



Hello again, I hope that you are well and that you are getting back into your school routine. I know it still feels a bit different, but it is great to see you all face-to-face, and I am also hoping you have been enjoying the careers content in tutor time this term. I am going to use this issue to explore career stereotypes. Have you ruled anything out because you don't think it is for you? Do you associate certain careers with certain types of people? Have you ever thought of challenging this? Take a look at the articles and see what you think!

The Future at Five! What do young children think about careers?

I have been look at a report based on a study of 4000 five year-olds and what they think about different careers.

Reading this made me think about the influences we have on the choices we make, even from a young age. If we are already being persuaded by stereotypes at the age of 5, then we could be limiting the career choices we are willing to consider as we get older. I have included some of the key facts to get you thinking...

Here you can see the top 5 choices for girls and boys. Does anything surprise you? Do you see any evidence of traditional views about what careers girls and boys are suitable for?

GIRLS	RANK	BOYS
Teacher	1	Police officer
Veterinarian	2	Athlete/sportsperson
Doctor	3	Fire fighter
Hairdresser	4	Builder
Police officer	5	Teacher

The report concluded that boys were more likely to think about traditional areas of work than girls, with 1 in 2 of their career choices being related to male-dominated areas. Girls were more likely to choose jobs in traditionally male areas of work, but 1 in 4 still chose careers related to traditionally female areas such as caring professions.

There were four job areas that were favoured by both:



Is this surprising? Can you think about why both girls and boys might both be attracted to these job areas?

The report suggested that young children tended to choose careers linked to people or roles that they may have contact with.

Do you think this last point is significant? I wonder if you see any connection between what you are exposed to and then how ambitious or adventurous you might consider being if you are looking for a future career?

Are you already limiting yourself due to the influences you have felt growing up? Is it something you are willing to challenge?

Click the image if you want to investigate more of the report.



“The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. Our goal is to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all.”

Challenging Career Stereotypes

I have chosen two examples of stereotypes to help you explore this topic further. For this I have started with an article on the NHS Careers website (you can read it yourself [here](#)) which contains the image I have included below:



This information might not be a surprise to you, but do you think it could have an impact on the way you think about these sorts of careers?

Do you rule them out without realising? Could it be related to career stereotypes?

The article is keen to point out that the NHS is beginning to see change, and that some Ambulance Trusts now have a 50:50 split amongst their Paramedic trainees... Could you be part of this change?

You could visit [NHS Careers](#) and have a look, there are over 350 roles to choose from!

My second example is the world of Construction, which is traditionally a male-dominated area of work. According to the 'Go Construct' website, the workforce in Construction is currently only 14% women, but they also say that things are beginning to change.

UK wide, there are over 320 000 women working across all areas of Construction, and their [webpage interviews](#) a wide selection of women in roles such as a Trainee Buyer, Health & Safety Manager, Contract Manager, Painter & Decorator, Quantity Surveyor, Operations Director and many more!

Are you wondering what some of these roles are? Has it made you think about whether an area of work you might have dismissed might actually be worth a look?

You could try [Go Construct's A to Z](#) to see how varied Construction is!

I wonder if I have challenged you to think beyond the stereotypes?

Might you consider careers more broadly to see what really might suit you based on your skills & qualities rather on ideas of what you think might be right for you?

You could say that the more we see the change, the more it will continue to happen. Could you be a part of it?

Spotlight on Stereotypes:

Scientists with Disabilities



Wanda Diaz Merced is a blind Astronomer

(Find out more about her [here](#))

In this section I was interested in exploring stereotypes surrounding people with disabilities. Many people perceive that if you can't communicate or have other disabilities then you are less likely to be productive or you are not as intelligent as able bodied individuals.

I did some research on 'Scientists with disabilities' which I thought you might find interesting. [Here](#) is an article with some great examples of people who are experts in their area of Science:

Professor Stephen Hawking - British Mathematician and Physicist was an exceptional Scientist who made discoveries about the Universe.

Wanda Diaz Merced - Puerto Rican Astronomer who is completely blind. She worked on converting her research on stars from numbers into sounds.

Richard Mankin - An American Entomologist (studies insects) who now works for the American Department of Agriculture. He has a muscle disease which means he cannot walk without the help of leg braces and crutches.

[Here](#) is a link to a page from the British Royal Society (a Fellowship of important Scientists from around the world) which is celebrating famous Scientists who have or had a known disability. A few examples include:

Clare Halliday - Profoundly deaf from birth, now studying for a PhD in Biology

Daisy Shearer - Diagnosed with Autism as an adult, she studies Science at University and wants to pursue a career in Quantum Physics. She still struggles at times but also sees her difference as an advantage, "I believe it's why I am so precise, thorough, and logical, which are all excellent traits for a scientist. I make connections that the neurotypical brain might not be able to. It gives me a different insight into my work."

Do you have or know someone with a disability? Do you feel it might limit you or them when thinking about careers?

Challenging Stereotypes - Age!

I recently came across an interview with Bob Bryce who is believed to be the UK's oldest apprentice at the age of 76. Check out a clip [here](#) where he talks about 'never giving up!' Bob is an apprentice with GVR Rail and completed a Level 3 Train Supervisor Apprenticeship.

Did you know that apprenticeships were for people of any age?

Could you start a new career later in life?

What might the difficulties be?

As a result of the pandemic, many people are finding that they need to retrain as they have lost their job. For some this means thinking about finding an apprenticeship to help them find employment in a new area of work.

Websites to help you research...

Here I am linking you to general sources of careers information that you might find useful to explore a wide range of areas

[National Careers Service](#) - This is an official source of careers information that covers many different areas of work. This link takes you to the overview so you can click on areas of interest

[UCAS Subject Guides](#) - Sometimes students like to investigate what is available at University. This link takes you to the subject overview page of the UCAS website which is where you apply to University. They also have information relating to apprenticeships and other careers

[Success at School](#) - This site contains student friendly information on a range of career areas

[BBC Bitesize Careers](#) - This is the careers section of the Bitesize website which has lots of excellent information and advice



"Women working in construction is on the increase. 37% of new entrants into the industry that came from higher education are women."

[Go Construct Website](#)



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