

Quotes from focus groups

There were four focus groups:

Boys that were identified as high risk of becoming NEET who took part in the school led intervention (BI)

Girls that were identified as high risk of becoming NEET who took part in the school led intervention (GI)

Boys identified as not at risk of becoming NEET (BNI)

Girls identified as not at risk of becoming NEET (GNI)

Below are the responses to the question, “What subjects do you like?”

Within all the focus groups all subjects were mentioned multiple times for example, French, P.E, Science, Poetry, English, History etc were stated as subjects the young people liked. Maths was only mentioned once by a boy in the BNI group who said “Maths ...I am going to be an architect.” This justification was only used by this boy nobody else justified their enjoyment of a subject with a career choice.

Below are the responses to the question “What do you like about these subjects ?”

GNI “I like English, even the poetry bits.”

BI “They are easy, in History, you read something, learn something, about the war like, then we talk about it and watch films.”

GNI “French will be useful for holidays.”

GI “English is just reading really ,and talking about what they meant”.

BI” I think Shakespeare is alright. Miss explained how we still say things that he invented like ‘ eaten me out of ouse and ome.’ Pretty sick.”

BNI “I like science, we get to know, like, about planets, animals, plants, how things work, you know.”

BI “I like maths, it’s taught me to be logical.”

Below are the responses to the question “Are there any subjects you dislike?”

GNI/ BNI /GI “Maths is hard.”

BI “Maths is boring”.

GNI “Algebra ! What’s that about?”

BI “What’s the point of isosceles triangles?”

Facilitator prompts young people “Can you say more, why perhaps?”

BI “A lot of teachers like, just rely on text books, they ain’t that imaginative about it”.

BI “I like learning like, but not the same thing again and again.....(sarcastically says) make a scale drawing of your bedroom..... I’ve done it since year 6 (age 10). It’s boring and I don’t even have a bedroom.”

BI “In primary school we learnt maths in a fun way, we used to play games.”

BI “What if you don’t want to do anything with maths, you say goodbye to it after GCSE, and teachers do prioritise it... a lot.”

GI “Maths won’t really help you, just your bills and stuff, but everybody needs to be able to read and write. Every job is gonna need English”.

BNI “In maths they teach you all these things which you won’t use unless you get a mathematical job.”

BNI “Maths is important but unless you are going to be an engineer or something you don’t need all that stuff.”