

ISOLATION INSPIRATION #2


6 steps to finding your future

Lockdown seems to have gone on for a long time – but look at it as a chance to think about what’s important to you, how you want your future look and which job you’d love to do.

You might move home to find work, travel a distance into work each day (commute), or even work abroad. But what about opportunities that are available locally?

Here’s a quick and easy topic-a-week plan to help you understand ‘the job market’ and **discover what’s on your doorstep in Buckinghamshire...**



Week	Topic	Start exploring!
1	What is ‘the job market’?	<p>‘The job market’ just means the number of jobs available in a particular place or type of work. It’s changing all the time: some roles no longer exist (know what a switchboard operator is?!); others are being replaced by technology (do you book a holiday with a travel agent or online?); while others are growing or new. The next 4 topics help you discover what’s growing and new in Bucks, but let’s start by finding out about industry sectors (job families).</p> <p>Activity 1) Type 3 job titles into Careerometer. Compare how much they pay, working hours, if they are growing or contracting (being created or lost) and which sectors they fall into (the ‘you might find this job in’ box).</p> <p>Activity 2) Take the 15-minute National Careers Service ‘Your interests’ quiz. Your answers produce a report suggesting job families you might like.</p> <p>Activity 3) Write down 5 questions you think are important to ask about potential careers, such as: What would I enjoy about it? What qualifications do I need? What’s the starting salary? Is it based in an office all the time?</p>
2	Buckinghamshire growth sector: CREATIVE 	<p>Why Bucks? Pinewood Studios, the home of the James Bond and Star Wars franchises, and the National Film and Television School based in Beaconsfield, sits at the heart of the creative industry cluster in Bucks. The creative industry makes almost £13 million for the UK every hour and is growing more than five times faster than the national economy.</p> <p>Example jobs: Think beyond actor to studio manager, marketing officer, 3D-modelling artist, set designer, photographer, architect.</p> <p>Activity 1) Get the bigger picture: explore Discover Creative Careers.</p> <p>Activity 2) Go behind the scenes working at festivals and in the music industry, and take sneak peek at the roles creating the Harry Potter films.</p> <p>Activity 3) Check out some of the top creative companies based in Bucks: Pinewood Studios, CTV Outside Broadcasters and Boundless Productions.</p>

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3	<p>Buckinghamshire growth sector #1: SPACE</p> 	<p>Why Bucks? Working in space could be a reality if you live locally, not just a dream! Westcott Space Cluster in Aylesbury (home to the National Space Propulsion Test Facility) is <i>the</i> place to be if you're one of the growing numbers of space-related companies in the UK.</p> <p>Example jobs: We're not talking astronaut, but how about satellite systems analyst, space product technician or rocket development engineer?</p> <p>Activity 1) Get the bigger picture: explore Space Careers UK.</p> <p>Activity 2) Visit the Westcott Space Cluster website.</p> <p>Activity 3) Check out some of the space companies based in Bucks: Reaction Engines, Advanced Propulsion Centre UK and Safran Electrical & Power UK.</p>
4	<p>Buckinghamshire growth sector: HIGH PERFORMANCE ENGINEERING</p> 	<p>Why Bucks? From electric cars, 3D printing and sports engineering companies based at Silverstone Technology Park near Buckingham (opposite the Silverstone Formula 1 racing circuit) to world-famous aircraft ejection seat manufacturer Martin-Baker in the south of the county, Bucks is home to ground-breaking high-tech engineering companies.</p> <p>Example jobs: product developer, human factors engineer, programme manager, software engineer, geotechnical engineer.</p> <p>Activity 1) Get the bigger picture: explore Tomorrow's Engineers.</p> <p>Activity 2) Read the latest news on businesses based at Silverstone Park.</p> <p>Activity 3) Check out some of the top high performance tech companies based in Bucks: Martin-Baker, Buckingham Group Contracting and Stantec.</p>
5	<p>Buckinghamshire growth sector: MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY</p> 	<p>Why Bucks? Healthcare relies on 'medtech' from syringes, artificial limbs and implants (like hip replacements) to complex hospital equipment and devices which diagnose or treat patients (such as scanners or pacemakers). Global leading private companies GE Healthcare and Johnson & Johnson, as well as Buckinghamshire Life Sciences Innovation Centre and Stoke Mandeville Hospital (the UK's national spinal centre), are based in Bucks.</p> <p>Example jobs: biological scientist, biochemist, laboratory technicians, data scientist, virtual/augmented reality developer, artificial intelligence engineer</p> <p>Activity 1) Get the bigger picture: find out more about medtech in the UK here and about careers in healthcare science in the NHS here.</p> <p>Activity 2) Check out some of the top health and medical tech companies based in Bucks: Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, GE Healthcare, Janssen UK (part of Johnson & Johnson), InHealth Group.</p>
6	<p>Will the way we work change after lockdown?</p>	<p>Planning ahead is positive, but it's also worth thinking about how coronavirus has affected the job market – and how these changes might last.</p> <p>Activity 1) Read these real-life stories of lockdown job changes: how did people cope with the challenge and what did they learn?</p> <p>Activity 2) Find out how lockdown might change the way we work (skip down to the section on 'work'): are there benefits from trying something new?</p> <p>Activity 3) Read about home working trends: what's the future for the office?</p>