

Considering careers

With the construction industry, you'll be learning to be a site manager. I thought I might as well stick to college, get a job, get a few years' site experience before I rush into any sort of higher position. That way people below me know that they can trust my decisions because I know what I'm doing.

I don't regret not going to university because I find that college is more achieving for me to go into work afterwards.

Choosing a career could be really difficult for young people at this time. They're growing, they're developing, their ideas are changing, they're making new friends, they're learning about the world. And it can be really hard for them to make a decision like this on top of everything else that's going on in their lives. At this point, you as a parent can play a really supportive role in helping your child make good decisions about their future.

I think it's down to the kids what they want to do.

It's like our thirteen year old, she's at that stage now where she's got her options and I said to her, well, you do what you feel you want to do. I can't tell her what to do.

I think you have to leave them to work it out for themselves and make sure they know where to go for advice, and talk to the relevant teacher and so on.

I think with my own children I just felt I wanted them to explore all possibilities and different directions and find what was right for them and not just follow an automatic route.

Anna is at university and she's at Oxford University where she's done an undergraduate course in politics, philosophy and economics. She's deeply immersed in university education and is the better for it and loves it.

I kind of knew, I guess, when I was around fifteen when I started my GCSEs and stuff at school that the academic life wasn't for me.

By then he was getting more and more work as a juggler and as a performer and as a juggling teacher and loved it, absolutely loved it, so it just felt that was the obvious thing for him to try and make a living at. Any time we did put pressure on, it was probably on Jake to get his GCSEs ...

... that's true ...

... because we felt that if at a later stage he wanted to go on an academic route, if he's got those basic GCSEs, it'll be so much easier for him later on.

Help your teen make the best decision for them.

Finding out as much as you can about the options and opportunities that are out there, so you can help your child make that connection between their interest, their strength, the things they enjoy and what possible careers there are.

It depends on each individual case and it strikes me that it's really important to see who this child, who this person is that you have before you and that you respond to that.

Of course it's important always to stay positive and encourage ambition, even if your child's aspiration gives you cause for concern. It's about listening to them positively and trying to find out what it is about their career option that they think they would enjoy.

My parents have supported me through everything that I've done. As long as they see me being productive and being happy and doing a bit of good, I think they're happy, you know.

When I finish the course, I'll probably learn another trade - plumbing or electrician, something that's indoors, so when it's cold and I can't lay bricks, I've still got a job to do, so I'm still earning money.

I want to either be a manager of my own restaurant or be a head chef of my own restaurant. I want my own business.

Find out about career options for your teen.

Talk to them about their plans for the future.

Guide and support them.

Family Lives is a charity which aims to support families living in the UK. You can read the full article on their website:

<http://www.familylives.org.uk/advice/your-family/holidays/holidays-for-separated-parents/>