

Early Secondary Programme

Lesson: Navigating Your Option Choices (60-75mins)

Activity	Tutor Notes	Resources/Timing
Introduce the session.	Download the PowerPoint and introduce the session to the pupils. Introduce the session to the pupils and show them the learning objectives for the session. Make sure you also have copies of the session handout.	PowerPoint (Download beforehand) <i>Please note there are two versions of the PowerPoint. One is editable. If you have access to your school's option choice form, please download this one and edit it with your specific option choice form. Alternatively, please use the non-editable PowerPoint.</i> 5-10mins
Step 1: What Do I Want to Do in The Future?	The first activity is a mind map. Tell the pupils that the first step in making informed option choices is thinking about what they want to do in the future. Ask the pupils to think of a job they might want to do or, if they are not sure, a job that they think sounds interesting. Reassure them that this is just an activity that does not tie them into anything. Show the pupils a sample mind map on the PowerPoint and ask them to fill out the mind map on their handout including the same type of information.	PowerPoint 20min Session handout

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	<p>Once the activity is complete you can go over the answers. Ask if any of the pupils would want to share what they included on their mind map. If not highlight that they can do this is an activity at any point to help them in their career planning.</p> <p>Based on their mind map ask them to then consider what school options might help prepare them for that job. Give them a couple of minutes to fill out this section of their handout and highlight that these option might be a good starting point when thinking about their option choices.</p>	
<p>Step 2: What Do I Have to Do?</p>	<p>Introduce the next activity by explaining to the pupils that options can be grouped into different categories. Be sure to explain what each of the categories mean. This should not be difficult as most school option choice grids are based on option categories however, how universities and colleges categorise options may be slightly different. Ask the pupils to put all the options they are currently studying into the correct column. They can do this individually or in a group.</p> <p>After the pupils fill out the table show them the completed example and emphasise that how schools classify options might be different to universities and this might differ from university to university. Use the PowerPoint to explain why it is important to know this, introducing the pupils to the concept of entry requirements. Use the PowerPoint to show some examples of what entry requirements are for specific courses. Pose to the pupils the questions on the next slide:</p> <p>Where could you find more information on entry requirements?</p> <p>Who could you talk to for advice on entry requirements?</p> <p>How often do entry requirements change?</p>	<p>PowerPoint</p> <p>15-20min</p> <p>Session handout</p>

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	If the pupils are quiet answer the questions for them. The answers are included on the following slide.	
Step 3: What Do I Like/Want to Do?	On the table ask the pupils to circle their three favourite options. Once they have done so, tell them that the options they have highlighted are very telling. If all their favourite options are in the science columns maybe they should think about pursuing a career/degree in this field. If they are spread over several columns it can show that they have varied interests and they may want to look for something that combines their key interests.	PowerPoint 5 mins Session handout
Activity – Option Choice Case Studies	This activity includes sample option grids where pupils are asked to make choices for people based on case study examples. There are sample option choices in the PowerPoint but ideally these slides should be adapted to include the school's option choice form so that the case studies are relevant to the pupils. There is an editable version of the PowerPoint so if you have access to the school's option choice form, please download this version and edit as needed. The second case study is by someone who is unsure of what they want to do. Use this example to introduce the notion of studying a broad range of options. Show them the answer slide to show what that would look like. After the initial examples, two case studies are included where the pupil has made their option choice. Show the pupils the PowerPoint slide and ask them to speak to their partner to decide whether or not they think the pupil in the case study has made the right choice. One of the choices is by someone who picked the wrong options based on the degree they want to study and the second one is by someone who wants to do a science based option but hates sciences. This example should be used to encourage pupils to think about what it is they enjoy and are good at, and does this link to what they want to study. Emphasise that it is better to think about what you enjoy and are good at and select a degree/career based on that, rather than pick things you dislike	PowerPoint 20 mins

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	<p>because you think you like the sound of the degree. In the example the pupil has chosen the correct options but maybe should consider a different course/job. Ask pupils to suggest another course/job she may be interested in. Emphasise that option requirements for degrees/jobs are not arbitrary but link to the options you will study. E.g. there is a reason you need to study Maths and Physics to become an engineer – to be able to design anything you need to have a solid understanding of maths and principles of physics.</p>	
<p>Activity - Option Choice Pupils Own Choice</p>	<p>Pupils can be given the opportunity to fill out their own option grid. This is only a practise run and an opportunity to reflect on their decision. Are they doing a good spread? Are there any options they should be studying? If they have never seen their option choice form before highlight that this is just an exercise and that the pupils will have time to think about their options before they fill out their official form. If they have a specific career in mind, do they know what options you need to study?</p>	<p>PowerPoint 10-15 mins Session handout</p>
<p>Activity – Poster Exercise: Your Top Tips For Choosing Options</p>	<p>As a reflective exercise, pupils are asked to imagine that they are in S6 and have been asked to produce a Top Tips poster aimed at the current S2/S3 in the school making their option choices. Ask them to think about what should they consider? What should they do if they don't know what they want to do in the future? This is to be completed on the back of the handout. However, this could also be done as a separate poster which can then be put on display.</p>	<p>PowerPoint 20 mins Session handout</p>