

Careers Pathway: Personalised Guidance Through Philosophical Dialogue (Pilot)

What do you believe is the purpose of work?

How do you define success in life, and how do you think it relates to your career?

What do you think is the best work-life balance?



What kind of impact would you like to make?

How have your experiences shaped your aspirations?

What is the best way of making decisions about your future?

The Thinker Community Interest Company is offering two schools or colleges, in the Merseyside region, the opportunity to participate in a free pilot programme of our new careers service, 'Personalised Guidance Through Philosophical Dialogue', benefitting 15 students from each institution. The pilot will involve 2 full day visits, covering 30 minute 1-1 dialogues with participating students, 3 x 40min group enquiry sessions, and a feedback session.

The "Philosophical Careers Pathway" programme offers schools and colleges a unique and highly personalised approach to career guidance. By incorporating philosophical dialogue techniques, the programme encourages students to reflect on their beliefs, desires, ambitions, and values. The process is designed to help students gain deeper self-awareness, explore their potential career paths, and make more informed decisions about their future.

Young people benefit from GATSBY benchmarks, including:

- Personal guidance
- Addressing the needs of each pupil
- Challenging stereotypical thinking
- Raising aspirations

Programme sessions are delivered 1-1 and in groups, in person, online, or hybrid by Royal Institute of Philosophy Tutor and Director of The Thinker CIC, Glenn Skelhorn

To enquire about having the pilot programme run at your school or college, please contact
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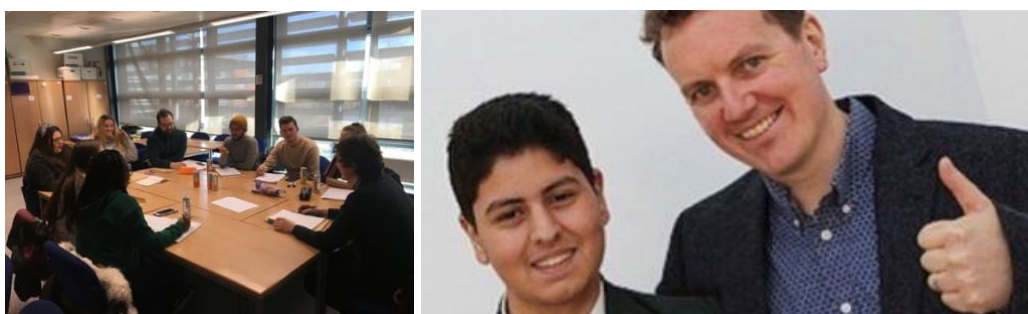
Overview:

Navigating career options can be overwhelming for students, especially when they're faced with so many choices and external pressures. Our 'Philosophical Careers Pathway' brings a fresh perspective, using philosophical dialogue to help students reflect deeply on their values, strengths, and goals.

By fostering critical thinking, open discussion, and self-awareness, we empower students to gain clarity about their next steps, whether that's choosing further education, employment, or exploring their passions. This program doesn't just focus on jobs or qualifications—it's about guiding young people to make informed, meaningful decisions that resonate with who they are and who they want to become.

Our Pilot Programme, delivered at two secondary schools or sixth form colleges for Y12 students includes both:

- 1-1 Guidance:** Personalized sessions where students explore their career aspirations and personal values, helping them understand themselves better and make informed decisions.
- 1-2 Group Sessions:** Group philosophical dialogue allows students to explore different perspectives, develop listening and reasoning skills, and learn collaboratively. These sessions will focus on topics like "What is success?" or "What does it mean to lead a meaningful life?", helping them relate these discussions to career paths.



The 'Philosophical Careers Pathway' offers the following benefits:

Student-Centric: philosophical dialogue allows for a more student-centred approach, empowering young people to think critically about their futures, promoting independent thinking, well-being, and resilience.

Mental Health & Wellbeing: philosophical dialogue promotes emotional intelligence, self-awareness, and a sense of purpose—all contributing to better well-being.

Soft Skills Development: sessions will help students develop transferable skills such as critical thinking, communication, teamwork, and problem-solving, all of which are highly valued by employers.

Fulfilling National and School Objectives: our offering aligns with national priorities for career guidance (such as the Gatsby Benchmarks)

- **Benchmark 1: A Stable Careers Programme** – potentially part of school's comprehensive, ongoing careers program.
- **Benchmark 3: Addressing the Needs of Each Pupil** – Our 1-1 philosophical guidance can offer personalized, tailored support that helps students understand their own unique path.
- **Benchmark 4: Linking Curriculum Learning to Careers** –philosophical dialogue and critical thinking can connect to career skills like problem-solving, decision-making, and ethical reasoning.

- **Benchmark 8: Personal Guidance** – Our service would directly support this benchmark by providing personalized guidance, but with a philosophical twist, focusing on clarity, purpose, and ethical considerations in career choices.
- **Measurable Outcomes:** our programme will measure the impact of sessions (e.g., increased clarity about next steps, greater self-confidence, improved decision-making), using pre- and post-session evaluations and follow-up surveys to provide tangible evidence of the benefits.

Sample Pilot Program Structure: Two Full-Day Visits

Day 1: Individual Focus

Goal: Provide personalized 1-1 guidance to help students explore their career goals, values, and aspirations through philosophical dialogue.

Ten 1-1 Sessions (30 minutes each)

Students will engage in individual guidance focused on personal reflection and career exploration.

These sessions encourage students to consider their strengths, values, and external influences, allowing for a deeper understanding of their next steps.

Example Themes for 1-1 Discussions:

"How do your personal values align with career choices?"

"What does success mean to you, and how is that shaped by others?"

"What kind of work would bring you the most fulfillment?"



Day 2: Group Focus & Final 1-1 Sessions

Goal: Complete remaining 1-1 sessions and engage students in group philosophical enquiries to foster collective reflection on career and life choices.

Morning

Five 1-1 Sessions (30 minutes each)

Complete the final individual sessions, focusing on helping students reflect on their unique career paths and aspirations.

Continue exploring personal motivations, external pressures, and long-term goals.

Afternoon

Three Whole-Group Philosophical Enquiry Sessions (Approx. 40 minutes each)

These sessions will engage students in reflective, philosophical dialogue on broader career-related themes, encouraging them to think critically and collaboratively.

Enquiry Topics:

"What is Success?" - Students explore different definitions of success and reflect on what success means to them personally.

"What Makes a Career Meaningful?" - A group discussion focused on aligning personal values and passions with career choices.

"How Do We Make Decisions in Uncertainty?" - An exploration of decision-making processes, especially when faced with career uncertainty or multiple options.

Feedback & Reflection

Conclude with a feedback session, allowing students and staff to share insights on the process, reflect on the group dialogues, and offer feedback on the overall experience.

Measuring Success

- **Pre- and Post-Surveys:** Surveys to assess students' career clarity, confidence in decision-making, and understanding of personal values before and after the program.
 - Questions will include:
 - "How clear are you about your next steps after school?"
 - "How confident are you in making career decisions?"
- **Feedback Forms:** After each session, we will ask for short feedback from students and teachers involved -- a mix of quantitative (e.g., rating the session 1-5) and qualitative (e.g., "What was the most valuable part of today's session?").
- **School Evaluation:** Ideally, we would meet with the career coordinator or headteacher at the end of the pilot to review overall impact and collect feedback.

Refining for Future Use

Once we've run the pilot, we will review the feedback and make necessary adjustments:

- Refine the structure or content of sessions based on what resonated most with students.
- Adjust the delivery format if needed (e.g., more 1-1 sessions or longer group discussions).
- Use the results to build case studies or testimonials for future marketing.

If you're interested in participating in the pilot program, please e-mail info@thethinkerhub.com or call Glenn Skelhorn on 07740724341.