



YEAR 11

Taking Part in the LiNCHigher Award is a great way of showing future universities and colleges that you are the sort of student who wants to aim high. This award is all about higher education and the choices you can make once you have left school. By exploring your options now, you are giving yourself the best chance to make positive decisions when the time comes. Completing this award will show that you are dedicated, can work independently and know what your next steps could be. This is exactly what colleges and universities want to see.

In year 11 there are two levels of award you can complete, Silver and Gold. The Silver Award is for those who want to show they can work independently and understand the options they have in the future. The Gold Award is for those who want to show they can go the extra mile and demonstrate what they have to offer higher education institutions. This booklet will guide you through the different levels, the only extra things you need are; access to a computer with the internet and a pen.



SILVER AWARD:

1. To achieve the Silver award, you will need to log into LiNCHigher Learning and complete three of the modules we have prepared for you. Once you have completed the modules, record them in this booklet and answer the questions, you will need to get a teacher or a member of the LiNCHigher Team to sign it. If you don't know how to log onto LiNCHigher Learning ask your careers leader or go to linchigher.co.uk and get in touch.

| Module Name | |
|--|--------|
| Date completed | Signed |
| Q1 - What skills do you need to be successful in the future? | |
| | |
| Q2 - Do you know where to go for information and advice about this subject? | |
| | |
| Q3 - What did you learn from this module? | |
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2. Independent working and the ability to find things for yourself is an essential skill in higher education. This activity will help demonstrate that you can do exactly this! You will need to research and attend a virtual open day or other university event. Open days are used by universities and colleges to give you an opportunity to find out what they have to offer and to ask questions. Virtual Open days are the on-line equivalent and give you an opportunity to virtually visit a university anywhere in the country.

To complete this activity, you will need to take part in one of these online events and write about your experience. Write about **400 words** and try to answer the following questions.

- Do you think higher education / university is for you?
- Was higher education / university what you expected? How was it different to or the same as your expectations?
- What subjects at school do you think are the most important if you want to go on to Higher Education
- What opportunities do you think you will get by going onto Higher education /university?

Make sure you include any other thoughts you had, which event you chose to attend and, which institution was hosting it.

Write or type your work and staple it into this booklet.

3. The final part of the Silver Award is to complete some research into a higher education course or degree. You will need to identify a course and institution you are interested in and complete the research sheet on LiNCHigher Learning. You can research any course or qualification so long as it Level 4 or above i.e. degree, HNC, HND, a great place to start would be discoveruni.gov.uk or UCAS.com. The resources on LiNCHigher Learning may also help you to research your course and institution.

Write or type your research and staple it into this booklet.

Now you have completed the silver award all you need to do is sign below to say that you have completed this award to the best of your ability. Now you can hand this booklet into your careers leader. Once we have checked everything over we will be in touch at the end of the school year to give you your silver award.

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| Signed | School |
| Tutor Group | Teacher signature |

GOLD AWARD:

To complete the Gold Award you will first need to complete the silver award in this booklet plus, the activities below.

A personal statement is an essential part of any application to higher education. It's also the part that most students struggle with. A personal statement is your opportunity to tell a university or other higher education provider why you want to study and, what would make you a good student.

The personal statement will provide all the extra information that an institution needs, that they can't get from your grades alone.

To complete this task, you will need to write your own personal statement.

You can use guidance from LiNCHigher, UCAS.com, or most university websites.

Your school might also be able to help. Your personal statement needs to be **no more than 4000 characters** and **47 lines**, and will need to include information about why you want to study higher education, what makes you a good student and demonstrates your subject knowledge.

Once you have completed your personal statement you can upload it to LiNCHigher Learning or print it out and staple it to this booklet.

Now you have completed the Gold Award all you need to do is sign below to say that you have completed this award to the best of your ability. Now you can hand this booklet into your careers leader. Once we have checked everything over we will be in touch at the end of the school year to give you your Gold award.

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| Signed | School |
| Tutor Group | Teacher signature |