

Let's talk careers

Aim: To encourage students to confidently have a peer-to-peer careers conversation and build an understanding of the skills they'll need to realise their ambitions.

Age range: 11-16

Introduction

Use this worksheet to create an origami 'chatterbox' and start a careers conversation with your students. This activity features questions for a discussion-based ice-breaker, links to content to explore topics further and tips for your careers strategy. Each question relates to careers planning so can you hear straight from the students what matters to them.

Choosing your chatterbox

You can find a template for your chatterbox and assembly instructions on the following pages. Either use the version on page 4 with pre-made careers questions, or get students creating their own with the blank template on page 5.

To play:

1. Pick a word and spell it out, opening and closing for each letter
2. Pick a number and open and close that number of times
3. Pick a number again and answer the question under the flap

Activity

Allow 5 minutes for students to play in pairs then explore each chatterbox question as a group, using the following discussion questions. Encourage students to engage in the conversation by asking further discussion questions based on the responses given. Some further learning activities could be incorporated into this session, or carried out as a follow up.

1. What will motivate you in your career journey? Pay, people, passion?

Discussion question:

What's realistic and how can they strike a balance? E.g. finding a job that supports them financially, but allows them to work in a field that they're passionate about. Prompt students to think whether these things might change during different life stages.

Further learning:

Why not try 'Money skills lesson one: Recognising your money personality' lesson (barclayslifeskills.com/11-14/moneypersonality) to explore students' attitudes to money and spending, or the 'Social action toolkit' (barclayslifeskills.com/socialactiontoolkit) for purpose-driven students.

2. Name a skill you would need to succeed in your dream job

Discussion question:

Which of these skills do they already have? How could they develop these skills further? E.g. communicating with teammates, using creativity for a class project, solving a problem at home.

Further learning:

Try the 'Recognising and building personal skills' lesson (barclayslifeskills.com/recognisingandbuilding) to introduce students to the key personal skills employers.

3. Think of one way the world of work might be different in the future

Discussion question:

What jobs do they think will be around in 15 years' time near where they live? Encourage students to think about the range of skills they'll need for these jobs, including skills which go beyond technical or digital skills.

Further learning:

Why not try the 'Toolkit for building a 21st century mindset' (barclayslifeskills.com/21stcmindset) to help students prepare for the future workplace.

4. Share three of your strengths

Discussion question:

Are these strengths transferable to the workplace/can they think of any jobs where these are needed?

Further learning:

Get students using the 'Wheel of Strengths' interactive tool (barclayslifeskills.com/wheelofstrengths) to discover the types of jobs that match their strengths, interests and personality.

5. Name a career your favourite subject could lead to

Discussion question:

Which skills do they learn in different lessons?

Further learning:

Signpost students to the 'Dictionary of skills' interactive tool (barclayslifeskills.com/skillsdictionary) where they can explore the skills they have collected that could be useful for their CVs or in an interview.

6. Which brand or profession would you most want a careers talk from?

Discussion question:

Which specific industry areas they are most interested in and why? Hold a class vote to find out the most popular choices.

Further learning:

Get students using the 'Job board' interactive tool (barclayslifeskills.com/jobboard) to build understanding of the different types of roles and industries available.

7. What would be your dream work experience placement?

Discussion question:

Can they think of anywhere locally like this? How could they research companies in this sector?

Further learning:

Use the 'Big data, big what?' lesson and accompanying tool (barclayslifeskills.com/bigdataguide) to teach students ways of using local insights to find out about industries and opportunities in their area.

8. Name two college or university courses you would like to find out more about

Discussion question:

Ask if they have any older siblings/cousins who have gone to college and what they are studying.

Further learning:

Why not try 'The journey to your career' lesson (barclayslifeskills.com/careerjourney) to further discuss how students can find information about careers.

Top tip for careers leads

If you have multiple staff using the chatterbox in different subject classes, why not use this as an opportunity to gather students' opinions on what they want their career provision to look like? This could help inform the direction of your career strategy. Find out more on how LifeSkills maps to the Gatsby Benchmarks: barclayslifeskills.com/gatsbybenchmarks.

Top tip for subject teachers

The chatterbox can be used in different areas of the curriculum, to support you to bring the careers conversation into any lesson. Why not try the pre-made version today, or create a custom one using the blank template on page 5.

You can even share your chatterboxes with us on Twitter – simply post photos to [@LifeSkills_Ed](https://twitter.com/LifeSkills_Ed) using [#ChatterboxChallenge](https://twitter.com/hashtag/ChatterboxChallenge).

Create your own chatterbox

1. Cut out the template
2. Fold the paper into quarters, with the words on the outside
3. Unfold the paper
4. Fold over the four corners, evenly into the middle
5. Flip the paper over
6. Fold over the corners on the new side of the paper
7. Fold into quarters one last time
8. Insert your thumbs and fingers into the four corners. As you pinch you fingers together, the Chatterbox will take shape

