Vision Activity – Twenty More Questions

We all know that the dreaded question, 'what do you want to be?' – often asked by parents, friends and family members – can feel impossible to answer. It's such an abstract and slippery question. For a start, we don't have enough information, plus answering it is often embarrassing. It's so much easier just to say 'I don't know.'

We've found it's often useful to ignore big questions like 'what do you want to be?' and answer lots of small questions instead. That way, we can see the bigger picture that starts to emerge as the smaller questions get answered. The following questions have been tested with students and seem to be ones that open up some positive thinking. We can't promise these questions will work for you; all we know is that they've worked for others.

You might not like them all – that's OK too. Aim to answer two or three from each group of five...

Group One:

Think of a friend who isn't doing the subjects you are. What enjoyable class would you have them sit in to show them what they're missing?

If you wanted to persuade a younger pupil about one subject you take, what would you say are its strengths?

If you could only take one subject – and it lasted all week with detailed classes – what would it be, and what topics would you dive deeper into?

If you could specify the homework given to you, what kind of tasks might you ask for?

What topic (from a class, or from your own life) do you know so well you could teach a 30-minute lesson on it without much preparation?

Group Two:

If you were in solitary confinement for a whole month, what activity might you do/learn to do to keep from going mad?

List three clubs you used to attend after primary/secondary school. What are your memories of them? Now imagine you had to start and run a club for younger pupils. What would it be about?

What hypothetical club, group or team might you feel most at home in?

What activity or interest did you think you might grow out of but haven't?

What is an activity or interest that other people seem obsessed with but that you just can't see the point of? And is there something that interests you that others might not understand?

Group Three:

If you were a billionaire, what would you spend your money doing once you'd got yourself everything you've ever wanted? Now imagine you had no family. Who would you leave all that money to at the end of your life – and why?

If you had a million pounds, what might you do with it to positively impact the most people?

What kind of work are you absolutely determined not to do for a living?

If all jobs had the same pay and same working hours, what job would you pick?

What problem(s) do you see in the world around you that you might like to help solve?

Group Four:

If an extra day of the week was created, and it had to be for 'improving your future', what activities might you plan to do?

What's one thing you've been meaning to get around to, but haven't yet? Is there something you regret not starting when you were younger?

What ingredients make a good life?

What would you like to be remembered for?

Imagine you're at the end of your working life. What would you regret not trying to achieve?

Group 1 Answers

Group 2 Answers

Group 3 Answers

Group 4 Answers