperance House, Pitt Street, Barnsley S70 1AL

Tel: 01226 205686

Doncaster Nord Anglia Lifetime Development & Connexions Centre

8 Lazarus Court (Bradford Row), Doncaster DN1 3NF

Tel: 01302 366065

Rotherham Nord Anglia Lifetime Development & Connexions Centre

15 High Street, Rotherham S60 1PT

Tel: 01709 821184

Sheffield Connexions Centre

Star House, 43 Division Street, Sheffield S1 4SL

Tel: 0114 201 2800

Freephone: 0800 652 9900



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