

Insight briefing:

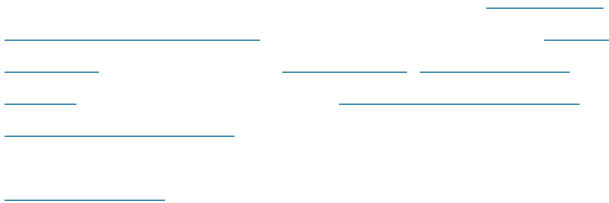
Student career readiness in 2023/24

The Careers & Enterprise Company (2024). Insight briefing: Student career readiness in 2023/24. London: The Careers & Enterprise

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Insight 1

Young people show high levels of interest in critical sectors such as construction, digital and health. There are opportunities to ensure they are further inspired by these and other growth sectors.



Young people show high levels of interest in

the creative, digital, and green sectors, and are further inspired by these and other growth sectors.

Young people express ideas about what they would like to do in the future from Year 7 across a range of occupational sectors. This is often informed by personal interests such as sports, leisure and lifestyle. As they progress through school, these become more aligned with the labour market.

There is an opportunity to further align school and college careers programmes with regional and national growth priorities as part of the careers system.



...However, those eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and girls start off at a disadvantage which is difficult to overcome.



Fig. 4: Girls receiving FSM have a starting disadvantage, and this continues throughout their time in school



Students at a disadvantage are less confident talking about their skills when applying for courses or jobs. They have career ambitions but are less sure footed when engaging with future employers.

The highest quality careers education can – and does – compensate for this starting disadvantage.

Students' reported levels of essential skills needed for work dip during Years 8 and 9, but mostly recover by Year 11

skills but rate themselves
leadership and teamwork.

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Fig. 6: Proportion of students in Year 7, Year 9 and Year 11 meeting the expected age-based skill level typically dips after Year 7 and rises by Year 11 on creativity, problem solving and staying positive

This can have an impact on how ready they feel for work. Young people with well-developed skills are more optimistic about their next steps.

By Year 11, speaking and listening, teamwork and leadership do not return to Year 7 levels, supporting the case for earlier intervention...



Technical Note

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