

The Parents' Guide to GCW 2023

For Green Careers Week



THE
PARENTS'
GUIDE TO

National Careers Week

NCW

GCW
GREEN CAREERS WEEK

STEM
LEARNING

The Parents' Guide to Green Careers Week

6 - 11 November 2023

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Green Careers Week is a fantastic new initiative launched last year

Introduction

Green Careers Week is a fantastic new initiative launched last year. In 2023, it will take place between 6th and 11th November to provide young people with an insight into careers that specifically protect the environment and will help the UK achieve its pledge of reaching Net Zero by 2050.

Led by National Careers Week in partnership with a wide range of organisations including **STEM.org.uk** and the **UK Space Agency**, Green Careers Week promises to be an inspiring week, with plenty of information on how young people can get actively involved in careers that focus on positive environmental impact and change.

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How to get involved:

Get involved with Green Careers Week by:

- Following [@Green_Careers](#), [@CareersWeek](#) and [@parentsguideto](#) on Twitter to explore what's on offer and download resources, films and opportunities as they're released.
- Visiting [greencareersweek.com](#) and [nationalcareersweek.com](#) to access the latest resources and information on Green Careers Week.
- Having conversations with your teen about their future and what careers interest them. Use the Green Careers Week resources to help guide conversations.
- Looking out for [#GCW2023](#) on social media to see what individuals, schools and organisations are doing throughout the week.
- Signing up to the [Parents' Guide to parent/carer newsletter](#) for regular updates on how you can help your teen through years 10-13.

Why Green is a Priority For Teens

According to a 2021 study by Bath University (speaking to 10,000 young adults across 10 countries including the UK), two-thirds of the 16-25 year olds surveyed were worried about climate change and three-quarters felt the future was frightening. Almost half said the way they feel about climate change adversely affects their day-to-day lives.

Young people want (and need) to be involved in finding solutions to our environmental challenges, so it's vital that we provide opportunities to show them how they can play an active role within the world of work. Knowing how they can find careers that play a significant part in improving our environmental credentials should contribute towards restoring their confidence in a positive and sustainable future.

Useful links

Bath University findings

Bath University:

Additional findings from the study include:

- 59% of children and young people surveyed were very or extremely worried about climate change.
- More than half of the respondents said they had felt afraid, sad, anxious, angry, powerless, helpless, and/or guilty.
- 55% of respondents felt they would have fewer opportunities than their parents.
- 65% felt governments were failing young people, and 61% said the way governments deal with climate change was not effectively protecting them, the planet, or future generations.
- Almost half (48%) of those who talked with others about climate change felt ignored or dismissed.

Does your teen have green credentials?

Show don't tell! If your teen is interested in a green career, they should try to get some first-hand experience to demonstrate their personal commitment and values. This could be joining environmental groups, helping community clear-ups, and most of all being able to demonstrate their own personal steps in being green

(such as buying less and avoiding fast fashion, choosing local foods, recycling, using green transport).

If they're taking a gap year between school and university, many voluntary projects overseas involve green initiatives, such as providing access to clean water, making communities more resilient or conservation interventions - and there's no experience required.



Exploring Green Careers

In the simplest terms, green careers include roles within businesses that benefit the environment and conserve natural resources. These roles have been growing over recent years and are bound to increase further as the

necessity for greater energy efficiency and sustainability becomes more urgent. In this guide, we'll explore both the obvious and less apparent opportunities within this field.

The Built Environment

Building and construction accounts for nearly 40% of global CO2 emissions according to the World Green Building Council. Whether it's creating new structures or modifying existing ones, there's no doubt that any role within the built environment will need to look at ways of improving environmental impact.

This reaches across architects, civil and structural engineers, manufacturers, procurement managers, site workers, and transportation managers to name a few. Notwithstanding roles within all of these areas can vary in skill level, each will have a significant part to play. Think outside the box for different careers:

- **Building performance analyst** - identifying performance issues with energy, maintenance and comfort in buildings
- **Recruitment consultant** - specialising in permanent or temporary assignments within environment, planning, energy or civils
- **Waste Operations manager** - implementing best practices and ensuring compliance



Energy

Energy is crucial to climate change, not least because many greenhouse gases are generated through energy production. Renewable energy (where resources are replenished faster than they are consumed) will play an important role in moving towards a green Britain.

Renewable energy sources include hydropower, bio, solar and wind energy. Roles can include project managers, solar power technicians, tidal power developers and wind energy engineers. Less obvious ways to be involved include:

- **Energy project officer** - Supporting project managers in managing project budgets, monitoring expenditure and costs, realising project outputs and looking after technical equipment
- **Offshore consent manager** - supporting the development of offshore renewable energy projects
- **Greenhouse Gas Analyst** - Assisting in analysing and tracking greenhouse gas emissions to help organisations reduce their carbon footprint
- **Recycling Coordinator** - Managing recycling programs for cities and businesses
- **Water Resource Manager** - Overseeing the sustainable management of water resources, including water conservation and quality



The great outdoors

When thinking about the environment it seems natural to consider the great outdoors and there are plenty of roles that focus on protecting the land and wildlife around us. There are 15 national parks in the UK, covering over 10% of the land mass and welcoming 100 million visitors each year. They need looking after! Then there's local parks and commons, a myriad of stately homes with public access, and 100s of nature reserves. Roles to consider:

- **Forestry creation officer** - Increase tree cover to 30% in the country's largest environmental regeneration initiative
- **Gardening assistant** - Traineeship to develop sustainable gardens in public access country estates



Consultancy

Not everyone is practical and hands-on, but that doesn't mean there aren't roles for people with business and project management skills to contribute to helping businesses go green. Sustainability consultants advise how companies can lower their carbon footprint through assessing and evaluating the business. What's interesting here is that virtually all large companies have sustainability teams. This means for students keen on certain industries but without the relevant skills, it's possible to get a role in that sector looking at their sustainability impact.

Likewise, choosing to work for a company that has a reputation for ethical practices won't tie them into a job role, but will enable them to pursue work with companies that are aligned with their values.



Farming, food production & distribution

We can't live without food! There may be variances in the impact of meat or meat free diets, but all our food has a significant environmental impact. It's not just in growing/producing it. Take a stroll round the supermarket to see first hand what's involved.

Food has to be harvested, processed, packaged and transported. Any role within the food industry has the potential to be 'green', including educating people to eat local, natural and in-season produce. You need only look at what sells in s/markets to know that for many consumers convenience often trumps good intentions.

- **Environmental lawyer** - specialising in environmental regulations and advocate for clients in cases related to environmental issues
- **Head of food transformation** - supporting the food retail sector to deliver sustainable, healthy and affordable food for all



And some surprises...

Your teen doesn't have to go mainstream to find a role they love. If they have interest, passion and the curiosity to find out more, they can find a job that's rewarding and satisfying - it might just need a little imagination and investigation! How about:

- **Sustainable Fashion Designer** - Creating clothing and accessories using environmentally friendly materials and production methods
- **Urban grower** - Farming to produce pesticide free food using less water and fertiliser than traditional methods



How to Talk to Your Teen About Their Future

It can be tricky to get teens to talk about anything, especially what they might want to do next. However, it is important they think about their future, what they might like to achieve and what they need to do now so they can get themselves on the right track.

To help you, here are eight useful tips on how to talk to your teen about their future.

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1 Accept their idea of success may be different to yours
Their dreams and ambitions might not align with your ambitions for them. This can be disappointing, but let them walk their own path.

2 It's OK if they're not sure on a career route yet
They don't need to make that decision right now. They do need to develop skills that will help them progress, and that should be their focus.

3 Encourage them to turn passions into money-makers
They're more likely to be successful (and happier) pursuing a career in something they enjoy.

4 Help them navigate their limitations
Not being academic should not be a barrier to success and there is usually more than one way to reach a destination.

5 It's OK if they change their mind!
Reassure them that if they tell you they have their heart set on one direction, then later change their minds, you won't berate them for it.

6 Encourage them to explore all their options
Help them plan out a route that focuses on their strengths. Different educational routes can often provide entry points into the same industry.

7 Help them if they are struggling to look far ahead
Setting short-term, achievable goals will help them strive towards a long-term ambition.

8 Empower them: they have control over their future
The decisions they take and what they do matters.



FIND YOUR NEAREST T LEVEL

Search for colleges and schools who start delivering T Levels in 2020 and 2021



T Levels and Green Careers

T Levels are an exciting new option in sixth form education that provide a recognised qualification tailored to industry needs and skills. It's a great choice for students that want to learn practical skills relevant to certain jobs, regardless of whether they want to go on to study for a degree, take alternative further education or go straight into the workplace.

What's involved?

One T Level is equivalent to three A levels and the course lasts for two years. T Levels involve a mix of classroom learning (about 80% of the course time) and practical experience (about 20% of the course time) including a 45 day on-the-job placement in a genuine business.

Students receive a nationally recognised grade and a breakdown of their achievements on the course, including how they did on their work placement.

Where can they lead?

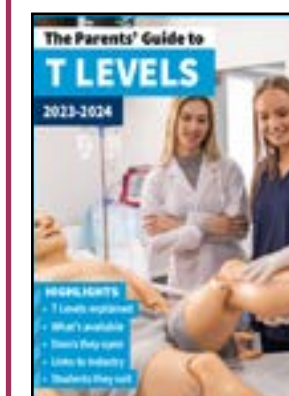
T Levels offer a broad range of further opportunities after sixth form, including job from their placement, jobs from related industries, apprenticeships, university or an alternative further education.

This means that students with a T Level qualification can go on to study for a degree, a related higher level apprenticeship, take a different course or go straight into a job. Alternatively, they can go on to a higher level education or work in a non-related field if, during the course of study, they didn't enjoy their industry specialism and want to take a different path.

Green options

Students have the option to choose T Levels in various subjects, some of which have a strong focus on the environment. These include courses in "Agriculture, Land Management and Production", "Building Services Engineering for Construction", and "Manufacturing, Processing, and Control". These exciting choices provide students with a clear pathway to pursue green careers and open doors to work with environmentally-conscious organisations.

Find out more:



*If you're interested in understanding more about T Levels, what it involves and whether it's right for your teen **click here.***



T Levels turn real skills into real jobs

T Levels give you the skills employers want. To see where a T Level could take you, search

**GET
THE
JUMP**
SKILLS
FOR LIFE
T LEVELS



Apprenticeships help build solid, professional skills transferable from one organisation to another

Apprenticeships and Green Careers

Apprenticeships are a fantastic choice for many students, either straight after GCSE or after sixth form. They provide a way of getting qualifications while doing a real job and are a great alternative to full-time study for those students that prefer practical experience over classroom learning.

Apprenticeships help build solid, professional skills transferable from one organisation to another. Employers pay a salary and tuition fees are covered by the employer and the government.

Qualifications

Apprenticeships offer students versatility. Depending on their age, experience and qualifications already achieved, there are different entry levels for apprenticeships, starting at Level 2 (straight after GCSE for those that have few or no GCSE passes) through Level 6/7 (degree level). The qualifications obtained at each level range from GCSE/BTEC equivalent, A/T Level, diploma/foundation right through to masters degree. Qualifications are nationally recognized.

Length of study

Apprenticeships can last for just one year or as long as seven (or more) depending on the final qualification. If your teen

isn't comfortable with committing to several years of further study, they can take one- or two-year options and still gain recognised, valuable qualifications. Better still, if they change their mind later on and decide they wish to extend the apprenticeship to gain higher level qualifications, this is often possible.

Green options

Every apprenticeship has the potential to teach skills that support Net Zero efforts, but a green apprenticeship goes a step further by involving tasks directly contributing to achieving Net Zero. Numerous apprenticeships, including roles like Waste Management Specialists, Climate Change Policy Advisors, Electric Vehicle Technicians and Greenhouse Gas Analysts align with this goal.

Find out more:



*If you're interested in understanding more about apprenticeships and how you can help your teen apply for one - **click here.***

Work Experience

Work experience is important for getting into any career. It provides your teen with first-hand experience of what it's like to work; dealing with colleagues and the public; working to deadlines and how it feels to do things "for real".

If they're lucky, they might find work experience within an industry that is related to their course or ultimate job goal. If this is the case, it can help your child discover more about the industry and may help them realise whether it is or isn't for them. A lesson much better learned sooner than later!

How to find work experience

1. Your child can speak to the careers team at school. They have excellent connections with local and national employers.
2. Do you have any contacts, through your own work, friends or family that could help and take on your child?
3. They can contact employers directly and ask.
4. Get them to apply for a job (Saturdays, evenings, holidays) – it may not be their aspirational job, but it's work experience and they'll learn a lot from it (as well as earning some money).



Virtual work experience counts

Virtual work experience, also referred to as online, remote or digital, is a broad term that includes any opportunity which provides young people with an insight into what it's like to work in an industry or job role while at home. Opportunities expanded during lockdown and proved so successful they look set to stay. Most virtual work experiences range from half a day to one week, but some may last longer depending on the nature of the work experience and the age of your child.

Not all virtual work experience is the same. Some are open to everyone and provide a platform for students to discover more about the job, view pre-recorded videos on what it's like to work with the organisation and go on virtual tours. Others may require your child to go through an application process and offer regular online meetings with a supervisor, individual project work, networking sessions, training opportunities and video tutorials.

What are the benefits?

Think global - Virtual work placements are open to everyone and location does not need to be a limiting factor. This opens many possibilities for your child to explore new jobs and industries in areas that may not be possible face to face.

It's free - The majority of virtual work placements are free and working from home will also mean your child will not incur any travel related costs.

Future proof - Remote working is likely to be important to many businesses in the future and learning how to conduct business and work online will develop extremely valuable skills for the modern workplace.

Transferable skills - It's not always easy working from home and taking part in virtual work experience placements will help your child develop those soft skills that all employers are seeking, such as self-motivation and time-management.

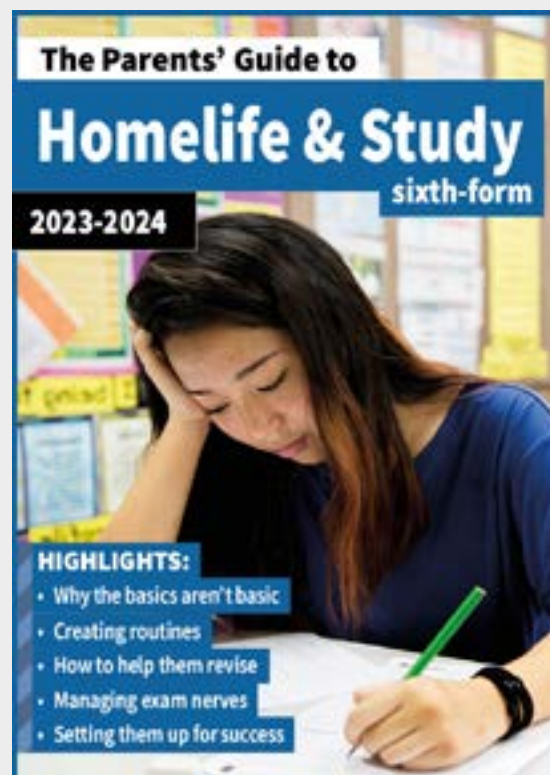
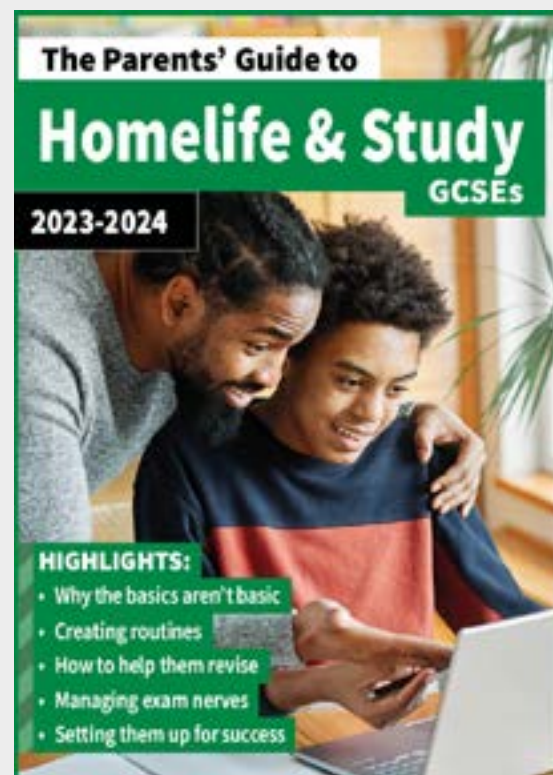
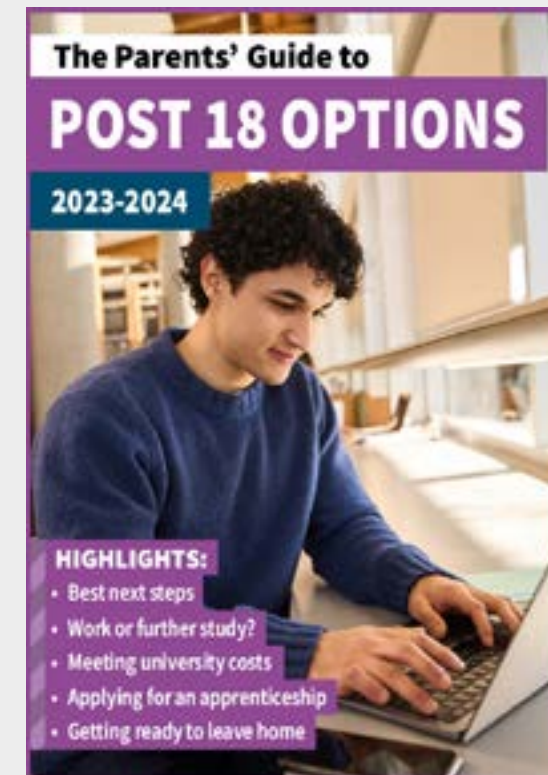
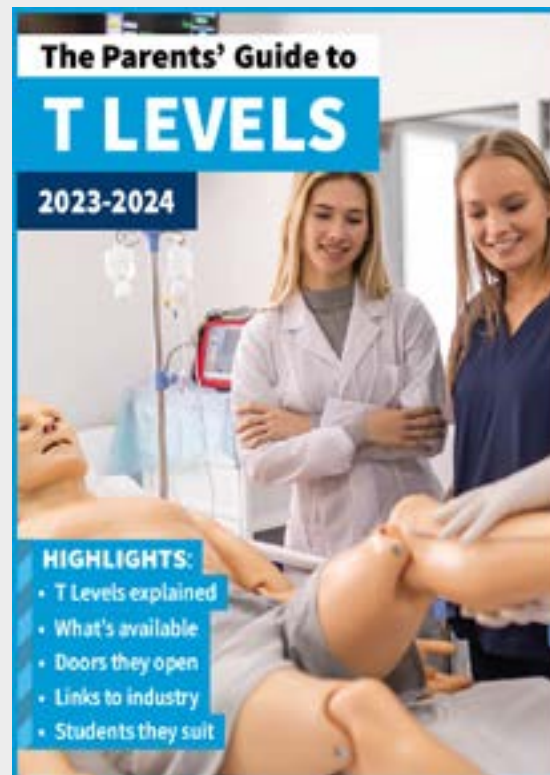
Knowing what's right (or what isn't) Understanding what a job or a career entails might help your child make decisions about whether or not that role is right for them in the future.

Find out more:



*If you're interested in other ways you can help your teen gain the competitive advantage, mostly by doing things they enjoy - **click here.***

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4th - 9th
March 2024

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Sign up to our parent newsletter and receive free support, advice and resources on how you can help your teenage children straight to your inbox.



Support articles

You may be interested in:

1. [Helping your teen find work experience](#)
2. [Teach your teen the skills to study effectively](#)
3. [Stressed out teen? – 10 ways to reduce stress instantly](#)
4. [Why starting a business helps develop transferable skills](#)
5. [Ways to keep your teen safe online](#)

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