

## Twenty questions to help your daughter/son with their post-16 choices

“It turns out that asking, “What is your goal?” isn’t a very good way of unlocking your vision. The question is abstract and slippery and answering it is often embarrassing and frightening. But there are questions that work. Some questions get an immediate response, “Ah, I know the answer to that!” where others don’t. The following questions have been tested over and over again with students and seem to be ones that are more likely to open up some positive thinking.

We can’t promise these questions will work for you; all we know is that they’ve worked for others.

1. If you could only take one subject what would it be, and why?
2. What lessons or elements of study do you find easy?
3. What do you do with your spare time?
4. Describe an interesting lesson that you had recently. Why was it interesting?
5. What jobs do you avoid doing, and why?
6. When does time fly? What are you doing?
7. When does time seem to drag or stop? What are you doing?
8. What job would you do for free?
9. Who do you look up to?
10. What would you do if you knew you couldn’t fail?
11. What puts a smile on your face?
12. If you had the afternoon off to work at home, which piece of work would you choose to do?
13. When you have a lot of homework, which subject do you do first?
14. Describe a homework task you have recently left until the last minute or not done at all. Why?
15. What do you get obsessed about?
16. When you’re with your friends, what do you want to talk about?
17. What stresses you out?
18. If you had an hour off work and a laptop, what would you type into a search engine?
19. If you were given a small amount of money to start up a company, what would it be?
20. List five words you associate with happiness?”