

18. Vision Activity: Success Leaves Clues

Who's already done what you want to do?

Jim Rohn said that 'success leaves clues'. What he meant by this is that you can learn from other people who have already done what you'd like to do. There are millions of pupils who have already taken their GCSEs and millions of these pupils will have done really well. You'll probably find these pupils have some very good advice. It's crazy that we don't spend more time learning from people who have already been through what we would like to do and learning from their mistakes. The message is that we don't have to make the same mistakes!

So what did they do?

This activity involves you speaking to a pupil who has already done well in their GCSEs and maybe some pupils who didn't. This might be something that your teacher can arrange for you or you might be able to ask a friend's older brother or sister.

You'll need about fifteen minutes to do this activity. It might feel a bit awkward, but just think of yourself as a journalist trying to find out a story of success. You'll need a pen, paper and maybe a copy of the questions below. When you start the conversation, it will be worth writing down the answers or recording the conversation on your phone so you can listen to it later.

You could start the conversation by asking some of the following questions: **Select your questions below:**

- » What is your dream job?
- » What obstacles do you think you may have to overcome while at school?
- » What do you hope to achieve by completing your A levels/BTEC or apprenticeship?
- » How many hours a week of independent study do you do for your GCSEs?
- » Describe a typical hour of your revision.
- » In an average week how many hours do you spend on homework?
- » How do you decide what you need to revise?
- » What do you do with work you get back?
- » If you do past paper questions do you ever self-mark them?
- » What advice would you give your Year 11 self when first starting your GCSEs?
- » What revision materials do you use/produce?
- » What do you do when you encounter a problem?
- » How do you respond to setbacks?
- » What is your response to a poor grade in a test or homework?

When you've finished the interview (it would be useful to do a few), identify what you think are the key points and write them in the table below. Try to get ten points for each column and then keep this visible in your study area at home.

What do successful pupils do?	What do pupils who haven't been successful do?
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Final Thoughts

This is also a great technique to use with adults in the area you would like to work. Could you interview some people in your chosen career (if you have one), or could you interview some university students on the course you'd like to go on?

You could start by asking them about their study habits and then move onto questions that are more specific to their career, such as:

- » Why did you choose your career?
- » What do you love about it?
- » What don't you like?
- » What advice would you give someone just starting?
- » What advice would you give someone my age?