



Fast Tomato

Year 9 Careers and Options



As part of the Careers Programme we start to introduce Fast Tomato, the interactive careers guidance and education for teenagers which will help students to make appropriate decisions when choosing their KS4 options.

Fast Tomato is a fully integrated careers education and guidance system, designed for all individuals aged 13 upwards who are considering their future career options. It is already in use in over 1400 schools and colleges in the UK and internationally.

Fast Tomato is unique in that not only does it include the very latest careers and course information, but the suggestions are tailored to an individual's interests, learning and social styles and expectations.

This enables young people to use the personal insights and the relevant information to guide them to their future education and career pathways.

Many of the activities and features of Fast Tomato support the aims of the National Framework for Careers Education and Guidance that every young person gains the skills they need to become independent careers managers, able to: investigate the opportunities open to them; make decisions and judgements about education and career options; understand how their choices can help them achieve their goals; and navigate successfully through key transition points.

How will Fast Tomato benefit you? It will:

- Enhance the standard of information – advice and guidance available to all students
- Improve pupil decision-making – this in turn should lead to students enrolling in more appropriate courses and being less likely to discontinue their studies.
- Direct students to appropriate agencies and Connexions support if they need it.
- Give information about training and modern apprenticeships to every student.
- Provide valuable information for you, and give better advice at the most appropriate time.
- Help plan provision to meet needs and interests of students.

How Does It Meet Individual Needs?

- Localisation of Information – provides local information to all Fast Tomato users.
- Options at years 10, 11 and beyond – students can view options concerning present and future educational and career choices
- Matching to youth support and guidance services – student links to help and support agencies, local leisure and Youth Services.
- FAST TOMATO adapts to the pace of the learner – three levels of questionnaire complexity. You can adjust language levels to meet each student's particular learning abilities.

How does it increase efficiency?

- Entirely web based – students can even access it at home and no installation or updates needed.
- Reduced waiting times – no waiting weeks or months to see visiting Advisors – Fast Advisor responses.
- Standardised objective guidance – every school across Berkshire will receive the same high quality service.
- Personalised guidance – results are generated for each student and user interests are processed to generate personally relevant questionnaires.
- Individual options – the system informs students of the options available in their own school.
- Involving parents/carers – students can access Fast Tomato from home and discuss results with their parents/carers.
- Promoting local initiatives – Fast Tomato offers an ideal medium for promoting new local initiatives which students can access rapidly over the web.