



Department
for Education

Our Future News



Welcome to the first edition of Our Future News

Last year you helped the Department for Education and took part in the Our Future Study. This is a unique study which is very important to us. That means that you are important to us, so thank you for helping to make this study such a success.

Many surveys give a one-off snapshot of how someone is at the time they are interviewed. Our Future, is different, it follows young people's lives over a number of years and sees how and why changes happen – giving us a fascinating and dynamic picture. Only a study like this can help us plan for the future. We've included some of the first findings from Our Future in this leaflet. If you have access to the internet, you can also go to the Our Future website:

www.education.gov.uk/ourfuture. This is a website for you and everybody else taking part in the study.

Here you'll find more information about the study and how we intend to use the results to improve schools, colleges and services for all young people. You can also use the site to find out about what's happening this year and find contact details for the Our Future team if you need to get in touch with us.

#1



What you think of school

Last year we asked you lots of questions about what you think of school, your schoolwork and your teachers. Most of you gave us really positive answers. Only 6% of you thought school is a waste of time and 93% of you thought that your school work is worth doing. Eight in ten of you agreed that on the whole you do like school but

despite this over a quarter of you said that most of the time you don't want to go to school!

Girls were more likely to agree strongly that they work hard in school than boys. With four in ten girls agreeing strongly with this compared to only three in ten boys.



I work as hard as I can in school
% strongly agree



29%
Male



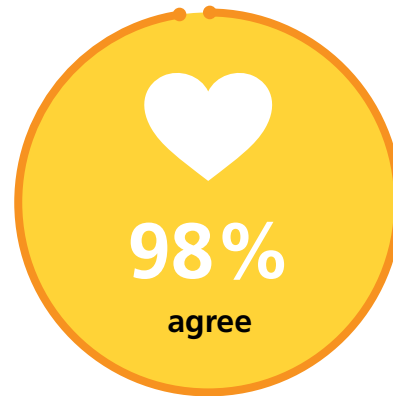
41%
Female

Year 10 subject choices

When we spoke to you last year we asked you how you had chosen or how you planned to choose your subjects for year 10.

The most popular reasons for choosing subjects were wanting to do subjects you are interested in and wanting to do subjects you knew you would do well in. Only one in ten of you chose subjects because you wanted to do the same subjects as your friends.

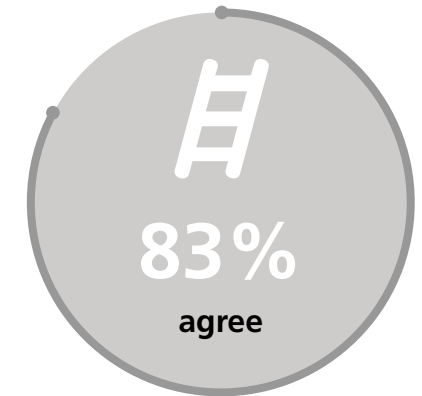
I want to do subjects I'm interested in



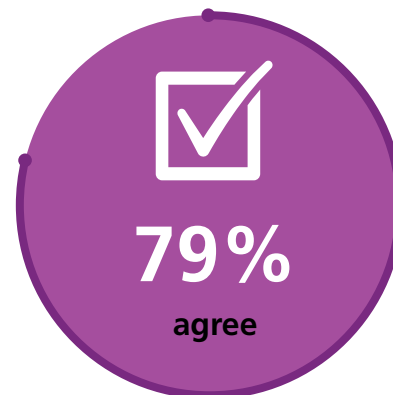
I want to do subjects that I know I will do well at in exams



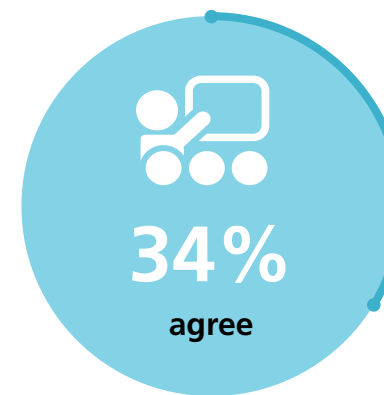
The subjects I choose for Year 10 will be the ones I will need passes in for the job or career I want to have after I leave school



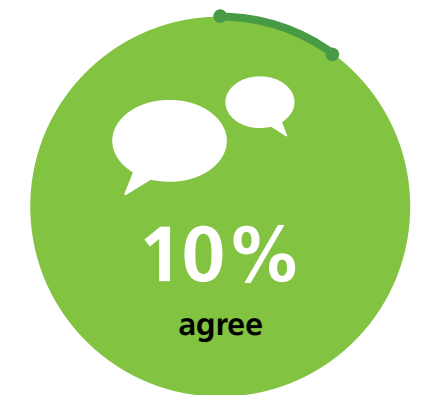
The subjects I choose for Year 10 will be the ones I will need passes in for the courses I want to do after Year 11



I want to do subjects in year 10 where I like the Year 10 teachers for these subjects



In Year 10 I want to do the same subjects as my friends

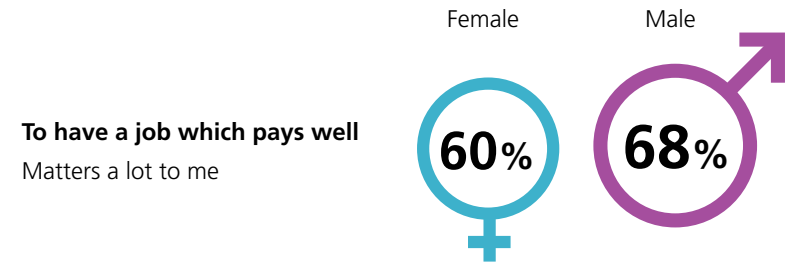


Things that matter to you

We're not only interested in what you're doing and what you want to do, we're also interested in things that matter to you for the future.

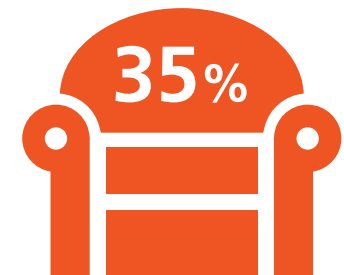
Most young people seemed quite sure about the things they found important. Over six in ten young people your age said it matters a lot to them to have a job which pays well and four in ten said it matters a lot to have a job which helps other people. Girls were a lot more likely to say that they wanted a job where they help people (49% compared to 31% of boys).

If the BBC decide to commission a new series of the Young Apprentice Alan Sugar may not have as many people to select contestants from as he might have hoped. Only two in ten of you reported that it matters a lot to you to be your own boss or have your own business.



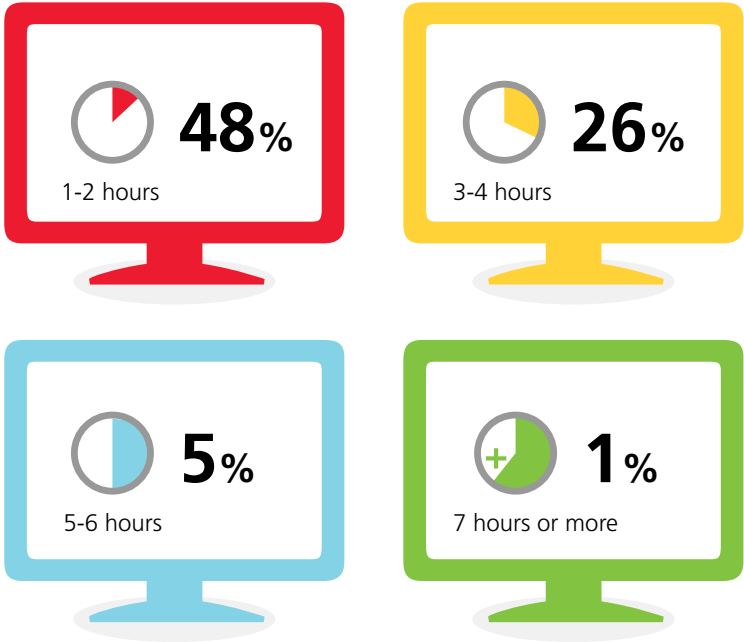
To be my own boss /have my own business
Matters a lot to me

35% of you agreed that you don't really think much about what you might be doing in a few years' time.



Your free time

We also asked you about the things you do in your free time. This gave us some pretty interesting findings.



TV WATCHING

Just under half of you watch between one and two hours of TV a day but **6%** of you watch TV for five or more hours a day.

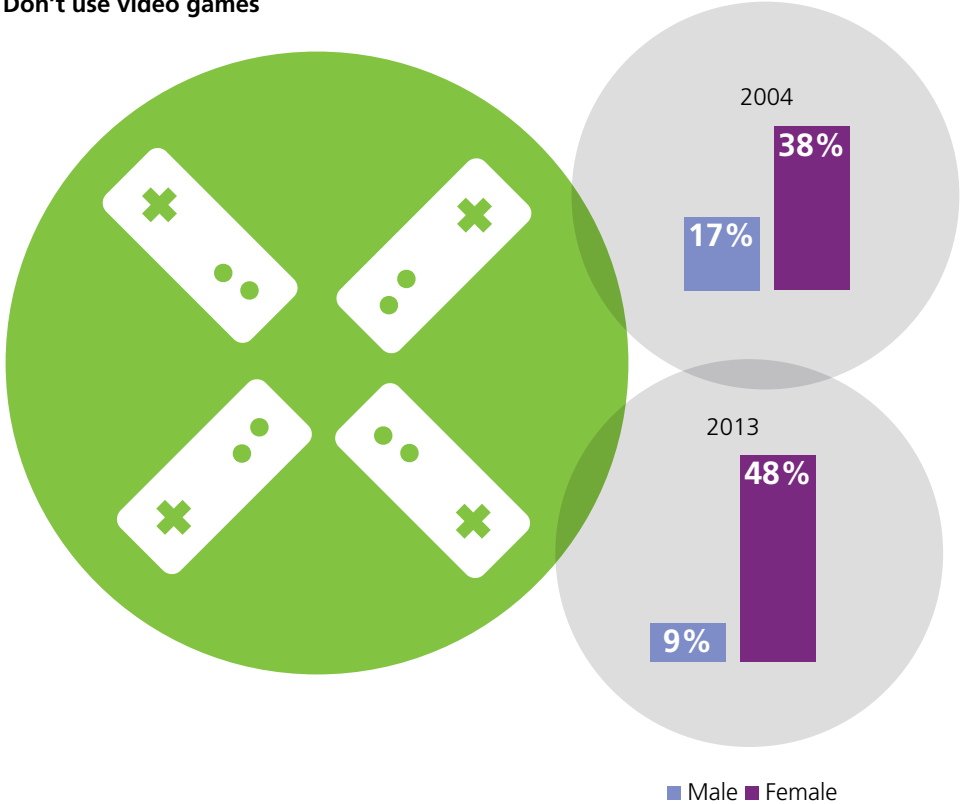


VIDEO GAMES DAYS

We also asked how often you played video games and there was a clear indication that Microsoft and Sony might want to think about how they market their consoles.

Compared to 2004 the proportion of boys who play video games at least once a week has increased to 91% but the number of girls playing video games has fallen from 62% to just 52% today.

Don't use video games





None of these
Male **13%**
Female **9%**



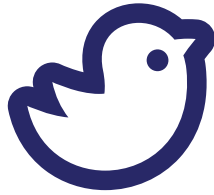
Uses Facebook

79%

Male

80%

Female



Uses Twitter

31%

Male

45%

Female



Instant messenger
services like Blackberry
messenger

27%

Male

39%

Female



Other social
networking sites

14%

Male

25%

Female



SOCIAL NETWORKING

You also told us about all the social networks you use; eight in ten people use Facebook and over a third use twitter and BBM. Girls use all social networks more than boys do – with just over half of all girls checking social networks regularly throughout the day compared to just over a third boys.



FREQUENCY OF SOCIAL NETWORKING

Regularly throughout the day

Male **35%**

Female **52%**

Thank you

We hope you have enjoyed this sample of findings from the study. Thanks again for all the help you have given us so far. If you have any ideas about results you would like to see in future versions of Our Future News please let us know. If you have any questions about the study – or about anything to do with education, training or services for young people – then get in touch with us on **ourfuture.study@education.gsi.gov.uk**. We'll do our best to answer.

Our interviewer will call on you soon to talk to you again about what you're doing now. The interview will be shorter this year than last time. You will receive a £10 voucher in the post before your interview as a thank you. Please let us know if we don't have the best address for you or you have changed address so we can make sure this gets to you. We really hope you can take part again because your voice matters. Only by following young people's experiences can we increase our understanding of how our policies impact on their lives. Only by listening to what you think and want can we help all young people get the best from their lives.

Let us know if you move or are planning to move

Email: ourfuture.study@education.gsi.gov.uk

Call: 0114 274 2437

Visit: www.education.gov.uk/ourfuture



TNS BMRB

