

# Transition to FE

11

Recommended:  
Year 11



Length:  
95 minutes

## About this lesson

To support students in making their transition to sixth form or college easier and more successful, students will investigate their further education options, identify questions and concerns they have about entering sixth form or college, and discuss them with trusted mentors to help them handle the transition.

## Learning objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- investigate further education options, including courses, enrichment activities, and facilities that align with their interests
- explore ways to make their transition to further education easier and more successful
- identify questions and concerns they have about starting sixth form or college
- explore clubs, activities, and other resources to help handle the transition to FE
- develop other strategies to deal with transitions

## Driving question

How can I make a successful transition to further education ?

## Future-ready skills

Research

Communication

Evaluation

## Lesson breakdown

20  
minutes

### Activity 1 - Follow your interests

In this activity, students will investigate further education options, including courses, enrichment activities and facilities to discover what's available to them and to peak new interests.

45  
minutes

### Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Transition to FE

Direct students to complete the Xello lesson titled **Transition to Further Education**, where they'll explore ways to make their move to sixth form or college easier and more successful by developing strategies to deal with transitions.

30  
minutes

### Activity 3 - Q&A with trusted perspectives

In this activity, students will be given the opportunity to ask trusted mentors, like current sixth form students, college representatives, or teachers, questions about life in sixth form or college.

## Xello entry point

As part of the first activity students will save at least 5 interests, which is a prerequisite for the Xello lesson **Transition to FE**.

## Vocabulary

- Enrichment activities
- Peer pressure
- Interests
- Courses
- Study periods

## Benchmarks & Curriculum

### Gatsby Benchmark 7:

encounters with Further and Higher Education.

**PSHE H2:** understand what can affect wellbeing and resilience (e.g. life changes, relationships, achievements and employment)

# Activity 1 - Follow your interests

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20 minutes

## Inquiry prompts

- How will I pursue my interests in sixth form or college?

## Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will investigate further education options, including courses, enrichment activities, and facilities to discover what's available to them and possibly peak new interests. Their discoveries may lead them to update or add new interests to their Xello **About me** profile.

- 1 Gather resources about your students' further education options. Your students may have more than one sixth form or college to choose from or apply to, and each institution will provide their own unique courses, enrichment options, and facilities. Consult with your school's student support department or head of sixth form, as they may already have information and resources that can be shared with your students. Make these easily accessible for students in Xello by adding them in an **Assignment** or collecting them in one centralised location that can be added by your Xello administrator to the **Links & Resources** section on your students' Xello dashboard.
- 2 Introduce your students to the resources and provide them with the [student instructions](#) on the next page to guide their further education research.
- 3 Regroup with the class for a brief share. Ask each student to contribute an interest they added to their Xello profile and what further education opportunity prompted them to add it.

## Materials required

- Computer or tablet with internet access
- [student instructions](#)
- Resources about your students' further education options (ex. college websites, sixth form guides, and/or social media platforms)

## Artefacts

Students will save at least 5 interests they hope to further explore in FE in their Xello **About me** profile.

# Follow your interests

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## Student instructions

Further education (FE) is a whole different world than secondary school. And there's a lot to look forward to! Further education means more freedom. It also comes with more opportunities.

As a sixth form or college student, you can expect:

- A wider range of courses and subjects
- Lots of enrichment to choose from
- More social opportunities
- A variety of events

It's also a great time to explore your interests. You can do this by getting involved with clubs and activities, or by taking new subjects. What opportunities would you like to pursue in further education? It's okay if you're not sure yet, you still have time to decide. You can begin by exploring the further education resources provided by your teacher or careers adviser.

- 1 While investigating your FE options consider:
  - What clubs or activities interest me?
  - What courses am I curious about?
  - What enrichment activities do I want to check out?
- 2 Record your discoveries on your Xello **About me** profile within the **Interests** section. Whether it's a club, course, or sports team, the opportunity likely matches an interest you already have or is one you're interested in exploring. Make sure to capture at least 5 interests you hope to further explore in sixth form or college.

# Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Transition to FE

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Length:  
45 minutes

## About this activity

In activity 1, students investigated further education options, including courses, enrichment activities, and facilities to discover what's available to them and to peak new interests. Their next step is to complete the **Transition to FE** lesson in Xello!

In this activity, students explore the ways that studying at college or sixth form will differ from school. They investigate their further education options and consider ways to make a smooth transition to further education.

## Inquiry prompts

- How do you think further education will differ from school?
- Do you have any concerns about studying at college / sixth form?
- What new learning opportunities will you have?
- What questions do you have about further education?

## Before you begin

Before diving in with your students:

1. Create a copy or download the [Transition to FE slide presentation](#) to use as a helpful teaching aid before and after the Xello lesson.
2. Review the slides (including the speaker notes section) for suggested discussion strategies and prompts.
3. Update slide 5 of the presentation with your students' Xello sign in format. If you don't know your students' Xello login format check out [Sign in to Xello](#) for support.

## Teaching strategies

Use the following strategies to set your students up for success:

- 1 Before students start the Xello lesson, take 5 minutes to have them review and consider the inquiry prompts from the **Warm up** activity slide of the [Transition to FE slide presentation](#), or choose your own. Advise students to keep these questions in mind as they complete the lesson. You will revisit these questions with them in the **Exit activity** afterwards.
- 2 Help your students log in to their Xello account. Project your screen as you model how to navigate to the lesson using your demo student account. From the student dashboard, click on a lesson to get started. If the lesson you want isn't visible, access it by selecting **View all lessons** below the lessons shown.
- 3 Students finished early? If students have time after completing the Xello lesson, encourage them to add interests they'd like to explore in college or sixth form to their interests section in Xello.
- 4 Once students have completed the Xello lesson, return to the [Transition to FE slide presentation](#) to have students revisit the inquiry prompts you posed at the beginning of class.

## Materials required

- Computers or tablets with internet access
- Whiteboard/projector
- [Transition to FE slide presentation](#)

## Prerequisites

- Save 5 interests

## Artefacts

Students will complete the Xello lesson: **Transition to FE**.

## Activity 2 - Xello Lesson: Transition to FE

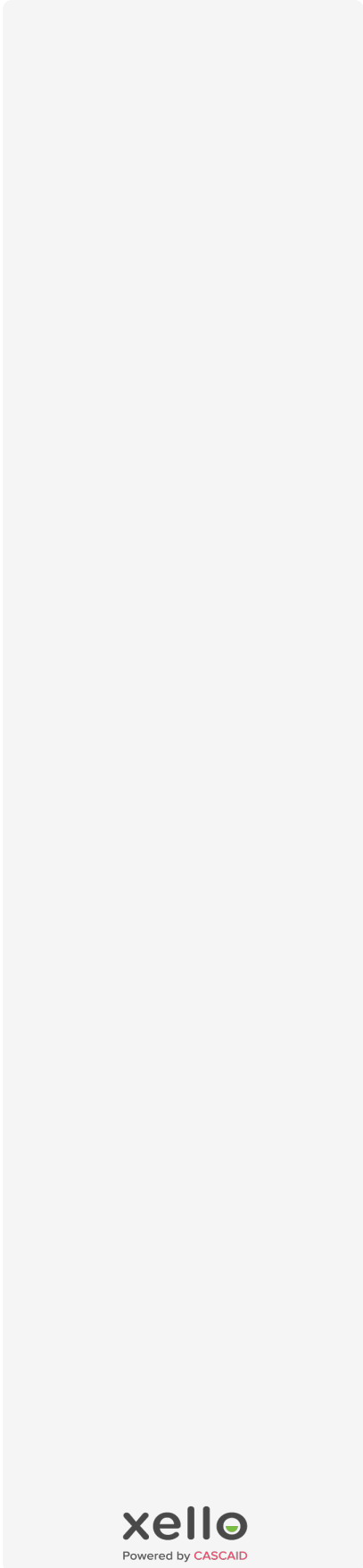


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45 minutes

**OPTIONAL:** Document the responses. Ask students to reflect on and share their observations about them. Encourage students to make connections, and notice themes, similarities, or differences about what they and their classmates are looking forward to most about their transition to FE.



## Activity 3 - Q&A with trusted perspectives

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Length:  
30 minutes

### Inquiry prompts

- What questions do I have about further education?

### Teaching strategies

In this activity, students will be given the opportunity to ask trusted mentors, like current sixth form or college students, student support workers, or teachers, questions about life in sixth form or college.

- 1 Based on your students interests shared in Activity #1, coordinate a small group of trusted mentors to attend an upcoming class. Getting everyone to your classroom might be tough, so consider hosting your guests, and possibly your students, via an online conference tool. If you're not sure who to ask or how to get in touch with prospective mentors, reach out to your student support department and/or local colleges for support.
- 2 Prior to the class, share the date and introduce the tentative list of mentors with your students. Have your students provide some questions they hope can be answered by someone on this panel. Let them know you won't be able to ask them all, but there may be time for an open Q&A where additional questions can be asked.  
**NOTE:** If you're using a new conference tool for the first time, it will be important to establish online etiquette with your students in advance (i.e. muting microphones, camera use, and raising your hand to speak). Also, try using the tool with your students before the scheduled Q&A to resolve any technical issues.
- 3 With proper permissions, record the session. Some students may be absent or may wish to revisit information that was shared, so be sure to post the recording for everyone.  
**NOTE:** Most online conferencing tools have a built in recording tool, so be sure to test this feature in advance.
- 4 If you've planned a 30 minute Q&A, prepare 5-7 student questions and identify who you'll direct each question to. Make sure the questions are open ended and where possible, encourage them to elaborate through anecdotal stories.
- 5 If time allows, open up the Q&A to your students to ask additional questions.
- 6 Be sure to thank your mentors for volunteering their time to support your class with their transition to further education!

### Materials required

- 3-4 trusted sixth form or college representatives (students, student support workers, or teachers)
- Computer or tablet with internet access
- Online conferencing tool (i.e. Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, or Zoom)

### Artefacts

You will record the Q&A session and post or distribute the recording file so your students can revisit it at any time.