

LOCKDOWN -WHAT'S HAPPENING TO EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE?



Many young people are worrying about how the Covid-19 lockdown will affect their education, employment and training. Lots of parent carers are too! Here at Amaze we believe that it is vital for young people's wellbeing that you continue to think about the future and to make plans for the end of lockdown. The Amaze Looking Forward team has put together some information for you which will answer some of the questions you have.

WHY AM I STILL GETTING WORK FROM SCHOOL AND COLLEGE?



Young people are legally required to be in education until aged 18 so schools and colleges are trying to keep working so that this education continues. Missing more than a term's worth of work would mean that a lot of the curriculum has not been covered yet so if you are able to study from home it will be very helpful for your learning. Most education providers are putting work online and many still have Learning Support staff working who can give individual support by phone or online.

Of course, it may not be possible to do much work at home for all sorts of reasons - your family are sharing a small space, you're anxious, you don't have the support workers you need etc. Try to do what you can and stay in touch with your teachers who will understand how hard it can be to stay focussed on work. Make sure you're still having contact with young people you know from school and college. It's important to have contact with people who know you, especially if you can have some fun or take part in some activities together online. Amaze's [Amazing Futures](#) online groups for young people are a great place to hang out.

I WASN'T IN SCHOOL OR COLLEGE BEFORE THE LOCKDOWN

If you are home-schooled, you will be more used to working at home and it will be important to keep up the work that you can do. Your learning activities outside the home have been reduced so make sure you are able to reach out for support to young people you know online.

If you were out of education before the lockdown you may feel able to do some study online about things that interest you and that may prepare you for education, employment and training in the future. Stay in touch online with people you know or think about joining one of Amaze's [Amazing Futures](#) online groups for young people.



I DON'T HAVE THE EQUIPMENT I NEED TO WORK AT HOME

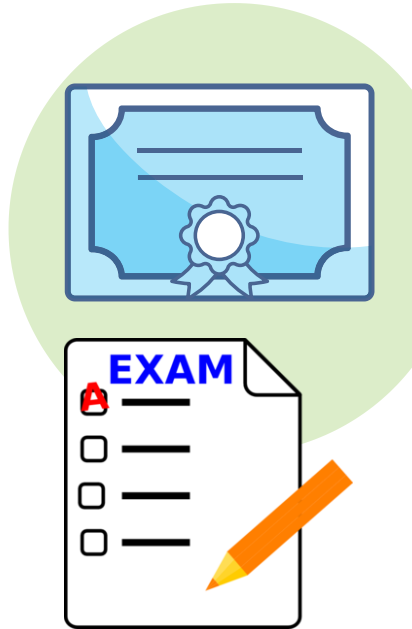


If you don't have internet or a laptop, or if you're trying to work with just a phone, then you might be finding it very difficult to study. Schools and colleges have not closed so you should contact them to discuss what you are able to do - they may be able to lend you a laptop. Teachers are used to differentiating work (changing the work to suit each young person in the class) so you should talk about different ways that you may be able to study and complete tasks.

IF THERE'S NO GCSE EXAM, HOW WILL I GET A GRADE?

If you have been working hard to prepare for exams you may be worried about how your school will now decide your grades. The government has said that schools will go back to working out grades by looking at how well you have been doing at school or college. Grades will be calculated by looking at classwork, homework, mock exam results, assessments conducted in school and will take into consideration the opinions of each teacher. There will be a process to check that each grade has been given fairly. This is similar to how GCSEs and 'A' Levels used to be marked and many young people preferred it because it allowed them to show what they had learnt in different ways.

Your grades will be available in time for you to take up the offers from colleges, training providers and employers when they reopen. If your courses were leading to qualifications that are not GCSE or 'A' Levels you should contact your school or college to find out how they will now be assessed. If you have been taking a course that has lots of assignments or practical assessments, then these will probably still be used to decide your grade.



I DIDN'T GET THE GRADE I WANTED



If you don't agree with the exam grade you have been given you can make an appeal which gives you the option to sit the exam when the schools and colleges reopen. If you had a college offer, but did not get the grades you needed you should give them a call. They may be able to offer a similar course or talk to you about other courses you might enjoy. Remember that you don't need GCSEs to do all courses. There are lots of college courses for young people to think about. However, all young people will need to do Maths and English GCSE at college or on apprenticeships unless they have achieved a Level 4 GCSE already. If you're not ready for GCSE you will need to study numeracy and literacy.



I STILL DON'T HAVE A PLACE FOR SEPTEMBER

There are lots of choices for young people and you should find out about all your options including full-time study, supported internships, traineeships, apprenticeships and employment.

There is a lot of information online and the Amaze [Looking Forward](#) team is available to you by phone, Zoom and email to explain these options, help you to find the right one and to support you to apply and get ready for interviews.

Education providers are still recruiting for September 2020 so you will probably need to complete an online application form.

Many providers will still want to interview you (probably by telephone) so make sure you have found out about the course, thought about the job you would like it to lead to and that you are able to tell them about you. If you have any queries, ask if there is an Admissions team that can help. If you have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or think that you will need some support you should ask to speak to the Learning Support team. Sometimes education providers have to cut courses at the start of term if they don't have enough young people on the course so now is a good time to look at other courses you are interested in just in case you quickly need to make a change in September.

Lots of colleges and universities have virtual tours available so you can have a look around their facilities just by clicking on their website link. Some have already started to organise virtual Open Days so that you can 'visit' them while staff are online to answer questions that can help you choose where to apply to. Recruitment for apprenticeships and jobs is slowing down because of lockdown so there are likely to be more choices when it ends. However, apprenticeships and jobs continue to be advertised so you can still apply but be prepared for a telephone or video interview.

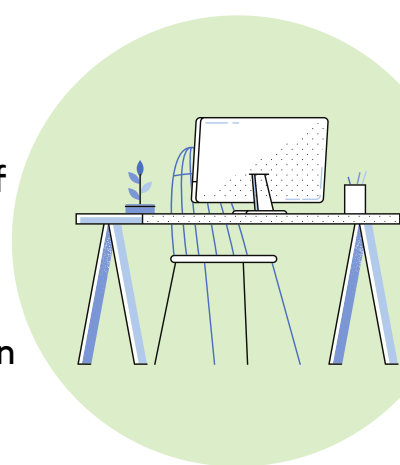
We hope that by September, things will be returning to normal but there is a chance that we may still be in some form of lockdown so providers may decide to delay your start date or get you taking part in activities online. Your education provider or employer will let you know when you can return but check their websites regularly to see if there are any changes to what you had expected.



WHAT ABOUT APPRENTICESHIPS?

Apprentices are paid to learn skills by working for an employer for a year or more whilst studying for qualifications. Many have been sent home from their workplace during the lockdown and are unable to work from home. They will be worrying that they have only had part of their apprenticeship and that they may not be able to complete their qualifications. The government has produced [guidelines](#) which give options to continue with their apprenticeship in different ways or to temporarily end the apprenticeship and then continue it when work can resume.

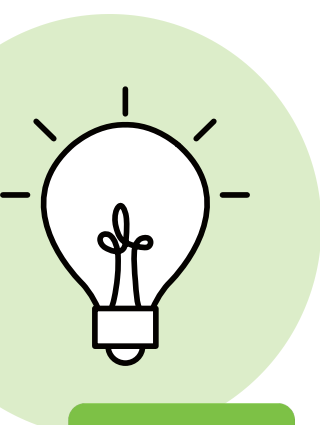
Each employer will be considering different ways to deal with the study part of the apprenticeship such as delaying assessments, studying at home or looking at different ways of assessing young people. If you are an apprentice, you should talk to your employer about their plans for your apprenticeship.



WHAT CAN I DO TO PREPARE FOR MY FUTURE?

It feels like a very long time to be at home, but the lockdown will end and there will be options for your education, employment and training. Spend some time now, thinking about what your ideal job would be and then think about the steps you need to achieve it. If you dream of running your own restaurant then you might start by doing Level 1 or 2 Catering at college. If you want to help people, maybe a supported internship and some volunteering for a charity could help you to find the right job. If you want to develop software maybe an apprenticeship with an IT company is for you.

Having a full-time job can be hard to imagine if you're still at school so try to just focus on each of the smaller steps you will need to take. Find out as much as you can about the job that you want and then research the training you will need and the skills required. Do you have a CV? A "Curriculum Vitae" is a list of your interests, qualifications, learning and work experience that you can send out when you apply for jobs. It is also a great way of just keeping a record of the things you need to include on application forms. When you get a new application form, you'll be able to just paste in parts of your CV. This could be a great time to write or update your CV ready for when you'll need it. Amaze's Looking Forward team can help you to write your CV.



SUPPORT FOR YOU

Amaze [Looking Forward](#) for support with education, employment and training.

Amaze [Amazing Futures](#) for social opportunities and support with wellbeing.

Amaze also offers a confidential Helpline for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parent carers. If you need to discuss anything about your education, health or care then please contact [SENDIASS](#) (the SEND Information, Advice and Support Service).

Be nice to yourself, do something fun, plan for the future, work as hard as you can and stay in touch with other people.