

Mrs. Cooper

Vivienne Cooper's 16 year old daughter Emma, a student at Tanbridge House School in Horsham, has had a fairly good idea for a while that she'd like to pursue a career in the art and design world.

Whilst supporting this, Vivienne however felt Emma needed to put more meat on the bones to really understand what the options open to her would be, and importantly what would best suit her personality.

She explains: "Children are expected to make choices about their education at a relatively early stage and these decisions can have long lasting repercussions on their future career. They need to have a good awareness of their skills and strengths so that they're equipped to make the right choices at the right time. For those reasons, I feel passionately that careers guidance should be focused on a personalised approach."

Having seen an advertisement in the local paper for a careers fair, Vivienne discovered the Futurewise programme run by careers specialist, Inspiring Futures and decided to find out more by visiting the website.

"I was impressed with the professional approach and breadth of support offered by Inspiring Futures, but in particular it was the use of psychometric testing that really piqued my interest and so I decided to invest in the programme for Emma's future benefit."

"The careers interview and associated report have really helped her to feel more confident in her A level choices. They have opened up a wealth of ideas and resources about possible career paths and Emma now feels more confident that she's following a path that she not only enjoys, but that she has the skills to succeed in."

"From a parents perspective it's helpful to have someone other than yourself providing guidance and support as you know it's more likely to be taken seriously! Added to this, it provides a level of reassurance that your child won't opt for the wrong educational path which could prove to be a costly mistake."

"Whilst Emma is currently busy with her studies, it is good to know that she can continue to access the Futurewise advice when she feels it is appropriate to do so in the coming years."

Mrs P

Mrs P's daughter, a student at Farnborough Sixth Form College, enrolled on Futurewise having seen her elder brother already receive support and guidance from the programme.

Not being 100% certain of what she might like to study at University but with a keen interest in psychology, Mrs P decided that her daughter could also benefit from some impartial advice. She explains:

“My daughter is a clear thinker and was already showing an interest in pursuing her studies in psychology, she did, however, need to refine what the options around this might look like before deciding this was the right path to follow. The face to face consultation really helped in this respect, and she's now hoping to start a four-year psychology degree later this year.”

“Given that our son had already experienced Futurewise we were confident of the quality of guidance that our daughter would receive, and so we were happy to pay as it's so important to get something like this right early on. I believe that for young people, hearing impartial advice and insight from someone other than their own parents can have real impact and hit home in a way that it perhaps wouldn't at home. The person who worked with our daughter showed true knowledge and was above all helpful without being patronising. I'd have no hesitation in recommending Futurewise to other parents who are keen to support their children's career development.”

Mrs G

Mrs G's 16 year old son was about to start at a new 6th Form. When faced with the decision as to which A Levels to study, she explains that he had limited his view to those subjects which he was already studying.

"My son started off by just considering the subjects with which he was already familiar, but once he had spoken to the careers specialist at Inspiring Futures, his eyes were opened to new subjects. He's consequently taken the decision to study English, History, Philosophy and Economics the latter two of which I don't think would have entered the fray before signing up to Futurewise. In that respect it has really broadened his view and I know he now feels more confident in the choices he's made even before he's started. Entering a new 6th Form with this confidence can be no bad thing."

In addition to the guidance discussion, students enrolled on the Futurewise programme also complete an online psychometric assessment which threw up some interesting insights as Mrs G explains:

"I've often employed psychometric testing in my professional life but this was closer to home and my son was shocked to find out that he's more like me than he cares to admit at times!"

"My son had moved schools and having been aware that his previous school offered this programme, I was keen that he shouldn't miss out on the guidance that it provides. He's benefited already in terms of how it's guided his A Level decisions and the fact that his membership of Futurewise will last until he's 23 means that he'll be able to dip back in to it when he starts to think in more detail about Higher Education options and career choices."