



Department
for Education

Our Future News



#3

Hello

Welcome to the third edition of Our Future News.

For the past three years you have helped the Department for Education by taking part in the Our Future Study. This study is really important to us, as there are no others like it. That means that you are also important to us, and we appreciate all of your help so far. Thank you for continuing to help make this study such a success.

As a reminder...

Many surveys give a one-off snapshot of what people are thinking or doing at the time they are interviewed. Our Future is different as it follows young people's lives over a number of years and sees how and why changes happen, which gives us a really interesting and dynamic picture. Only a study like this can help us plan for the future. In this leaflet, we've included some more findings from the last time we spoke to you.

If you have access to the internet, you can also go to the Our Future website: www.education.gov.uk/ourfuture. This is a website for you and everybody else taking part in the study.

Here you'll find more information about the study and how we intend to use the results to improve schools, colleges and services for all young people. You can also use the site to find out about what's happening this year and find contact details for the Our Future team if you need to get in touch with us.

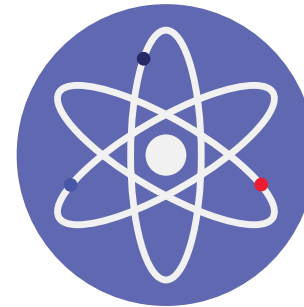
#3



What you thought of your time at school

When we spoke to you in 2015, we asked about how you felt about your time in school right up to year 11, including how much you enjoyed school and how hard you had worked in school. Like the previous year, we had some really positive answers! 81% of you on the whole liked being at school and 78% of you found your lessons interesting.

Again, girls were more likely than boys to strongly agree that they worked as hard as they could at school. However, 92% of both boys and girls thought school work was worth doing.



78%

The work I do in lessons is interesting to me –
% strongly agree / agree



81%

On the whole I like being at school –
% strongly agree / agree

You also had some helpful friends in school with 73% of you saying your friends helped you with school work.



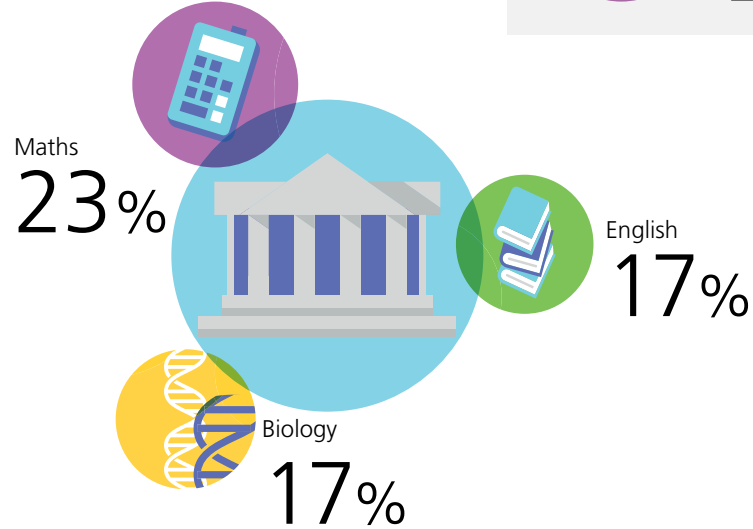
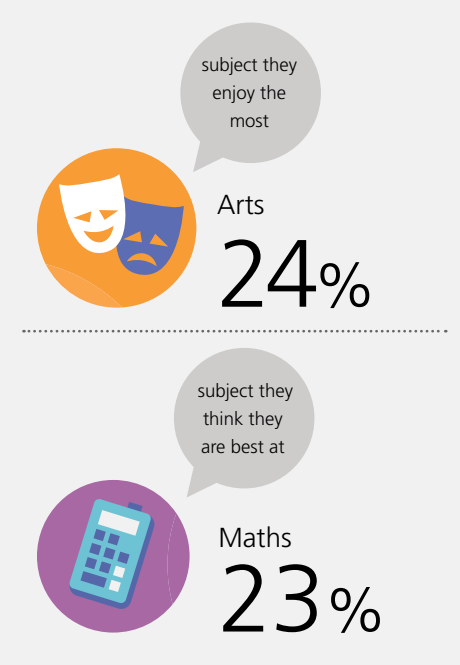
73%

My friends help me with school work –
% strongly agree / agree

Subjects

Your favourite subjects in school were Art subjects (Art, Music, Drama) with 24% of you ranking it as the subject you enjoy most. However, this isn't the subject you thought you did the best in. 23% of you ranked Maths as the subject you thought you did the best in.

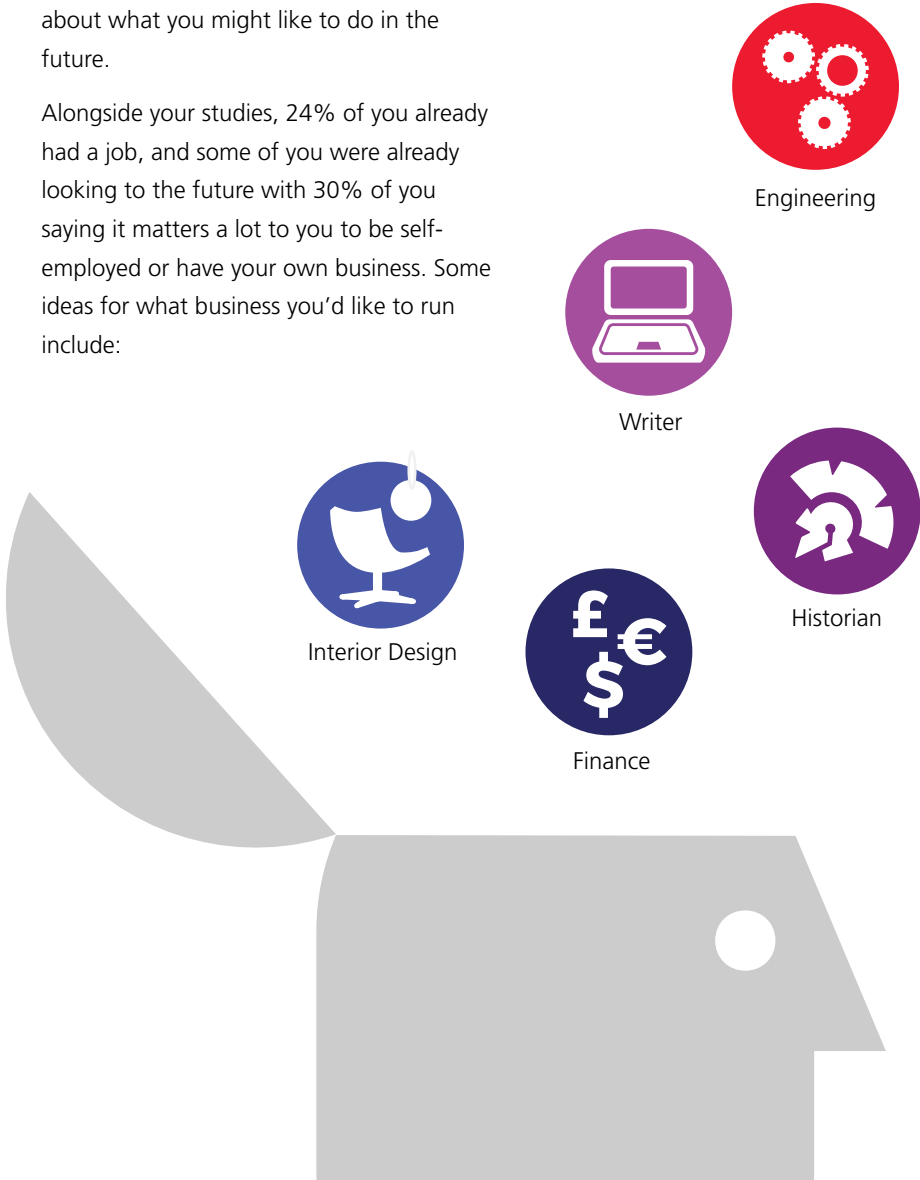
Of those of you planning to take A levels, the top three most popular subject choices are:



Future plans

As you were just finishing or had just finished your GCSEs at the end of year 11, we wanted to know if you had any ideas about what you might like to do in the future.

Alongside your studies, 24% of you already had a job, and some of you were already looking to the future with 30% of you saying it matters a lot to you to be self-employed or have your own business. Some ideas for what business you'd like to run include:

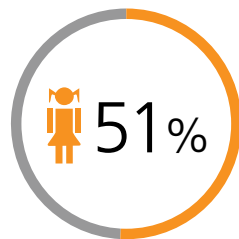
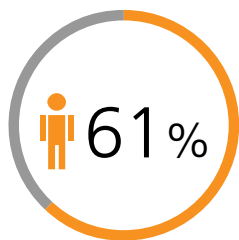


Breakfast

We were also interested in whether you had time for breakfast during the week or at the weekend. 57% of you said you usually ate breakfast each weekday, though boys were

more likely than girls to eat breakfast on a weekday. You had more time to eat breakfast at the weekend with 84% of you saying you usually ate breakfast at least once.

Usually eat breakfast on a school day



84%
Usually eat breakfast
at least once
at the weekend

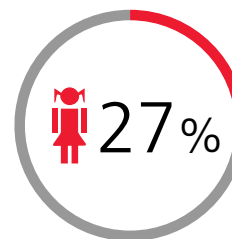
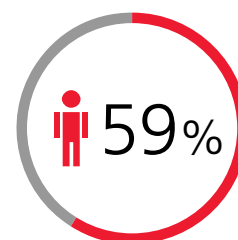


Leisure time

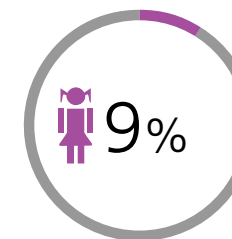
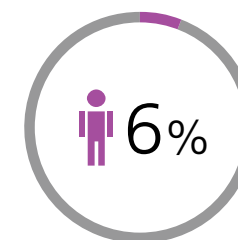
We also asked you about what you liked to do in your spare time. We asked you about what leisure activities you got up to in the last 4 weeks. Like last year, boys were more likely to take part in sports than girls,

whereas girls were more likely to have done community work in the last 4 weeks. Boys and girls were just as likely to play a musical instrument (13%).

Took part in any kind of sport in the last 4 weeks



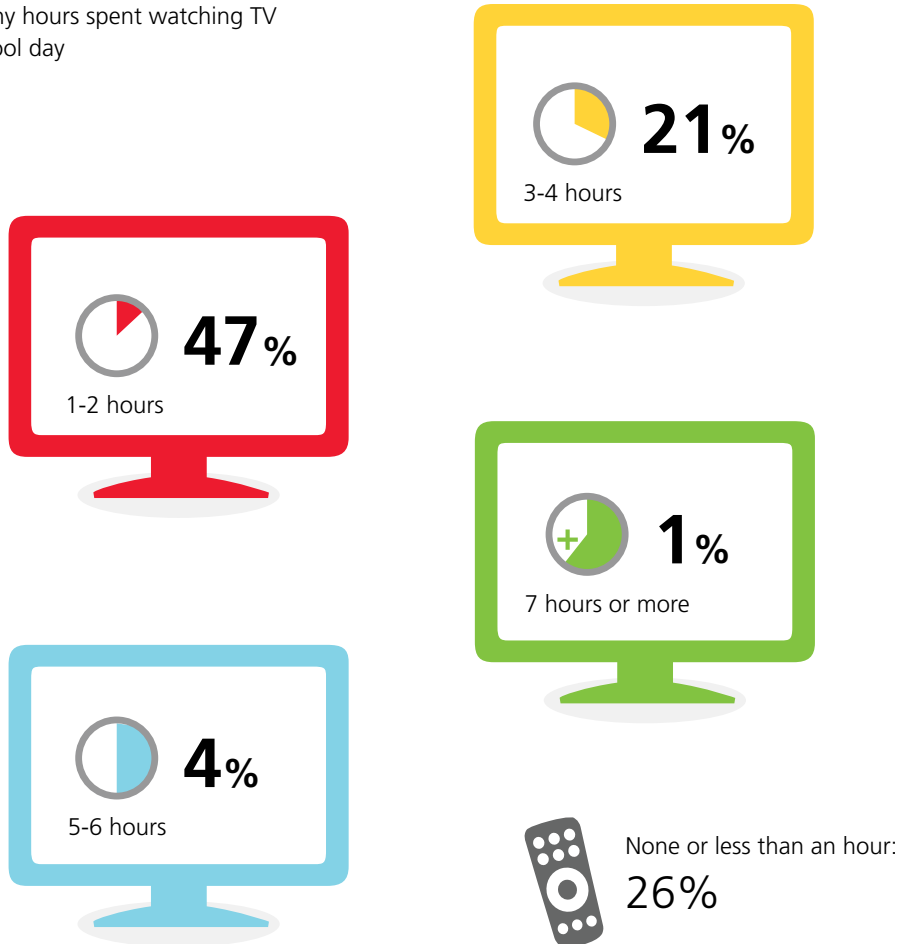
Done community work in the last 4 weeks



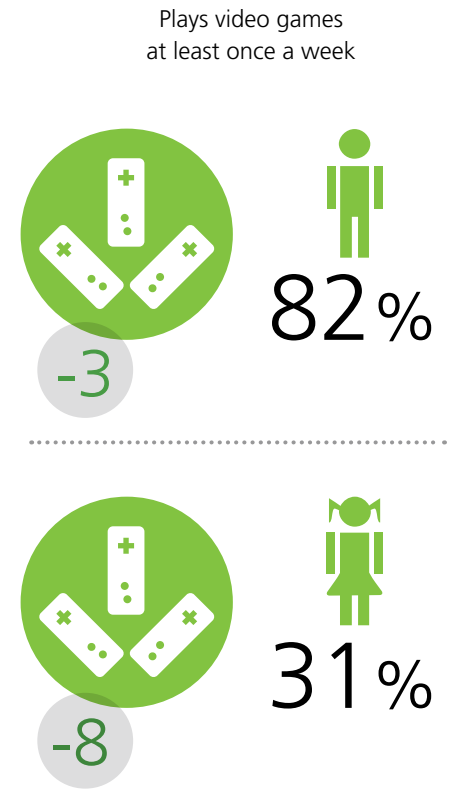
Leisure time

After a hard day at school or college, many of you still liked to relax in front of the TV, with two-thirds of you watching between 1 and 4 hours of TV on a typical school day.

How many hours spent watching TV on a school day



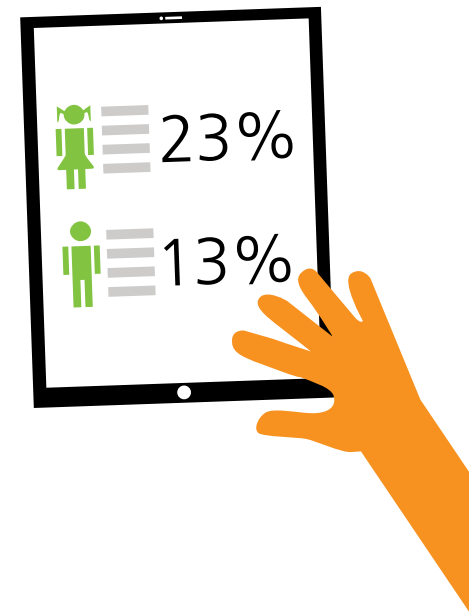
You were also still playing video games, though the number of you playing has fallen. However, 37% of boys still play video games most days (5 or more) compared to 9% of girls.



percentage point change shown from 2014

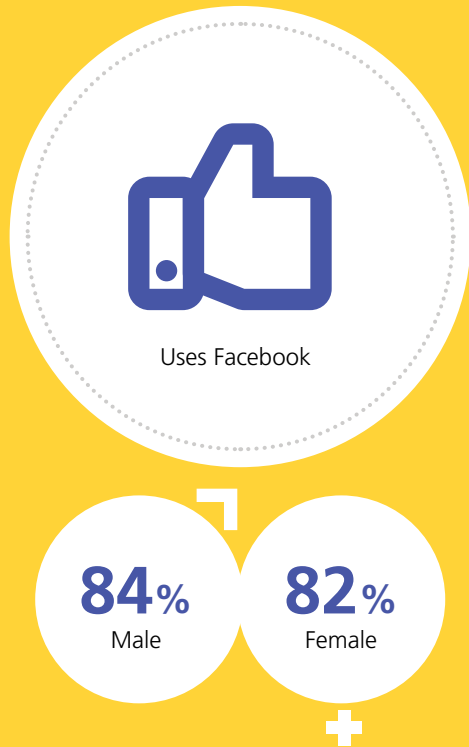
Perhaps this is because girls were spending more time reading. 45% of you said you read at least once a week for pleasure but girls were more likely to read on most days.

How often young person reads for pleasure (most days)

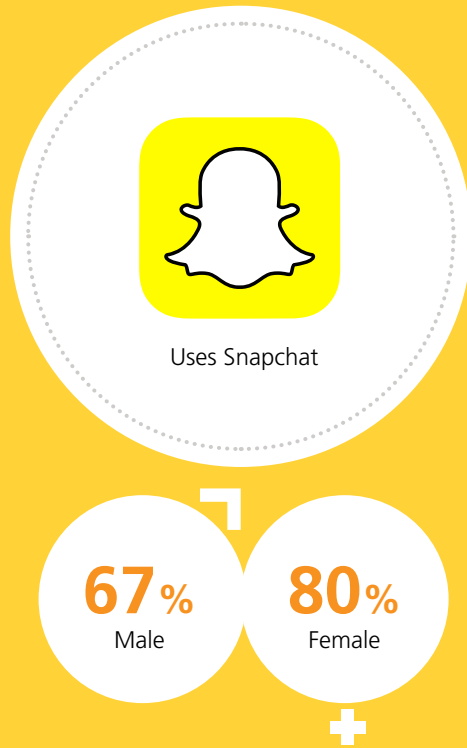


Social networking

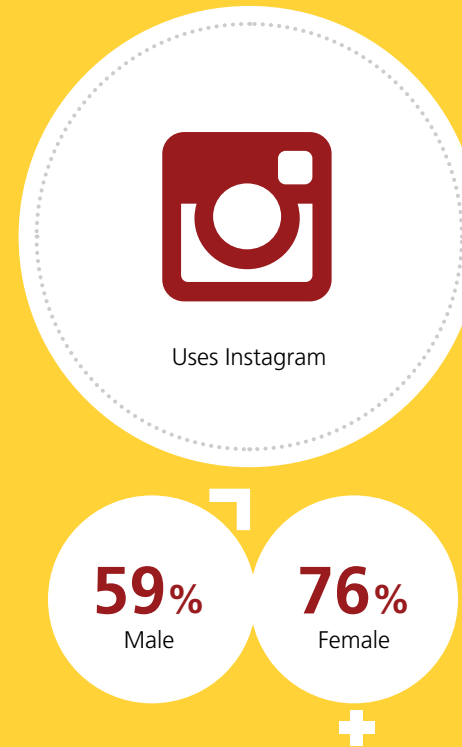
Social network sites/instant messenger services used by young person



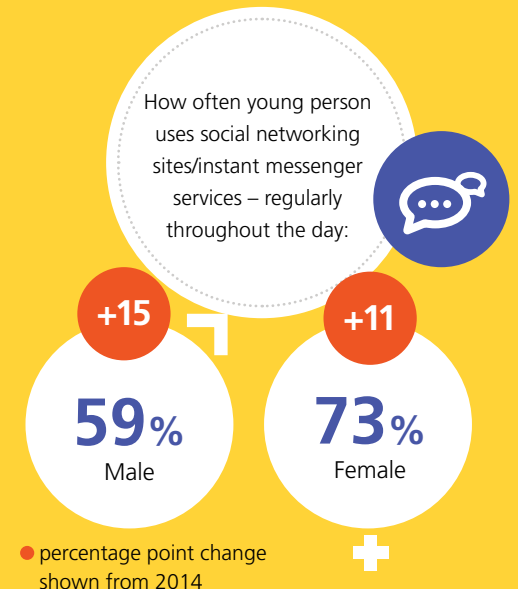
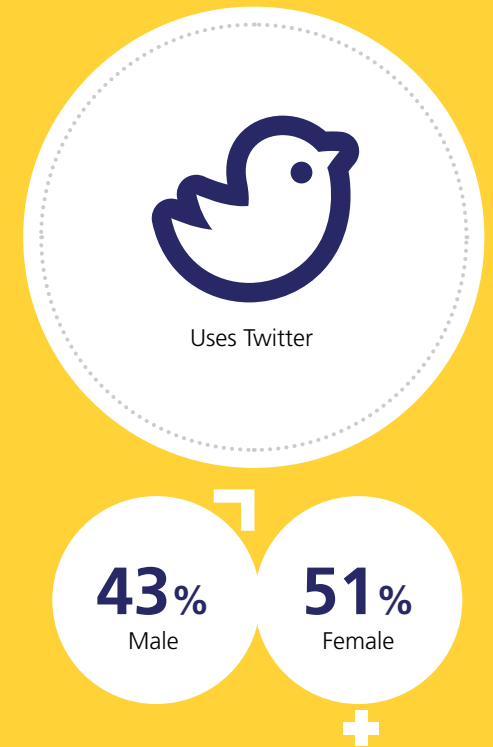
Finally, we looked into the different types of social network and instant messenger services you were using. We found that Facebook was still the most popular social networking site with 84% of boys and 82%



of girls using it. This was followed closely by Snapchat, and Instagram. Twitter usage amongst boys had gone up though, from 38% in 2014 to 43% last year.



You were also using these sites more regularly through the day compared to 2014, although again girls were also more likely to say they go on these sites regularly through the day than boys.



● percentage point change shown from 2014

Thank you

We hope you have enjoyed this selection of findings from the third edition of Our Future News, and once again, thank you very much for continuing to help us.

If you have any ideas about results you would like to see in future versions of Our Future News please let us know. If you have any questions about the study – or about anything to do with education, training or services for young people – then get in touch with us at ourfuture.study@education.gsi.gov.uk. We'll do our best to answer.

We'll be in touch with you soon to ask again about what you're up to now. The interview will be even shorter this year! You will receive a £10 voucher in the post before your interview as a thank you. Please let us know if we don't have the best contact details for you or if you have changed address so we can make sure this gets to you. We really hope you can take part again because your voice matters. Only by following young people's experiences can we increase our understanding of how our policies impact on their lives. Only by listening to what you think and want can we help all young people get the best from their lives.

Let us know if you move or are planning to move

Email: ourfuture.study@education.gsi.gov.uk

Call: 0114 274 2437

Visit: www.education.gov.uk/ourfuture



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