

HALFTIME TALKS

Having more informed conversations with your child about career and education options

Well, that first half was absolutely brilliant/awful/ meh, but now it's half time, there are a few things you could do:

- Sit on the sofa and check your sports app which confirms your biggest rivals are somehow winning again.
- Make a cup of tea and call your mate to explain where the manager is going wrong.
- Talk to your teen about their next steps.

Talking to your child about life after school can feel like tiptoeing through Glasgow in a full England kit. But it's important, and with the right tone it doesn't have to end in door slams or chants of 'who are ya?'

Start by reminding them that the conversations you have now don't lock them into a contract for the next 10 years (this isn't Chelsea); they're just an opportunity to explore what they might want to do next. Whether it's a T-level, A-levels, an apprenticeship and then on to a HTQ, degree, or straight into work, there are some great options that will open up lots of exciting career opportunities.

“Half-time doesn't have to be about tactics – it can be a great opportunity for **parents** to talk to their **kids** about what's next.”



TOP TIPS

Keep things casual – the half-time break is the perfect time to chat.

The key is to listen more than talk. Ask what they enjoy, which subjects they like, or even which jobs seem interesting. It's about opening up possibilities, not closing doors.

It might seem obvious but everything that you see around you has a job attached to it. The home you're sitting in? Designed and built by experts. The food in your fridge? Harvested by farmers, tested by scientists for safety and quality and delivered to you by logistics specialists.

82% of parents say their kids open up more when bonding over a shared interest – so talk their language. Whether it's football, music, gaming or films, use what you both love as the starting whistle for the conversation.

Visit www.talkingfutures.org.uk for more information

