



# **GCSE Subject Choice**

## **Colette McGlade**

### **Careers Adviser**

### **Careers Service**

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## **Outline**

- Making Decisions
- Factors to consider when selecting GCSE subjects
- Resources to help
- Future Impact of GCSE choices on Employability

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## What's on offer in Wellington College?

- Guided by the School
  - **Compulsory subjects**
  - **Optional subjects** – some will be familiar, some may be new

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## How to select GCSE subjects

- Look at subjects you **enjoy**
- That you are **good at**
- Take into account any **requirements for careers** you are interested in



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## Research is key!

- Find out as much as you can before deciding
- Research **new subjects** carefully
- But also research **familiar subjects**
- Try to get a **balance** if possible

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## Facilitating Subjects

(Russell Group: Informed Choices)

Maths, Further Maths, English Literature,  
Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography,  
History, Languages



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## Maths

Remember!

### **MATHS A LEVEL**

You will usually need Further Maths at GCSE to do MATHS A Level

Talk to your teachers about your abilities and useful combinations

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## Science

Options available at GCSE:

- Single & Double Award Science
  
- Single Science Subjects – Biology, Physics, Chemistry

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## Science - Getting the right formula

- Think ahead
- The more science you study now the more you will keep options open for the future
  - For careers
  - For university courses



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## The Arts

- Art, languages and music can be difficult to pick up again once dropped
- If you enjoy these subjects and want them to be a part of your future career then do not drop them

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## Resources to help

- Your Careers Teachers
- Your Careers Adviser
- Subject teachers
- Your form teacher
- Brothers, sisters or friends who have studied GCSE's
- Your parents or Guardians



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## Resources to help

Do you have career ideas?

- Check out entry requirements
- [www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/careers](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/careers)
- [www.qub.ac.uk](http://www.qub.ac.uk)
- [www.ulster.ac.uk](http://www.ulster.ac.uk)
- [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)
- [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie)
- [www.russellgroup.ac.uk](http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk)
- Consider relevant work/voluntary experience/extra curricular activities

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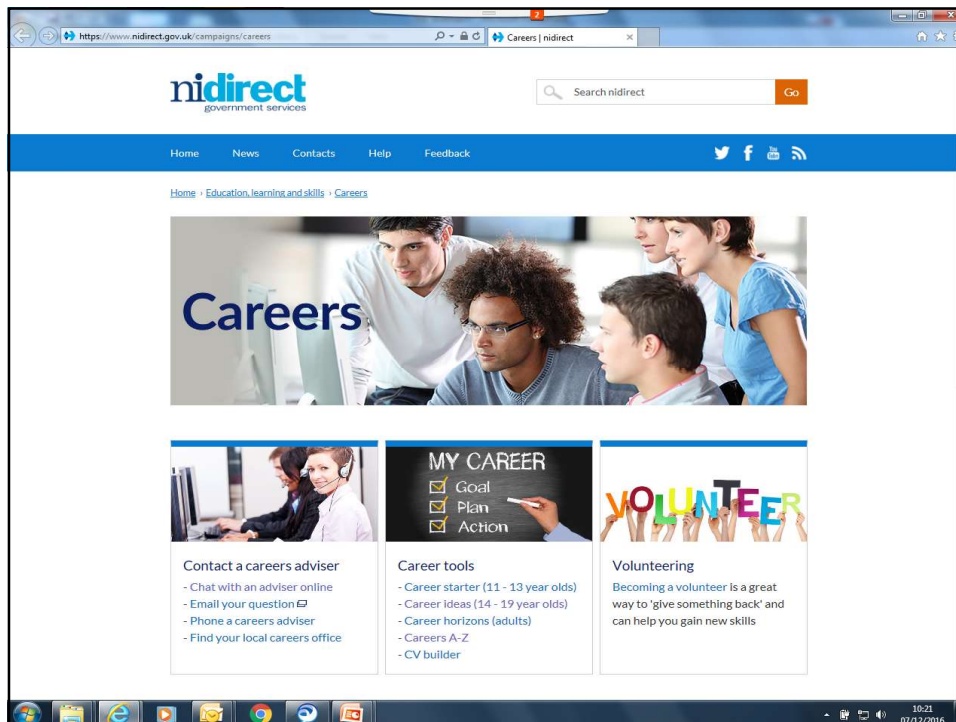
# Resources to help



## No ideas?

- Don't panic!
- Keep options open
  - [www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers-](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers-)
    - Get Career Ideas Section
    - *A - Z of jobs* and useful subject links
    - Labour Market Information
      - Skills in Demand

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## Skills in Demand

Before making career decisions it is helpful to be aware of where the jobs are now and where they are likely to be in the future.

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## Where are the future job opportunities in Northern Ireland?

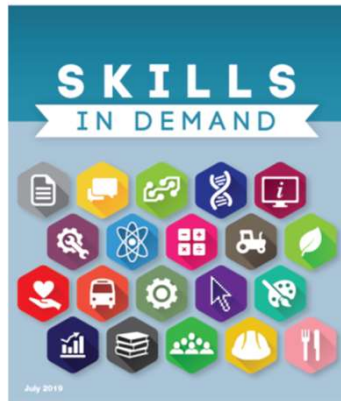
There are job opportunities across all occupational areas in Northern Ireland but there is higher demand in occupations relating to

Science  
Technology  
Engineering and  
Maths (STEM)

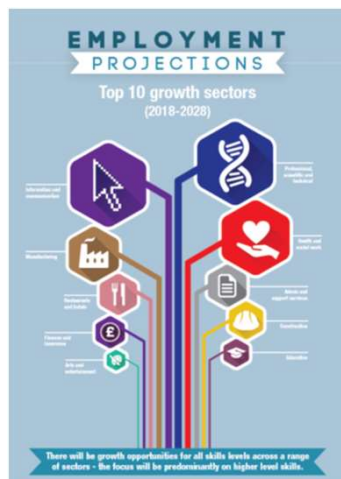
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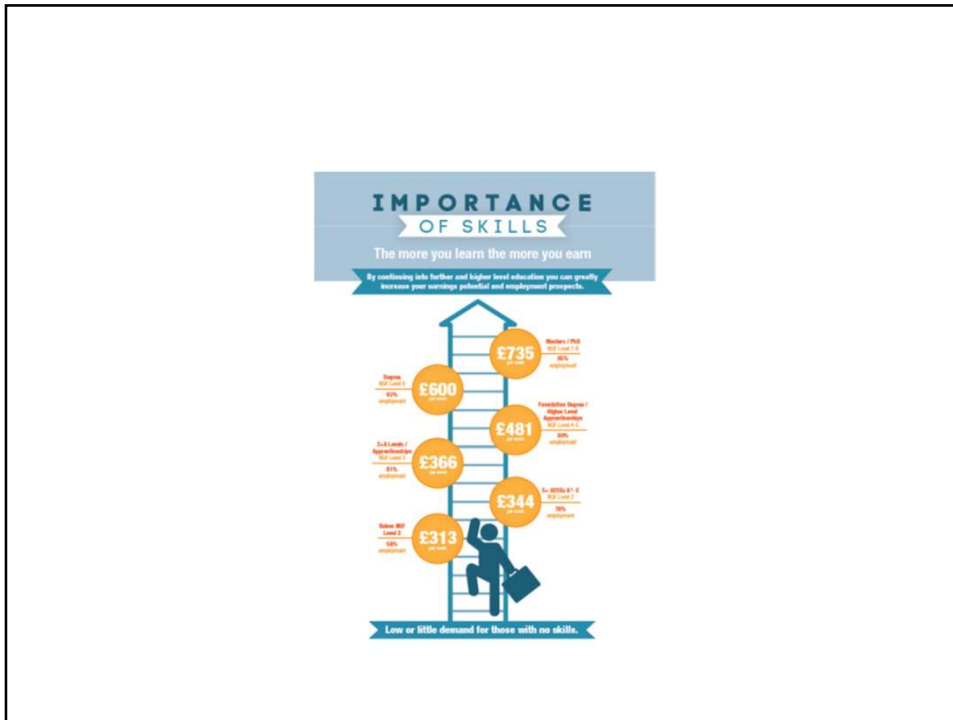
# TOP 10 GROWTH SECTORS 2018 - 2028





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<https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/ni-skills-barometer>

NORTHERN IRELAND SKILLS BAROMETER  
 LOOK AT INFORMATICS SECTION ON ABOVE WEBSITE\*\*\*

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## Top 10 Growth Sectors

- Professional, Scientific & Technical
- ICT
- Admin & Support Services
- Health & Social Work
- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Restaurants & hotels
- Arts & Entertainment
- Finance & Insurance
- Transport & Storage

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## Skills in Demand

- **Modern Languages**
  - Only 6% world's population native English speakers
  - In a global job market we are now in, having a language gives you a competitive edge – 70% of businesses value foreign language skills

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## **Wider Skills required**

### **Transferable Skills**

- Consider relevant work/voluntary experience/relevant extra curricular activities

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## **Future Impact of GCSE Choices on Employability**

- Research career ideas NOW
- If no ideas – don't panic!

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## Future Impact of GCSE Choices on Employability

- Some careers have **set subject requirements**
- Many have **no set subject requirements** -but there may be subjects that are **useful** due to the skills you develop

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## Pharmacy



### QUB

#### A Levels required to apply

- Chemistry
- One from Biology, Maths or Physics
- Biology to at least AS preferred
  
- How much GCSE Science do you need?

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## Solicitor – useful subjects..



- Advising and representing people
- ✓ **English**
  - part of a business..
  - ✓ **Business Studies**
  - Specialising in European Law
  - ✓ **A language**
  - *Preparing arguments, building cases*
  - ✓ **RE, History, Politics**
  - *Calculate the amount of money that people named in a will are entitled to receive*
  - ✓ **Maths**

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## VIDEO

- Careers Service - GCSE subject choices advice:
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d\\_ssJV\\_XfjQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_ssJV_XfjQ)

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## Summary



- Choose subjects you are **good** at
- Choose subjects you **enjoy**
- Research any career ideas you have
- If none, generate some ideas using research tools
- Consider subjects you **might require** for a future career
- Consider relevant work/voluntary experience/relevant extra curricular activities

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## Contact us.....



➤ Via Careers Dept in School – Mr OHara  
At present the Careers Resource Centre is closed but Careers information is updated and current on

[www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/careers](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/careers)



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## My Careers Adviser

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## Questions



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