

# Joining the dots: Improving your skills

Guidance Notes



# Joining the dots: Improving your skills

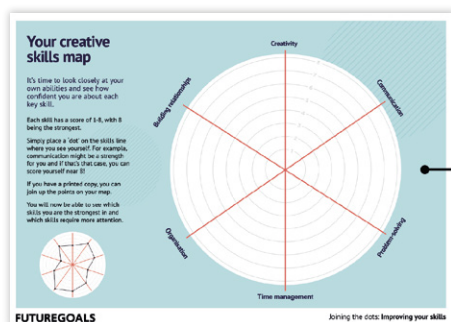
## Guidance Notes

This activity focuses on reflection, problem solving and research skills. Students will undertake activities that will help them to be more creative and innovative and have a better understanding of where these skills are used in various careers in the Creative Sector.



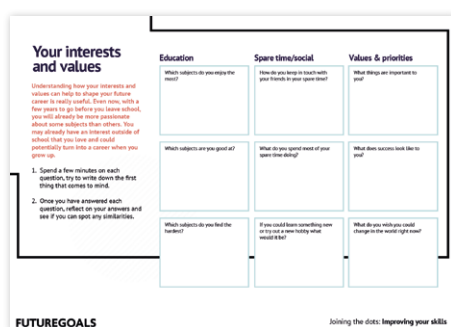
## The Challenge:

This resource aims to support students in evaluating their personal skills and attributing these to future career options within the Creative Sector. To begin with, students should spend time understanding the meaning of each top key skill, from communication to time management. It's important that they understand these skills in order to successfully progress through the activity.



## Your creative skills map

In order to quickly evaluate their own skills, students will rank themselves out of 8 based on how confident they feel about each key skill. This task should leave them with a clearer idea of the areas that will require more attention. If students are working with a printed version, they can join up the dots.



## Your interests and values

For this stage, students need to think about themselves and their values. They should answer each question provided, thinking about their school experience and socialising choices. This will start to form a better picture of the type of Creative Sector career that might be right for them.

### Creative career opportunities

We're not saying that you should already know what your future career will be, but by reflecting on your interests and values you'll be one step closer to understanding what your future might look like.

1. Think about the following questions. Write a list of ideas that you think you might like to explore. (You can add more ideas as you think of them.)
2. Think about the following questions. Write a list of ideas that you think you might like to explore. (You can add more ideas as you think of them.)
3. Use a quick look back at your career ideas. Write a list of ideas that you think you might like to explore. (You can add more ideas as you think of them.)

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## Creative career opportunities

This is where research comes into play. Now that students understand their skillset and interests a bit more, they should spend time researching a wide variety of creative career options and settling on three that spark their interest (there are website links to use for this research).

Once they have chosen three careers, they need to make a note of the three top skills needed when applying for the roles. Finally, they should look back at their skills map, identify the skills they have just made a note of and add their ranking score to the table. This should enable them to see, for the job roles they selected, which skills are the most important and which of these skills they need to improve on in order to achieve that career.

### Opportunities

Job roles	Top skills	My skill rating
1		
2		
3		

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### Connecting the dots

From the job roles you found the most interesting and the skills that you think in your weakest, what do you think you need to focus on in order to prepare for a career within the Creative Sector?

**Skills focus:**

This is your 'weak' skill to focus on.

Make a quick list of activities and tasks that can help you to develop your skill. If you can't think of any activity ideas, you can take a look through the [Skill Activity Inspiration](#) page.

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## Connecting the dots

It's now time to bring everything together. Students should now make a note of the skill that they need to focus on in order to successfully progress towards a career that interests them. Using the 'Skill Activity Inspiration' page, students should come up with ways that they can perfect their least confident skill.

### Skill activity inspiration

#### Creativity

- Design a boardgame for you and your family to play.
- Create motivational posters to place around the house.

#### Communication

- Tell someone a story (it could even be about what you did yesterday).
- Write a letter to the Prime Minister about your experience of lockdown.
- Write a speech persuading that you are the Prime Minister.

#### Problem-solving

- Find items in the cupboard and fridge, guess meals for your household.
- Have a go at puzzle solving apps.
- Create an escape room in your bedroom.

#### Time management

- Make a plan for day. Make a do to list and try to finish all tasks in set times.
- Plan someone else's day (include everything that they want to achieve).

#### Organisation

- Help to do the online food shop.
- Help your room.
- Sort and label an area in the home that will make life easier for your household.

#### Building relationships

- Learn three new things about someone in your household or family. You could ask them in person, via phone or virtual communication.

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