

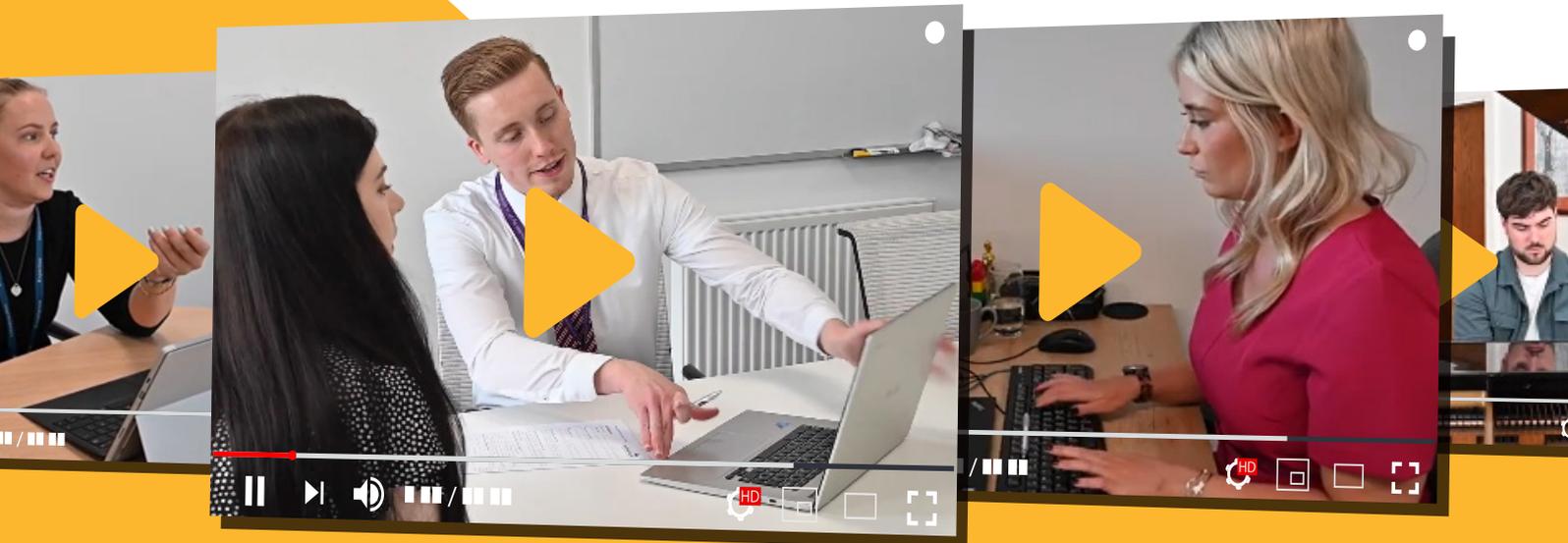
LiNCHHIGHER

FUTURE FOCUS

From
Here

To
Career!

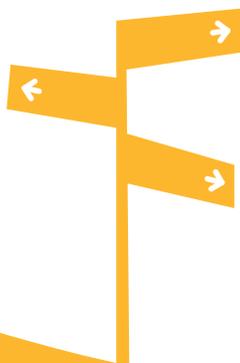
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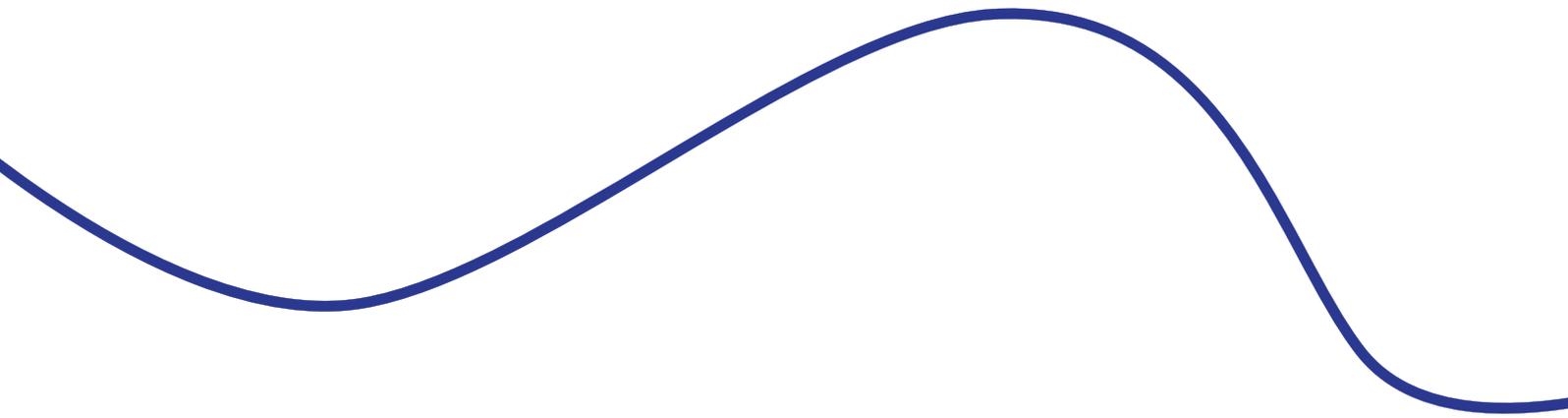




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Welcome to 'From Here to Career'! In this resource you will hear from 12 people to give you an insight into their journeys from education to their early career.

These stories come from people working in a variety of different sectors and in their videos and case studies, you will learn about their careers in Marketing, Teaching, Beauty Therapy, and Engineering to name but a few.

This is a great opportunity for you to learn more about a variety of career pathways which may interest you, and you're going to be hearing about these pathways from people who started their journeys here in Lincolnshire – they may have even gone to your school!

In this accompanying booklet, you will find profiles from each person with brief descriptions of their education journey. Some of these journeys

include college or sixth form, some of them will highlight opportunities in Higher Education, and some of these journeys will help you to learn more about apprenticeships.

To help you gain a real insight into their journeys, each person has created a short video where they talk about their job, what it involves, what skills are required and what qualifications you might need to follow in their footsteps. Make sure you follow the QR codes to view each person's video!

Finally, you can work through the From Here to Career worksheets to explore your own skills and interests to gain some inspiration for your own career – and find your way of navigating through the next stages of education.

We hope you enjoy hearing about some of the career journeys in From Here to Career!

Where will you go From Here to ...?



See full video
interview here



JAY NYANG

PR Account Executive
Clarity Global

I'm Jay, 25 and a PR Executive working in London. I have been working in the industry for 4 years now since graduating with a Public Relations degree from the University of Lincoln. I had a bit of an unconventional journey into PR as it was never something I really knew about until I actually started my course. From secondary school (University Academy Long Sutton) I had always been interested in music and I went to college (Boston College) to study a BTEC in music and music performance. Having an interest in writing and music, this led me to embark on becoming a music journalist, something which having started my course made me realise the journalism side wasn't for me and I was in fact more interested in the creativity of PR.

After graduating I began working my first role in the communications industry in the city I graduated in, Lincoln, as a Comms Officer at The EBP. It was here I learnt so much more about the profession as a whole and took skills away with me that have informed many parts of my other roles. Unfortunately, being made redundant I then packed up and moved to London to work agency side in Digital PR. Moving to London was a huge switch up in terms of lifestyle and pace but something I loved challenging myself to do and opened me up to more experiences to learn about myself. Due to the pandemic, I had to move back home but in October 2020 I got a new role at Clarity Global working in tech PR. In this role, I've been able to progress and learn even more about the industry—something that is always changing—which has been great for the development of my skills. My journey has definitely been unique but one where I have always tried to be led by what I enjoy.

There are a few lessons I've learnt through my working life so far, the first being that there is always more to learn. Even when I've felt like I know something, the world changes and I have more to explore and learn - the part of working which I enjoy the most. I've also learnt that your journey is so unique. When you see others moving at different paces or in completely different lanes it is hard to not compare yourself. Everything is circumstantial



and you just have to trust in the hard work you're putting in and choose those opportunities that are best for you.

Finally, and perhaps one of the lessons I will have to continue to learn is that if something doesn't serve you—in life or at work—it is okay to make a change. Moving to a new city by myself was scary but it is also the best thing I did for myself. Don't be afraid to make those big leaps that are in your head, you are just as strong, determined, hardworking and talented as everyone else. Whilst things might not always be smooth sailing there are so many experiences and journeys to take that will help build you and your confidence.

Jay attended University Academy Long Sutton and then Boston College to study Music and Music Performance. Jay now works in London as a PR Executive. Scan the QR code to hear Jay's full career journey!



See full video interview here



EWAN EAST

PhD Student & Self Employed Musician and Composer

I'm Ewan, 24, I'm also a dad to a nearly two-year-old! I completed my GCSEs at the Priory Academy LSST, and then started studying Music, History and Sociology for my A Levels at the Priory Academy LSST Sixth Form. After beginning my studies, I was encouraged to reconsider my choice of A Level Music, as the theoretical knowledge for the course was considered too high for my ability. This felt like a setback, but I had enough self-belief and drive to tell myself to continue to pursue music. After setting my sights on a career in music, I decided to look into different options to continue studying Music. I moved to the North Hykeham Joint Sixth Form to undertake a BTEC Level 3 in Music. Studying the BTEC course allowed me to develop my performative and compositional skills, and experience exceptional teaching, all of which influenced my future career pathway.

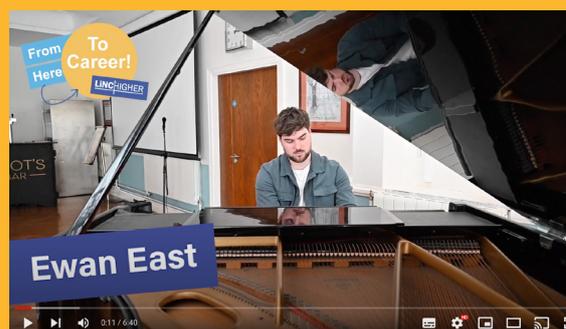
With my main passion in music being composition, I chose to study my undergraduate degree in Music Composition at York St John University, an excellent university and music department that not only allowed me to develop my craft as a composer, but developed instrumental, leadership and career skills. Through the effort and commitment I demonstrated, particularly in my final year of the course, I was the first recipient of the Ann Green Prize for contribution to university music, an achievement that defines my progression and development from GCSEs to my undergraduate degree.

When considering career paths after my undergraduate degree, I found inspiration in the exceptional teaching I experienced from the music department at North Hykeham Joint Sixth Form. I undertook a PGCE in Secondary Music at Bishop Grosseteste University, learning many skills through my placements in Boston. I then completed my NQT year as the only music teacher at Sir Robert Pattinson Academy, which provided its own challenges as this took place during the pandemic. After this, and now with a young child, I took the opportunity to re-consider where I thought my career was taking me. This really was a turning point for me, there's a belief that having children might slow your career down, but having my child enabled me the opportunity to reflect on the choices I had made up until this point.



I decided that a return to Higher Education was the best option to develop my career and be one step closer to what I really wanted to do. Through studying my Masters, I have progressed my career as a composer substantially and have now been accepted to start my PhD in Music Composition at YSJU in October 2022. Studying my PhD allows me to continue to receive the incredible support of lecturers and university resources, as well as take the final necessary steps towards a career in lecturing. I would recommend continuing study to anyone with a keen interest in developing your own expertise in something you are truly passionate about.

Ewan attended The Priory Academy LSST, Studied an undergraduate degree in Music Composition at York St John, and now a Masters in Music Composition whilst leading on to study for his PhD in Music Composition to move forward to a career in lecturing. Scan the QR code to hear Ewan's full career journey!



See full video interview here



ZACHARY LOUTH

Maintainability Engineer
Siemens Energy

At the end of year 11, I was unsure of exactly what job I wanted in the future. I knew that I was more competent at mathematics-based subjects and enjoyed problem solving, but not much else. So, as my older sister had done, I stayed on for 6th form, having chosen Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Computing. Almost straight away I realised that I struggled to find motivation to study these topics. This feeling was shared with a few of my close friends, so we researched and applied for various apprenticeship programs that piqued an interest, for me this was in the engineering field. After an intense application process including a personal statement, aptitude test and interview, I secured my place as 1 of 19 Siemens Lincoln apprentices. I dropped out of 6th form after the first year before completing my A-levels. My other friends had also secured apprenticeships with the likes of BAE Systems and Mercedes-AMG.

The first year of my 4-year apprenticeship was spent full time at Lincoln College completing an NVQ Level 2 and BTEC Level 3 in Mechanical Engineering. From the get-go, I was paid a healthy salary by Siemens, which at age 17 while studying full time felt very empowering. As the apprenticeship went on, our salary increased to match our increasing development. The next 3 years were spent doing 4-month placements around different departments within the business working towards a NVQ Level 3, while also completing a HNC in Mechanical Engineering. At the end I got a job in Maintainability, which then supported me to do a part time degree at The University of Lincoln, which I am now coming to the end of. By the age of 24 I will have a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering on top of 7 years of work life experience, all without a single penny of debt. The apprenticeship has enabled me to be very independent and financially stable, so I have been able to make the most of time off to travel or pursue hobbies. Most friends and I who took this route are now homeowners and feel like we are somewhat ahead of those who took a more traditional path.

I have learnt a lot of skills during my time as an apprentice: communication and confidence especially. Also learning from mistakes and not feeling so pressured to know everything straight



away, but that I can continually learn whilst working. I would tell my teenage self to not be afraid to do things differently or go against what you may feel is expected of you. I think there are so many options that I wasn't aware of at the time, every path can lead to great things if you work hard and believe in yourself.

Zachary attended De Aston Secondary School. Zachary completed his Apprenticeship and works as a Maintainability Engineer at Siemens whilst studying a part-time degree at The University of Lincoln. Scan the QR code to hear Zach's full career journey.



See full video interview here



SARAH MAKEY

Head of Finance Capability
Department for Education

I attended Tollbar Academy and 6th Form, not knowing what I wanted to do but just picking subjects I liked. Like most people, after A-levels I went to University at Nottingham Trent. I still didn't know what I wanted to do and had plunged for Broadcast Journalism. It felt like if I didn't go... then what else would I do at 18. Unfortunately, I quickly realised it wasn't the right decision and 5 months later I left to consider other opportunities. That's where I discovered the Civil Service Fast Track apprenticeship scheme through the Find an Apprenticeship website. This was the best decision I have ever made, and my career really took off from there, progressing through roles in Finance Business Partner Teams, Private Office, Communications and Events and eventually ending up where I currently am as Head of Finance Capability at the Department for Education.

Along the way I have learned that it is okay to not always know what you want to do, because there are always options – whether that be university, apprenticeships, full-time work. As long as you can find something that you enjoy and that will get you out of bed in the morning and you are willing to work hard, then you're onto a good start and things will develop along the way. I was such a planner and wanted to always know what my next step would be but not everything might work out as you had initially planned and that's okay too – I most certainly didn't expect to be working in Finance – I hated Maths at school! But I've gained so much experience in lots of different areas, and most importantly – have taken opportunities when they have presented themselves to me. Sometimes life will be a leap of faith that just has to be jumped! I never thought I would be able to go back to university after leaving, but now I am currently studying the Chartered Institute of Management Degree Apprenticeship with a Degree in Business Management – and as a bonus it's fully funded by my employer. I'm very lucky to have found an employer that is willing to invest in their staff.

Everyone is on their own path and sometimes it is hard when you are comparing yourself to others. I am one of very few in my friendship group that didn't go to university so at the time I was really scared, but actually I've never felt like it held me back - I'm



really proud of myself for doing what was right for me. I wish I had someone at the time to show me that there were different options, that University can be so amazing, but there are also plenty of other fantastic next steps out there too– even if they take a bit of looking for!

Sarah attended Tollbar Academy 6th Form and then went to Nottingham Trent University. After realising this wasn't for her, Sarah discovered the Civil Service Fast Track apprenticeship scheme where she is now the Head of Finance Capability at the Department for Education. Scan the QR code to hear Sarah's full career journey!



See full video interview here



TOMMY ATKINS

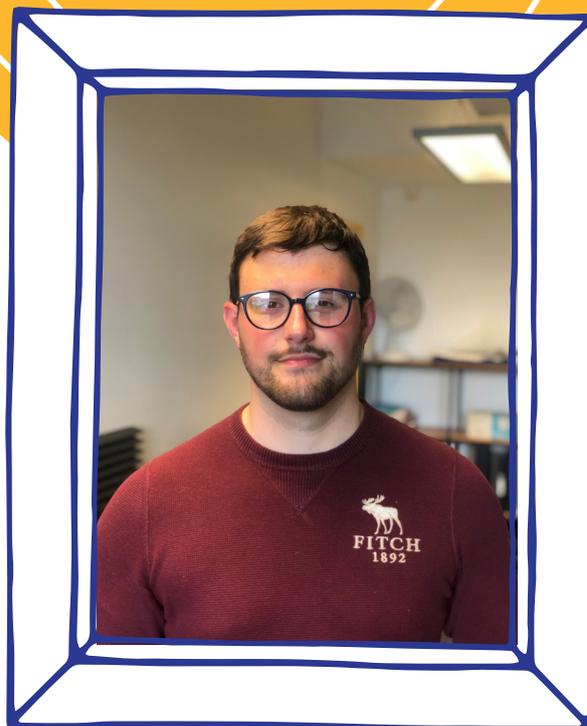
Business Owner

The Identity Agency

My name is Tommy, I'm currently 25 years old and run two companies. I set my first company (The Identity Agency) up when I had just finished my first year at university. This business helps other businesses with their branding, website and marketing. Around two years later, I started a company called Festico with a friend. This company is creating alcoholic drinks, and by the time you read this, our drinks will probably be on the market!

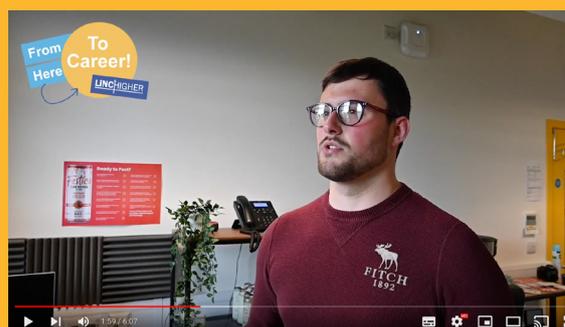
So, how did I get here? When I was 13, I moved from a village called Epworth to Lincoln, joining Lincoln Minster School. I remained at the school until my first year of A-Levels. During this year, I really struggled with my mental health, and leaving school was the option that made the most sense. It would give me time to get better, and more time to discover what I wanted to do after I finished education. After a few months of being out of education, I found a job as an apprentice joiner with a construction company. After 18 months, I knew that it wasn't right for me. Being out in the cold and rain in the winter, and blistering heat in the summer was tough! So, I decided to go to Lincoln College to get my A-Levels. After finishing my A-Levels, I studied Law at Sheffield Hallam University. I managed to do great in my Law degree, but after finishing it, I knew that what I wanted to do was carry on running my business. This was hard as it was still at the height of pandemic, and I struggled to find new customers. However, after not giving up, the business started to bring in a constant stream of new customers. This allowed me to find my second business which I run alongside the branding agency.

A lesson I have learnt through my experience is that it is genuinely okay not to know what you want to do. Even as adults, you see people re-training for a complete career shift. It's just part of life. So, if adults who have been working 20 years have realised that the career or industry they were in isn't right for them, you shouldn't be expected to know what you want to do either. If you do know, that's great - if you don't know, you're normal! Secondly, you need to be open minded and look wider than average salary lists. If you're driven by money, you might struggle to find a career path that gives time to spend with your family and friends or to pursue hobbies and interests.



Wherever your priorities lie, your career needs to let you pursue them, directly or indirectly. Some advice I would give to my teenage self is to not pressure yourself when deciding what to do. There are an infinite number of options for career paths, each of which have their own advantages and disadvantages. You can't be expected to know what you want to do before you've tried it. Secondly, it really doesn't matter what job you do if you're not happy. Do something that allows you to be happy, whether that's a job with a good work life balance, or a job that interests you. Lastly, you're not going to know if you like something until you try it, and when you try something, there's no pressure to keep doing it if it's not making you happy!

Tommy attended Lincoln Minister School and studied A-Levels at Lincoln College. Tommy studied Law at Sheffield Hallam University and now runs two of his own companies, scan the QR code to hear Tommy's full career journey!



See full video interview here



JO TOLLEY

Business Owner and Co-Chair of Lincolnshire Young Voices

Lincolnshire County Council

When people ask me to introduce myself, I never know where to start. For me, this question is the ‘welcome mat’ to my unconventional, utterly bonkers, always chaotic life. So, on that note...Hi! I’m Jo Tolley. I am an avid tea-drinker, a lover of good people, and a self-professed obsessive when it comes to animals of all kinds, and this is my path to becoming an international disability consultant.

It started with wheels, and ballet shoes, and me very quickly learning that as I rode around on a contraption that kids mistook for a six-wheeled robot, my dreams of starring in ‘Swan Lake’ would never become a reality. Sure, possessing the ‘disability card’ had its perks: front row seats, queue-jumping at Disney, and decent parking spaces, but personally, I wanted run as far away from my cerebral palsy as I could. However, disability is a part of human diversity, so by denying it existed was to deny myself a plethora of wonderfully exciting and transformative opportunities.

Once I begun to not only accept my disability for what it was, but also embrace it, it ignited my passion instead of engulfing me in flames which screamed “she’s defined by everything she cannot do”. I was then able to make a real difference. From projects that focus on innovative product design, to charity work, to having a seat at the ‘disability in the arts’ table, my work life is varied and versatile. Though, a major highlight came when I was appointed Co-Chair of Lincolnshire Young Voices: a pan-disability participation group for children and young people who are driven and determined to create positive change in services for other people in their position. In a nutshell, singularly and collectively, these vibrant individuals are the voice of revolutionising the way in which disability is viewed within our county and further afield.

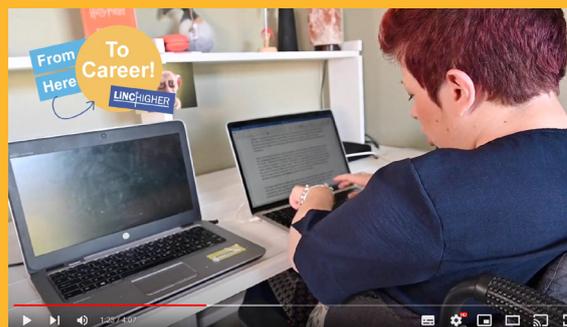
Upon the decision to practice what I preached; I had the honour of finding my own voice on the TEDxBrayfordPool stage. In a space where there’s only room for dancing and no room for doubt, I advocated for disability, equity, and diversity. In turn, my ‘red dot debut’ was the initiation of ijot aka ‘I, Jo Tolley’. It would be an understatement to say that a local spot within a global conference was a small gig– life hasn’t been the



same since. Recently, I joined the team at The Nora Project as UK Programme Liaison. With the aim of bringing success from Chicago to across the pond, we’re on a mission to promote disability inclusion by empowering educators and engaging students and communities.

If someone had told my sixteen-year-old self that I would call myself a disability consultant with pride, I’d have laughed in their face. To anyone for whom this resonates, my advice would be this: don’t be afraid of forging your own path – we’re not designed to fit in. Celebrate who you are and champion others who do the same. Do not be defined by your labels – they are there for you to use to your advantage!

Jo attended William Farr Comprehensive School. Jo now works for Lincolnshire County Council as the Co-Chair of Lincolnshire Young Voices and has worked on various projects. Scan the QR code to hear Jo’s full career journey!



See full video interview here



ELLA HALL

Self Employed Advanced Aesthetics Practitioner Aesthetics by Ella-Marie

I began my journey in 2015 at Stamford College, where I studied Health and Social Care at Level 3. This gave me a good foundation knowledge in areas such as anatomy and physiology, communication, psychology, and sociology and plenty of placements to gain experience. The ability to do placement in different service areas gave me a great insight as to the options that were available – for example, opportunities and career paths that were not necessarily all university focused. It gave me a solid foundation of knowledge to be able to decide on my future career choice, especially what area of health and social care I enjoyed and what I could do as a career moving forward.

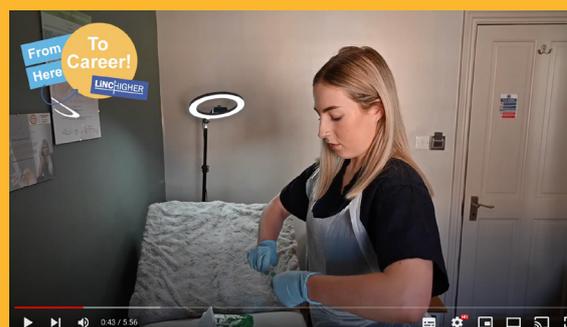
I then went on to study nursing at university, graduating as a Child Nurse in 2020 (mid pandemic!). This was challenging yet rewarding and I was fortunate to experience a range of community and clinical placements in-between academic study. Areas I worked as a student children's nurse included medical, surgical, oncology, cardiology and ITU, as well as a health visiting placement. A definite variety! I began my qualified nursing career on paediatric oncology and haematology, gaining wider experience across the children's hospital and expanding my patient communication and clinical skill set.

During the pandemic, I decided to start up my own aesthetics nursing business – Aesthetics by Ella Marie, and qualified in late 2021. I am qualified in many treatments which cover both medical and health benefits, including medical grade skin facials and vitamin injections. Starting your own business – in all fields of work is something I would recommend. It is great having the flexibility, as well as using clinical nursing skills in a different field of nursing, but also building great patient/client relationships. Despite it being challenging at times (nobody tells you how to run a business!), it is extremely rewarding, and you can see the hard work paying off. Pick something you love to do, have passion, and interest in and run with it!



As well as building and running my business, I chose to work within the school nursing field to experience the community field within paediatrics. I also work from time to time in clinical ward-based settings to ensure I keep up to date with elements such as NHS policy, as well as keeping up to date with clinical needs and learning new skills. You can never stop learning, and with nursing, there are so many windows of opportunity you can take. If you like fast-paced, challenging yet rewarding work, it definitely something to consider as a career. The world is your oyster!

Ella attended Stamford College where she studied Health and Social care, Ella is now a child nurse with her own aesthetics nursing business. Scan the QR code to hear Ella's full career journey!



See full video interview here



ELLIS POTTER

Strategic Careers Lead

The Priory Federation of Academies Trust

My educational and professional journey began at Boston Grammar School, which is where I studied my GCSEs and my A Levels, which were in French, English Literature, Government and Politics, and History.

I always knew I wanted to go to university, so after leaving Boston Grammar School I studied for a Law degree at the University of Leicester. Going to university was an incredible experience – it meant moving away from home, becoming independent, and meeting people from all over the country and across the world. Whilst getting the degree was important, my university experience meant much more to me than that!

I was never certain about what career I wanted to do, and I have learned since leaving university that that is okay – in fact, it is really quite normal! What I have found instead is that you must put yourself into the best position possible to take advantage of any chances or opportunities that come your way – which could be in something you never expected.

Following roles within retail, the NHS, and in financial accounts, I started a role working at Boston College, for the LiNCHigher project, a few months after leaving university. My role was to work with schools and students in Boston to raise aspirations and increase the likelihood that students would make informed and inspired decisions – something I am still passionate about today. I moved into a number of different roles within LiNCHigher, eventually leading to me being based at Bishop Grosseteste University in Lincoln and leaving my hometown of Boston.

More recently, I have moved to work as the Strategic Careers Lead for the Priory Federation of Academies Trust, meaning I oversee all-things-careers across our academies and our apprenticeships provision. I am also completing a Level 6 apprenticeship, to become a Career Development Professional, which has been a brilliant opportunity to learn new knowledge and develop new skills.

When I think back to the advice I would give to my teenage self, and the lessons that I have learned as I have embarked on my career journey, I would say these are the things that stand out for me:



If I were to give advice to my teenage self, I would say to find something you are passionate about – that could be a school subject, it could be a job sector you want to work in, or it could be something broader like a sport, a hobby, or a social cause like climate change! Whatever it is, it will help to motivate you and give you purpose as you navigate your education, your career, and your life! Similarly to my previous point - love to learn! This doesn't need to be traditional education! Love learning new skills, or trying new things, and that will help you spark and discover those things you are passionate about! Don't be afraid to fail – learn to love that too! Always look for the good in everything and everyone – think about all the things you can do or achieve, not what you can't! Back yourself, always.

Ellis attended Boston Grammar School and then went to The University of Leicester to study Law. Ellis now works as the Strategic Careers Lead for the Priory Federation of Academies. Scan the QR code to hear Ellis' full career journey!



See full video
interview here



AMY WALLIS

Marketing Consultant and Public Speaker

My first job was a paper round in my younger years. I had it in me from a young age to work hard in life. I honestly don't know where that came from, and I was always internally driven. You know you are focused when your parents are telling you to go out and have fun.

I attended Branston Community Academy where I applied for the Arkwright Scholarship. It was here I discovered robots weren't my thing, instead my love of design and strategy was born. That is what sparked studying Advertising & Marketing at The University of Lincoln, where I proudly achieved a first-class honours degree. One of my proudest achievements to date and WOW did I work hard for that!

Let's not forget that whilst at school and University, I worked as a silver service waitress and loved every minute of it. I also helped with the marketing of the hotel, enhancing and reiterating that I was on the correct path. I have A LOT to thank this time of my life, it gifted me with people skills, greater confidence, and resilience. Memory skills also, remembering all those orders. I say 'gifted me', but I went out there and made it happen. I truly and sincerely hope this inspires you to do the same. Although I didn't really come up for air for 3 years of my life, I wouldn't have changed it for the world as it instilled that work hard, play hard mantra I continue to stand by.

Degree finished, I embarked on my full-time working journey at a local internet marketing company. I then decided to re-evaluate my life and asked myself, "what do I really want out of my life?" I left the company and at this time I didn't know what I would do next. It was a liberating feeling and shows you don't always have to have everything figured out, nor should you. It was during this break that my lightbulb moment happened. I was going to start a marketing agency, and I did. After much hard work and my parents' garage for inspiration, I started Market inn at the tender age of 22. I pitched for a grant at Sparkhouse as part of Student Enterprise and hit the ground running. This would go on to win Lincolnshire Echo/ Lincolnshire Live Start-up Business of the Year and I was named 1 of the Lincolnite's Lincolnshire 30 under 30 Ones To Watch. With a team of 3, worldwide, award-winning and respected, I went on to run the agency for just under 4 years. 1 year in, I introduced Harry to the team and around 3 years in, Georgia. Both were superstars in their own right and I am privileged they were part of my journey.



For the next part of my journey, I would proudly go on to the charity sector. I was Marketing & Fundraising Manager for YMCA Lincolnshire. What an inspiring bunch of people, I am in absolute awe and continue to support them as an outsider to this day.

Fast forward to today and I am a Marketing Consultant, Speaker, City Tribe Ambassador and Degree Authenticator. I wouldn't be here right now if it wasn't for my individual journey. Enjoy your journey and don't compare yourself to anyone else, I didn't. If I could give you one piece of advice in life, it would be to stay true to yourself at every single stage of your journey. Don't expect the journey to be easy because it won't be. Life is what you make it, so ask yourself, "what do I want from this life?" and make it. Have no regrets and remember to have fun!

Amy attended Branston Community Academy and then studied at The University of Lincoln. Amy began her own Marketing Agency and is now a Marketing Consultant and Public Speaker. Scan the QR code to hear Amy's full career journey!



See full video interview here



GEE CARTWRIGHT

Year 6 Class Teacher

White's Wood Academy

I moved to Lincoln when I was four and grew up in a little village called Waddington. Growing up, I adored school and there was never any doubt that I wanted to become a teacher, my aspirations were behind every academic and professional decision that I made in those early years. From age sixteen, I started volunteering with local schools where I gained valuable experience to support my university application.

When it came to choosing my university, I originally intended to move to another city and try something different. However, I couldn't ignore the wonderful university right on my doorstep: Bishop Grosseteste University. In 2013, I started my BA (hons) in History and Education Studies, and I graduated with a 2:1.

That wasn't the end of my journey with BGU though! In 2016, I enrolled on their PGCE Primary (7-11) course and graduated from this in 2017 with an 'Outstanding' in all 8 of the teachers' standards – something that I am exceptionally proud of. I was lucky to receive a job offer at one of my placement schools, although I unfortunately had to make the difficult decision to decline this offer, as I'd already applied to study my MA Education. Although I was keen to start my career; I also had a thirst for knowledge and still loved to learn.

In March 2018, I was approached again by the Head of School at my original placement school. He really wanted me to join the team and I didn't want to turn down this opportunity again. Finding the right school is essential, your school and its staff will become your family and I always felt like I belonged. Through support, I was able to start teaching in April 2018 while I continued my MA studies. I graduated later that year, while also completing my Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) year.

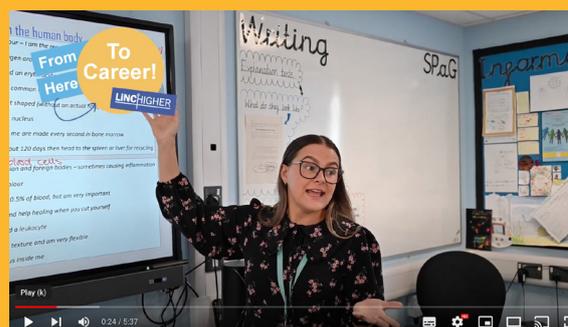
Since starting teaching in 2018, I have enjoyed a very successful career so far. I spent some of my NQT year in Year 4, before moving to Year 3 for two years. Having completed my NQT and RQT (Recently Qualified Teacher) years, I moved to Year 6, where I have been for the past two academic years. Despite the many challenges of the pandemic, I have thoroughly enjoyed my two years in Year 6 and hope to remain here next academic year! During my RQT year, I became a Middle Leader and took on the role of History Subject



Leader and Geography Subject Leader. These are subjects that I thoroughly enjoy and I have loved being involved in them as a Middle Leader. Recently, I also created a Social Media and Marketing proposal which I successfully put to the Leadership Team. Consequently, I have taken on the role of Social Media Leader and I have really enjoyed getting stuck into the advertising and marketing side! As of September 2022, I am immensely proud to say that I will be joining the Leadership Team at my school!

In under 10 years, I have gone from being an 18 year old 'Fresher' to a 26 year old Year 6 Class Teacher and member of the Leadership Team. I have had a successful and enjoyable early career and I owe so much of that success to the knowledge, skills and connections that I made through BGU. Recently, I have been given the opportunity to be able to give a little back to that community and have been giving guest lectures to the PGCE Primary cohort.

Gee attended Branston Community Academy and studied History and Education at Bishop Grosseteste University. Gee is now a teacher at a Primary School, teaching Year 6 students. Click the QR code to hear Gee's full career journey!



See full video interview here



EMILY MARROWS

Reception Teacher

Theddlethorpe Academy

My journey started back when I was much younger, I have always been shy, unconfident and didn't like the attention. Throughout my younger years and teenage years, I was a Ballroom and Latin dancer based in Louth. I started helping out and supporting at classes which was a big deal for me. As the years went by, I was becoming more confident in talking and helping people, it gave me a warm, happy feeling.

With this in mind, during 6th form, I volunteered in local primary schools. I quickly realised I enjoyed working with children and seeing their faces light up when they had achieved something, learnt something new and just had a love for learning. It was a similar feeling I had when I was dancing. When looking at universities, for me, I wanted one that was smaller, local and would suit my personality and dreams. I applied locally to BGU as I knew Lincoln and it wasn't far from my hometown of Louth. Initially, I didn't get a place on the Primary QTS course but I was offered a place on the Education and English degree. I jumped at the chance and took every opportunity as a learning curve.

During my time at university, I learnt more, achieved more and accomplished things I would never thought I would achieve. I volunteered to help at residential with children in care, started the cheerleading society, joined the dance and netball societies, worked in many different schools and had the best time. My confidence and knowledge just kept flourishing. After graduating with a 2:1 degree in Education Studies and English, the following year, I studied for my PGCE and qualified as a Primary School Teacher, specialising in years 3-7. I thoroughly enjoyed the university experience that much that I am considering going back to study a Masters in Education.

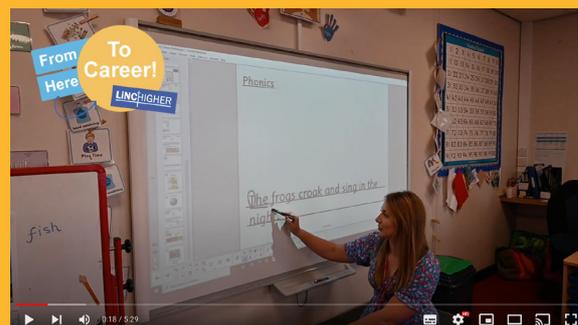
After graduating, I got offered a job back home as a Reception Teacher and haven't looked back since! I have been there 5 years now and have loved every minute. It has been a rollercoaster, some hard, some good and some rewarding times but I knew that would be the case. I have achieved so many different things so far, including EYFS and Phonics Lead. However, throughout these years, I have undergone 10 different



surgeries on my hips and knees, had a lifechanging diagnosis of chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) and lost my Nana to cancer.

I have learnt that whatever you set your mind to, you will achieve it. It may not be a level, nice and calm rollercoaster but you will get there. But, if I had to give my teenage self some advice, it would be, don't be afraid to ask for help. I always thought asking for help was a way of failing and not being the best version of myself but throughout my journey, I realised, it isn't failure, it is a way of bettering myself.

Emily attended Louth Academy and then studied Education and English at Bishop Grosseteste University. After studying for a PGCE, Emily is now working as a Reception Teacher! Scan the QR code to hear Emily's full career journey!



See full video interview here



CHLOE NESLEN

HR Manager
MRI Software

I'm Chloe Neslen, a Human Resources Manager for a Software Company located in Sleaford, Lincolnshire. I'm a young Lincolnshire professional having gone to school at North Kesteven School and Sixth form there also. After I finished my A-Levels, instead of taking my offer of going to Nottingham Trent Uni to study Law, I decided to go straight into the world of work and get an apprenticeship.

After lots of applications, I obtained an apprenticeship at The City of Lincoln Council where I was placed in an admin team that supported a larger department. I was exposed to so many initiatives, working on events and large projects and most importantly with some amazing professionals, towards the end of my apprenticeship was offered a role as a Project Assistant on a fixed-term contract. I then saw an advertisement for a Trainee HR Officer and was encouraged by my colleagues to apply and was successful. I started my Trainee HR Officer and HR qualification there.

Halfway through my qualification, I applied for an HR Officer role at a software company called Qube Global Software. During my interview, I was informed the individual who was carrying out payroll duties was going out on maternity. Did I have any experience to take on those tasks during her Maternity leave? I explained I didn't, but I would be keen to learn. I was offered the HR Officer role, with payroll duties for the first year.

Towards the end of my first year of employment, Qube was acquired by an American company MRI Software, I was TUPE'd over and joined a crazy growth journey. MRI went on to acquire 9 other UK companies to date and I led the talent side of the integration. We went from 250 UK employees to 850 UK employees to date in under 5 years. In February 2020, I, along with 40 other global non-sales employees were selected to go on a trip called Circle of Excellence based on my 2019 performance.

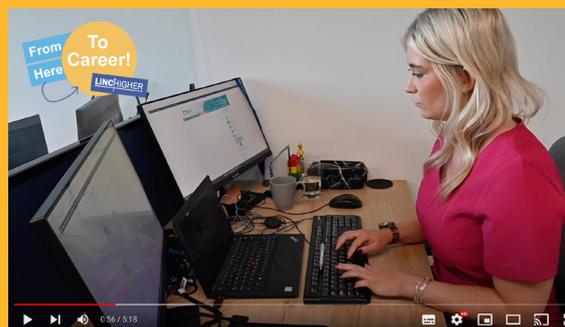
This was in the Bahamas and will be a memory in my career I will never forget. In August 2020 I was promoted to HR Manager and started to lead a team and mentor an apprentice. I am extremely passionate about making sure her apprenticeship is the start of an amazing journey as I believe it's a great career path. I have always continued to learn, once I completed my



initial Level 3 HR professional qualification, I went on to complete my Level 5 HR Management Qualification. In January of this year, I graduated with a 2:1 in Business Management from the University of Lincoln, through a distance learning course. All my studies have been employer-funded.

Lessons I have learnt are to never say no to any opportunity, even if you are not sure if you will enjoy it or be good at it, do it! Always network and build relationships, you learn most from the people around you and the mentors in your life. Continue to learn, whether that is professional in your chosen field through webinars and events or through academic qualifications, go for it, always grow!

Chloe attended North Kesteven Secondary School and Sixth Form. After this, Chloe went on to get an apprenticeship and is now working as a HR Manager. Scan the QR code to hear Chloe's full career journey!



From Here to Career Worksheets

Now that you have heard from some of our contributors about their education and careers so far, it's now over to you! Hopefully they have given you some insight into what their jobs are like and what qualifications, experience, or skills they needed to get to this point in their careers. In the next section of this resource, we have created some worksheets so that you can take some time to reflect on what you have learned about their jobs and think about your own journey. Where will you go from here?!

Skills and interests

First let's start with your skills and interests, what are you good at and what do you enjoy doing?

Skills	Interests
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.

Are there any themes developing?

Your top 3

Choose three of the individuals from the booklet. Which stories inspire you the most, and which do you think align to your interests best? Write their name in the top box, and then describe what you like about their story below.

Is there anything from all three of these stories which overlaps?

Career Ideas

What are your aspirational career ideas? Take inspiration from some of the stories you have already identified, where would you like to see yourself in about 10 years time?



Education path

What steps are you most interested in for your education journey?

STUDY TYPE	✓ / ✗
GCSEs (Your level 2 qualifications at school)	
A Level (Your level 3 qualifications at sixth form or college)	
Apprenticeship	
Undergraduate Study (Level 6 qualification – A degree at university)	
Postgraduate Study (Following undergraduate, A Masters or PhD)	

Consider your career ideas and the education journeys you have seen from the From Here to Career individuals. Now identify **ONE** ideal career best suited to your preferences.

My Ideal Career

My Ideal Career

What are your next five steps going to be to be able to reach your ideal career?

Step 1	
Step 2	
Step 3	
Step 4	
Step 5	

What if?...

You will now have a good idea of what your skills and interests are, and the possible education path you would take to lead you to your ideal career choice. So, what if you changed your mind, or met an obstacle in which you needed to rethink your future?

Now you should pick another individual from the booklet. Who's journey do you think you might be able to take inspiration from, and use your transferable skills for to reach success?

.....'s journey.	What is different from my original plan?	What do I like about this person's journey and what transferable skills could I use?

Thank you for completing these From Here to Career activities!

Video Links

Click on the image of each contributor to view their video on Youtube.



Jay Nyang
PR Account Executive
- Clarity Global



Ewan East
PhD Student & Self
Employed Musician
and Composer



Zachary Louth
Maintainability Engineer
- Siemens Energy



Sarah Makey
Head of Finance Capability
- Department for Education



Tommy Atkins
Business Owner
- The Identity Agency



Jo Tolley
Business Owner &
Co-Chair of Lincolnshire
Young Voices - Lincolnshire
County Council



Ella-Marie Hall
Self Employed Advanced
Aesthetics Practitioner
- Aesthetics by Ella-Marie



Ellis Potter
Strategic Careers Lead
- The Priory Federation of
Academies Trust



Amy Wallis
Marketing Consultant and
Public Speaker



Gee Cartwright
Year 6 Class Teacher
- White's Wood Academy



Emily Marrows
Reception Teacher
- Theddlethorpe Academy



Chloe Neslen
HR Manager
- MRI Software

We hope you have found the From Here to Career resource useful, thank you to everyone who took part!
If there are any sectors you would like to see in future updates, please let us know!

For loads more resources and information from LiNCHigher, please take a look at our website at www.thefuturefocus.co.uk

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