

**'MY PATHWAYS'
(OPTIONS AFTER
POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL)**



HANDS UP!

Did you ever have a day when you wondered **“What is the point of going to school?”**

Why do you think we go to school?



AIMS



In this lesson you will

- Learn WHY you are in School.
- Understand why the different stages of the education system are important.
- Understand what subjects are important for your future careers.
- Gain an insight into the skills needed for the world of work.
- Consider different decisions that are important in getting on to the next stage of education.
- Reflect on your hopes and desires for this stage of your educational journey – post-primary school.

OUTCOMES



At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

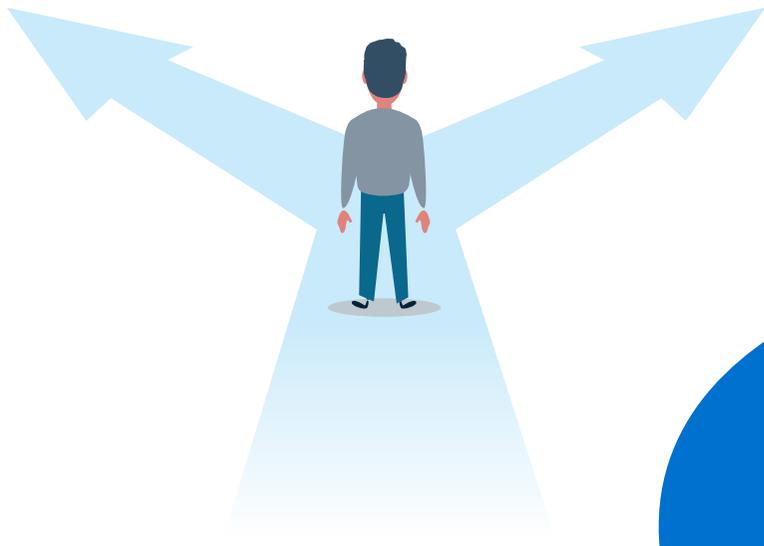
- Identify the necessary requirements for progressing.
- Discuss what subjects are important for your future careers.
- Identify the skills needed for the world of work.
- Write a letter to your future self about your hopes and wishes for this stage of your educational journey.

LET'S THINK ABOUT WHY YOU ARE HERE IN SCHOOL!

- Of course, most of us don't jump out of bed every morning and rush to school driven by a single, motivating purpose.
- But overall, it helps to remember why you're in school, whether you're studying for a test, choosing classes for next year, or because you want to have a good job when you are older!



- During your time in post-primary school you are going to be exploring many different pathways for your future.
- You will be researching careers and hopefully finding a few that interest you.



BUT!

Today we are going to discuss an essential step before you enter into any career and that step is **SCHOOL**, as this is your first step in your pathway to your future!

So let's look at that Question again!

"WHY ARE YOU IN SCHOOL?"

If you sometimes wonder what the purpose of school is or feel like you are not really sure about the purpose of school I hope you pay close attention to the next story!



- A few years ago there was a student in a school in Cork. His name was David.
- David felt he didn't need to finish school because he wanted to be a baker!
- He felt the whole school thing was a complete waste of time.
- David didn't really like school and didn't work very hard while he was in school.

DAVID'S STORY

- Luckily, his teacher contacted the local catering school and spoke with the director of the programme.
- In turn, the director wrote David a letter with some important advice.

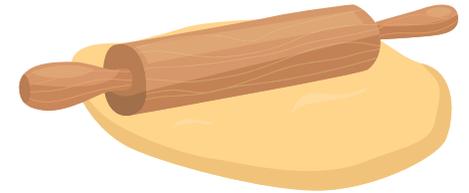


DAVID'S STORY

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 school. I really believe you need to consider a few things before you make a final decision.

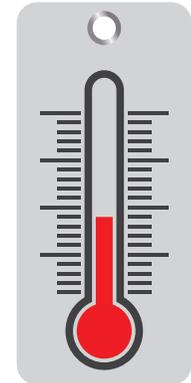
Baking today is much different than it used to be.



DAVID'S STORY

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.



DAVID'S STORY

Bakers 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.



DAVID'S STORY

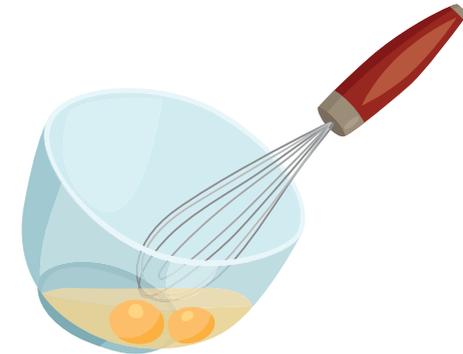
You know, when I was in school, I thought a lot like you seem to be thinking now. I often thought about quitting and just getting a job. But I stuck it out anyway and got my leaving cert. Then I worked in a bakery for a long time (about 17 years), and made thousands of cakes. I found the job very tiring 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 was 36 when I was a first year in college and I spent 4 years there. I wish I had done this when I was younger!

Then I got a 9-4 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



DAVID'S STORY

- With the person beside you please re-read this letter.
- While you are reading, circle any words or phrases that you think relate to a school subject.
- What are some of the skills that bakers need that are learned in School?



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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.



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Bakers 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.



DAVID'S STORY

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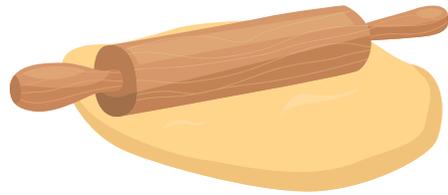
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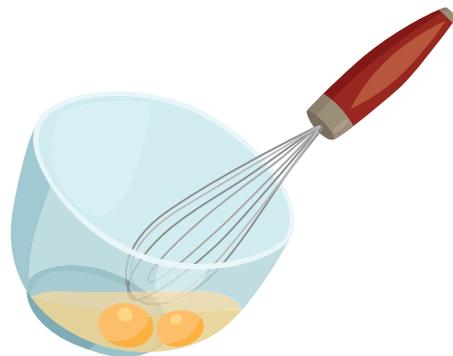
Let's talk about what we learned from John Lynch, the director of the baking and catering school.

As a class, discuss the following questions:

What parts of the baker's job description surprised you?

How did a college degree improve John's career opportunities?

What advice would John have given his younger self?



MY PLAN FOR SCHOOL

- How many of you want to graduate from school?
- Of course you all do!
- You all have hopes and dreams for your future!

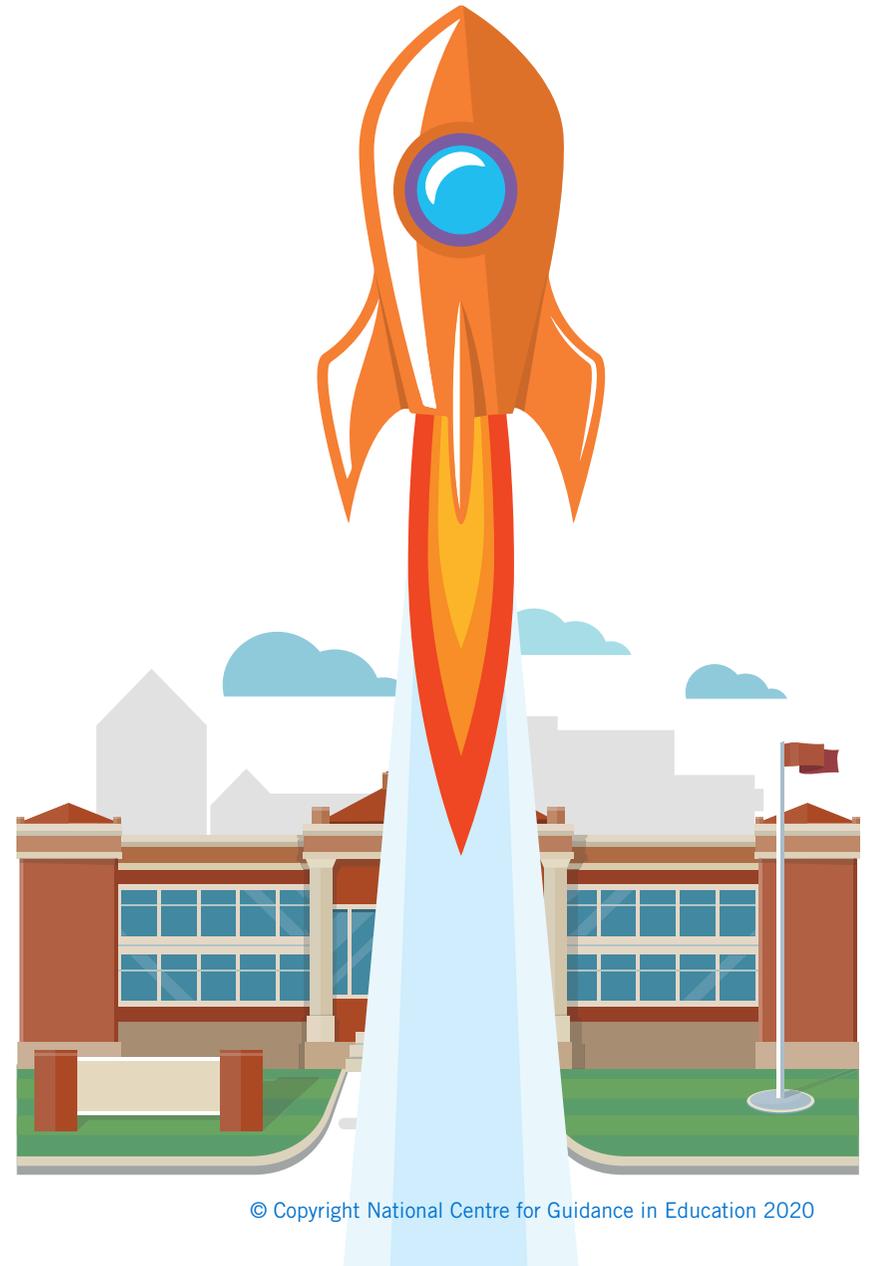


WRAP UP: SCHOOL – IT MATTERS!

- I hope each of you come away from today's lesson having a clearer sense of the purpose of school. As you're going to see in the coming years, education plays a role in the careers you pursue and the opportunities you will be given!
- What you do in school will pave the way for your future, whether you're planning on pursuing a career or moving on to college or the world of work.



- School is a very important and exciting time in your lives!
- What you learn in school will carry you forward into the world of work or further education!
- No-one is going to ask for your primary school grades, but they may ask for your grades from this point forward.
- If you want to make the most of your time in school, you should get focused, work hard and enjoy the next six years!



OVER TO YOU....

Write a letter to your future self!

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? 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 your first year in school – i.e. the subjects you liked, the new friends you met, etc.
3. Write about your dreams and hopes for the rest 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!

REVIEW

Can you...

- Identify the different stages of the educational system in Ireland.
- Identify the skills needed for the world of work.
- Identify the subjects you may need for your future careers.
- Write a letter to your future self about your hopes and wishes for this stage of your educational journey.