

Skills that employers want

What that means

Young people's evidence



Self motivation and responsibility

Showing a strong personal drive for something you are responsible for to ensure that it is completed to the best of your ability.

"I always bring the things I need for school so I am ready for my learning."

"It is my job to keep my bedroom tidy so I put my toys away."



Team working

Working well with other people, even those I don't know to get a job done. Being aware of what my and other people's strengths and weaknesses are.

"I try hard not to be too bossy when I work in a group. I know Tom has a quiet voice but he has some great ideas that we should listen to."

"At home I vacuum the house to help my family. My sister is good at the gardening so she does that."



Using initiative

Without being told, use a range of thinking skills, such as, asking questions to come up with ideas to find the best ways to plan, research and complete a task.

"I couldn't spell a tricky word and I knew it wasn't on my word list so I looked it up in a dictionary and found it."

I wanted a dog and needed to prove to my parents that I would look after it. I found out how to look after dogs when I went to the library."



Negotiation and understanding others

Taking on board other people's ideas to understand their point of view. Express your own needs in a clear way and to find the point that you are both OK with.

"When we were estimating weight in maths, I said the weight was 400g, my friend said it was 500g so we decided to write 450g."

"When we choose a DVD to watch, we choose one that the whole family would like."

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Communication interpersonal skills

The ability to clearly explain what you mean, through written and spoken means, listening and relating to other people and acting upon information and instructions.

"I made sure that my PowerPoint presentation was clear and made sense. I then practised it before presenting it to the rest of my class."

"I listen carefully to my football coaches and follow the instructions they give me."



Problem solving

The ability to understand a problem by breaking it down into smaller parts, then research and reflect on the issues and the different possible ways to solve the problem.

"The paper mache I was using didn't seem to be sticking. I looked at other people's work and their glue was not as runny as mine. I decided to use less water."

"When we went for a walk, we reached a dead end. We went back the way we came and looked for signs and posts to go the right way."



Making things happen

Having new ideas of your own which can be made into a reality, putting the ideas into action, and seeing a project or task through to the end. A 'can do' attitude.

"During dance we built up our routine by practising and adding new movements. Sometimes we forgot parts but we rehearsed so it was great when we performed to the whole school!"

"It took me a long time to make my lego ship but it was worth it in the end. I took it in to school to show the finished version and explained how I made it."



Managing risk

Identifying what could go wrong with a project and thinking about how to avoid it. Being organised and methodical, planning work.

"When I cut out the material for my puppet making, I made a template first. I put the template on the edge of the material so that there would be more to use later."

"Before going out to play, I see what the weather is. When it rains, I put my Wellington boots on so my feet don't get wet."

Know your Strengths

Know your Strengths Quiz

- 1) Which of these best explains how your friends would describe you?
 - A. Organised, outgoing and helpful?
 - B. Creative, unique and artistic?
 - C. Calm, precise and thoughtful?

- 2) If you had to choose, which of these activities would you do at lunchtime or after school?
 - A. Play sports, take part in a debate or be a representative on the school council?
 - B. Rehearse for the school play, choir, orchestra or work on the school magazine?
 - C. Be at a chess club, in the computer room or library?

- 3) What is your ideal clothing style? Is it:
 - A. Designer – you like to be a trend-setter, following fashion and usually being the first in your crowd to be wearing the latest trend?
 - B. Unique – You’ve an eye for the unusual. And can often be found in the charity shops or markets and sometimes customise your own clothes?
 - C. Bargain hunter – you know a good deal when you see one and are prepared to wait for it. You make the most of the sales and your mates are in awe of your ability to root out a bargain. Before you buy the jeans you after you check you can’t get them cheaper anywhere else?

- 4) It’s your mate’s birthday. Do you:
 - A. Organise a surprise party or a collection amongst all their friends to buy them something from all of you that they really want?
 - B. Make them a present yourself – they would prefer to have something that you have spent time making and anyway you haven’t the money to buy them something they really want?
 - C. Buy the perfect present – you have spent weeks working out what they want and you have saved up for it?

- 5) What state is your bedroom usually in? Is it:

- A. Kind of organised, but so that you know where everything is?
- B. A complete mess with clothes all over the floor, CD's scattered everywhere and books off the shelves?
- C. Tidy with everything carefully arranged and in order?

6) Which do you prefer from the following groups of subjects/lessons?

- A. History, English or Drama?
- B. Art, music or Design?
- C. Sciences, Maths or ICT?

7) Which is most likely to annoy your friends about you?

- A. You can sometimes be bossy and too loud?
- B. You often daydream or come up with crazy ideas and can be disorganised or indecisive?
- C. You sometimes come across as too picky and a perfectionist?

8) For Christmas you receive a new mobile phone. Do you:

- A. Read the introduction book, skim the rest then jump in and start programming the phone?
- B. Ignore the instruction book and launch straight in setting up your new phone, working it out yourself as you go?
- C. Read the instruction book cover to cover before programming the phone according to the instructions?

Know your Strengths

Know your Strengths Quiz

Mostly A's = Organiser

- You are an organiser and a natural leader. You like to be in control and are probably happiest when you organising others.
- In brainstorming sessions you are likely to be the one who leads the group, ensuring there is a balance between opinions of the other members of the group and ensuring that everyone has their say.
- You will be a real asset to your team at the planning and prototype building stage.

Mostly B's = Creative

- You are naturally creative and artistic. You probably make decisions based on instinct and come up with unusual approaches to problem solving.
- In brainstorming sessions you are likely to have lots of ideas and will be a real asset to your team at the design stage.
- You are probably a dreamer and so need to concentrate on making sure your ideas are realistic

Mostly C's = Technical

- You are naturally articulate, precise and have good attention to detail.
- In a brainstorming session you are likely to be the voice of reason taking a balanced approach.
- You will be a real asset to your team at the research stage.