Like many Year 10 students you are probably not sure about your future career direction and now you need to think about Year 11 and 12 subject selections. You will most likely change your mind a number of times so it is important to choose Year 11 and 12 courses that will keep your future study and career options open.

The Youth Careers Forum and recent Careers Expo signal the start of this important decision making process for all Year 10 students and parents. The following information provides a range of ideas and questions to consider and websites to view to help you make an informed choice.

- You need to start thinking about your career direction before the Careers Forum to be held on Wednesday 23 May 2012.
- In the weeks ahead leading up to the Senior Subject Selection Night, for all students and parents, on Wednesday 20 June 2012, all of the Head Teachers will present details of each of their subjects during our fortnightly assemblies.
- Your Work Experience in the last week of Term 2 should provide the opportunity to talk to employers about the relevance of the subjects you have chosen. Take the time to think about the following suggestions when choosing your courses for the next two years.

Start Identifying Your Career Ideas

Finding your career direction is never an easy task. Do not put too much pressure on yourself to decide right now. Remember to keep your options open if in doubt.

Here are some useful suggestions for identifying a career direction:

- Take the time to get to understand yourself. Think about what interests you and what subjects you are best at or enjoy. Make a list of what you like and dislike. Do you have any special talents?
- Find out what career resources you have at school (parent information nights, information booklets, who you can talk to, the Careers Expo held on 8 May 2012, the Youth Careers Forum to be held on 23 May 2012, the Health Careers Expo on 13 June 2012 and the Year 10 Subject Selection Night to be held on 20 June 2012. Look at the Job Guide (available online) for information on different occupations and the training they require. Go to [http://www.jobguide.deewr.gov.au/](http://www.jobguide.deewr.gov.au/)
- What do you know about specific careers of interest?
- Talk to people about their jobs, what do they do, how did they get into their career?
- View career information charts called ‘bullseye charts’. Each chart looks at a school subject and the many occupations that the subject can lead to. Go to [www.deewr.gov.au/bullseye](http://www.deewr.gov.au/bullseye) . Our school also has additional copies.
- Organise your Work Experience with an employer that will help you with your subject selection. Work Experience is next scheduled for the week of Monday 25 June to Friday 29 June.
- Investigate what other career resources or tools are available to assist you.
The following websites are a starting point to help identify your first career direction. Most people will change career direction several times in their lifetime. You may eventually take up a job that does not exist yet.

- [http://www.myfuture.edu.au/](http://www.myfuture.edu.au/) - online career information and exploration service

**Things to Consider When Choosing Your Courses of Study**

Now that you are in Year 10 you will need to think carefully about the courses of study you are going to choose for Year 11 and 12. Generally students select six courses of study, or the equivalent.

You will want to keep your career options open while satisfying your abilities, interests and career aspirations.

- Think about what Year 11 and 12 courses you need, or would be useful to support your career ideas.
- Select courses that you are strong in and enjoy. When you like what you are doing you are more likely to achieve better results.
- English is the only compulsory subject.

Also check the following:

- What course choices are available at your school?
- Have you been recommended to do these courses?
- Are there any timetable restrictions?
- Do you meet course prerequisites?
- Are your choices realistic?
- Do you think you will cope with the courses of study you are choosing?
- Try not to choose your courses based on ‘what your friends are doing’ - their interests are different to yours.
- Think carefully about your course selection - it is often difficult to change courses.

You will generally be selecting courses of study so you can undertake one of the following pathways:

- University
- TAFE
- Traineeship or apprenticeship
- Workplace
So You Think You Want To Go To University

- It is important to keep your options open if you are unsure about your career direction.
- Select courses in English, Maths and/or Science at a level that is right for you and that you find interesting. It may be worth making an appointment with your teacher or Head Teacher if you would like to do a course you have been advised against.
- Research what courses will help you with your future career ideas.
- Some university courses require you to have studied certain prerequisite courses of study. Choose courses of study that match your career ideas. Check out the UAC website to view the listing of university entry requirements for all NSW/ACT universities for 2015 enrolments. Several reference copies of the UAC Guide will be available in the Careers Office for overnight use. If you are planning to apply for tertiary study you should select HSC courses that keep doors open for entry to a range of tertiary courses. Visit http://www.uac.edu.au/schoollink/year-10.shtml
- For university admission purposes you must read up on the HSC eligibility requirements to meet the Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) which is used to rank and select school leavers for admission. You can find information on how to apply to university as well as specific course details at www.goingtouni.gov.au and www.gooduniguide.com.au
- Do not panic if you do not get the marks you need. Find out about other available pathway opportunities.

University Information Evenings
Check out the individual university websites for further information on university expos and parent or prospective student information evenings.

Is TAFE a Better Pathway For Me?

- Check out the courses offered and information about TAFE https://www.tafensw.edu.au/
- All applicants must meet entrance requirements - communication skills and sometimes maths skills.
- Some courses require selection criteria, portfolios and interviews.
- Consider taking courses at school that are related to your career ideas. Have you thought about VET (Vocational Education & Training) courses or school based Traineeships or Apprenticeships?
- What other options does your school offer?

Want To Know More About Apprenticeships?
An apprenticeship or traineeship combines practical experience at work with structured training.

- Look at the Australian apprenticeship website at www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au
- Consider structured workplace learning which is a component of many VET courses.
- Ask if you can do a school based traineeship or apprenticeship in my area of interest.
- Find out if there are other courses should you should study.
- Find out if you need to improve your maths.
- Other sites to visit include www.aajobpathways.com.au and www.grouptraining.com.au
Students and Parents Working Together to Make an Informed Choice

The most important thing is that all students and their parents keep up to date with careers news and events. In order to do this we have provided you with a Subject Choice Workbook and access to the ‘My High School Careers’ website www.mhscareers.com

The subject choice workbook will be provided to all students at the Careers Forum on Wednesday 23 May 2012. Parents will be required to sign off on the workbook when it is completed, before the Senior Subject Selection Night on Wednesday 20 June 2012.

The ‘My High School Careers’ website is a careers service that Woolgoolga High School subscribes to. The service allows students and parents to be kept up to date with Careers News and Events. Go to www.mhscareers.com for all the latest careers information.

To access this information go to the website www.mhscareers.com and click on NSW & ACT. Then login with: student or parent and the password: outlook

Using the toolbar:
- Under Home on www.mhscareers.com you will find a page ‘How to Use This Website’.
- Look at News and Calendar for upcoming events each month.
- Post-School covers jobs and university-TAFE course searches.
- Explore is an A to Z careers exploration tool.
- Careers Advice covers resumes, work experience and choosing subjects.
- Links covers a range of information websites for university and TAFE options as well as a job search and career tools link.

Students and parents are able to use the email alert service at this website. To save you from having to keep looking through the website to find new information, just register your email address to receive these alerts. The alerts will be brief messages to tell you what news has been added to the site. Please go to the ‘Contact Us’ page on the site and use the ‘Email Form’ to register your email address.

To register for email alerts and receive all the latest news follow these simple steps to register:
- Go to www.mhscareers.com
- Go to ‘Contact Us’ on the menu bar
- On the email form type your name, school and email address and click ‘submit’

Need to Know More

If you have any further questions prior to the Senior Subject Selection Night, please contact Jeff Allen, Careers Adviser at Woolgoolga High School on 02 6654 1500.