

MY PATHWAYS (OPTIONS FOR AFTER POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL) - WORKSHEET



**LETTER: SCHOOL AND
FUTURE CAREERS**

Dear David,

My name is John and I work at a college where we teach people how to bake. Your teacher sent me an email saying that you thought you might not need post-primary school. I really believe you need to consider a few things before you make a final decision.

Baking today is much different than it used to be.

Ovens nowadays are very hi-tech. They have computers in them and you need to know how to work them properly in order for your business to run smoothly.

Also, bakers must have good maths skills. They have to be able to measure and combine ingredients using mixers, blenders and other equipment to make the baked goods. They must ensure that each item meets safety and quality controls. They have to keep very detailed log books, which keeps track of all of the deliveries, inventory and production levels. They have to know how to use fractions and decimals to calculate the quantities of the ingredients. They have to ensure there is an adequate supply of all prepared products on hand and ensure the proper storage and refrigeration. They must keep spoilage/waste to a minimum by ordering and utilizing proper quantities and rotating products.

Bakers also must calculate the weight of their ingredients, figure out how the ingredients should be distributed and adjust the temperatures to ensure proper baking. Bakers need to be good at reading and following instructions to ensure that their produce is done correctly and safe to eat.

You know, when I was in post-primary school, I thought a lot like you seem to be thinking now. I often thought about quitting and just getting a job. But I stuck it out anyway and got my leaving cert. Then I worked in a bakery for a long time (about 17 years), and made thousands of cakes. I found the job very tiring because I had to stay up very late to ensure that cakes were baked for the next morning. I wished I had a 9 - 5 job. Then I decided that the leaving cert wasn't enough anymore, so I went back to school — this time to college. I started college when when I was 36 years old, and spent 4 years there. I wish I had done this when I was younger!

Then I got a job teaching people how to bake and now I'm in charge of many different departments at the college, including cake decorating, catering, and special events i.e. weddings, and I have lots of teachers working for me.

So, there are just a few things to think about, David. I really hope that whatever you decide to do, you start working hard in school. You will really and truly be glad you did, I absolutely guarantee it.

Sincerely,

John Lynch

Write a letter to yourself

You will open this letter in sixth year

In the letter:

1. Write about you at the moment – who is in your family – what your hobbies are - what is important to you – what are your favourite things – who do you look up to?
2. Write about school i.e. the subjects you like and the friends you have met.
3. Write about your dreams and hopes for the remainder of your time in post-primary school (a subject you look forward to studying, sport you would like to join/ a musical instrument you would like to play or a club would like to join)
4. Write about your dreams and hopes for the future (after school)
5. Finish with some advice to yourself!

A LETTER TO MY FUTURE SELF

Today's Date:

Lined writing area for the letter.

A LETTER TO MY FUTURE SELF

