



MAKING INFORMED DECISIONS

It can be really hard to make a decision about your future, whether that be going to a college or school sixth form, choosing between A Levels or BTECs or a combination of the two, or selecting different subjects.

Using the A.S.P.I.R.E acronym, this worksheet will help to guide you through the decision making process. If you run out of space or if you're unable to print this document, you could write down the answers on a post-it notes or a piece of paper.



A

A decision needs to be made—what choice are you making?

E.g. I need to decide whether to study A Levels or BTECs next year

S

Speak to other people—once you have spoken to them, what advice did they give?

E.g. Parent

You really enjoy practical work and the BTEC course seems more hands-on

P

Pros and Cons—consider the advice you’ve been given and now write your own pros (positives) and cons (negatives) list. It’s important to do some research before your pros and cons list, as this information might affect your decision.

PROS	CONS
<i>E.g. I want to study a subject that is not available as an A Level option</i>	<i>E.g. I want to go to university in the future but some universities do not accept BTECs</i>

I

Identify the best option for you—Consider the advice you’ve been given and your pros and cons list to make the decision. Make sure you can say why this is the best decision for you.

E.g. I am going to study a combination of A Levels and BTECs, because this will keep my options open for the future and I’ll develop lots of different skills.

R

Record the actions you are going to take

*E.g. 1. Discuss my final decision and reasons why with a parent or teacher
2. Inform school what decision I have made
3. Speak to my Head of Year about the 16-19 bursary*

E

Evaluate all the steps that you have taken. Are all of your pros and cons still relevant? Did you ask a variety of people—friends, teachers, adults? Have you done enough research? Does this feel like the right decision for you?

