

LYP

— CREATING CHANGE —

**YOUR COMMUNITY
YOUR VOICE:**

SCHOOL LEAVERS SURVEY



Your Community, Your Voice is a series of surveys by Leatherhead Youth Project (LYP), asking young people to tell us their needs on a variety of subjects that are important to them.

The School Leavers Survey was launched in the Summer Term of 2022 to discover what barriers to further education and employment local young people are facing and how LYP can best support them.

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ABOUT LEATHERHEAD YOUTH PROJECT

Leatherhead Youth Project is a local charity passionate about helping young people. We offer innovative youth services in Leatherhead, Bookham and across Mole Valley responding to local needs and helping young people to be safe, happy and make positive changes in their lives.

We take a relational and positive approach to young people, providing support and skills to help them overcome barriers they are facing and build a brighter future.

Our approach involves:

- **Every day youth work** – offering services to young people every day to ensure they have things to do and places to go.
- **Prioritising relationships** – the relational approach to our youth work ensures we build positive and appropriate relationships with young people and their families.
- **Being holistic** – from saying hello to a young person for the first time, through to supporting them into employment as an adult. We aim to offer a holistic service which supports every stage of their development.
- **Co-production** – giving young people the opportunity to shape and lead the youth work they engage in.

To find out more about LYP you can...



Visit www.leatherheadyouthproject.com



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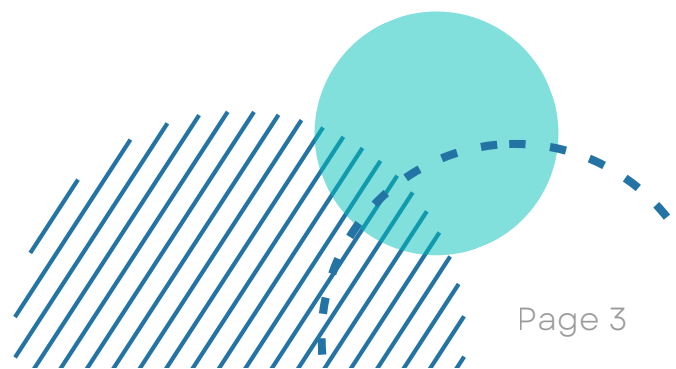
Follow us on Facebook at '[Leatherhead Youth Project](#)'

YOUR COMMUNITY YOUR VOICE: SCHOOL LEAVERS SURVEY

As a small charity we are passionate about making sure the work we do is addressing the needs of local young people. It's really important to us that young people's voices are heard and that our work is shaped by them.

We created the School Leavers Survey to hear directly from local Year 11's (15 - 16 year olds). We asked them to share what they are planning to do when they leave school, what are their biggest worries and how they are feeling about their future.

The survey received 330 responses from Year 11's across Mole Valley, giving us open and honest insight into their lives and the support they need. Throughout this report you will see their answers shared in detail.



SUMMARY FINDINGS

Finding a job is a key priority for Year 11's

91% of Year 11's who answered the survey are considering, likely or planning to find a job once they leave school.



Young people feel gaining their Maths & English qualifications is important for their future

85% of Year 11's said passing their Maths is important for their future and 83% for passing their English.

However, when asked if they are on track to get a 4 or above in their Maths & English, 23% answered "don't know" or "no" for Maths and 20% said "don't know" or "no" for English. This shows there is a need for additional support to help young people gain these valuable qualifications.



Over half of Year 11's surveyed feel their school grades could impact their future

58% of young people said they feel their school grades could possibly, likely or very likely stop them doing what they want in the future.



The majority of young people feel they understand all the options available to them

Our research shows that 82% of Year 11's feel they understand all the options available to them, helping them to feel well prepared and make informed decisions about their future.





Exams, the future and their mental health are the top worries for Year 11's

When asked what they are currently most worried about, we combined the results for 'a little', 'somewhat', 'quite' and 'very worried'. Our findings show 87% of young people are worried about their exams, 80% have worries about their future and 65% are worried about their mental health.



There are still a number of young people who don't have someone to talk to

18% of Year 11's surveyed said they don't feel that they have someone they can go to for support if they need to.



The majority of Year 11's have mixed emotions about their future

Combining the results for 'I feel a little like this', 'I sometimes feel like this', 'I feel quite a bit like this' and 'I feel like this', our research shows 87% of Year 11's have mixed emotions about their future.



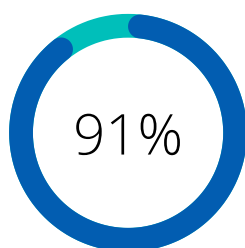
Year 11's have a desire to learn a variety of life skills

Money budgeting, first aid and learning how to cook are the top three skills Year 11's are interested in learning.

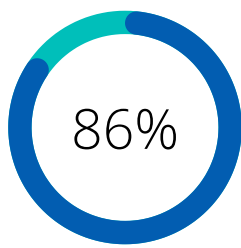
QUESTION 1

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WHEN YOU LEAVE SCHOOL?

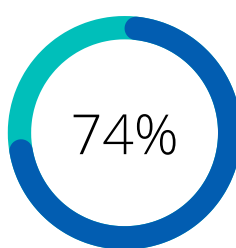
By combining the results for 'would consider it', 'likely' and 'definitely yes' our findings show...



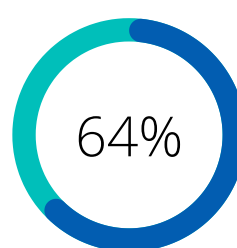
91 % are planning to find a job when they leave school



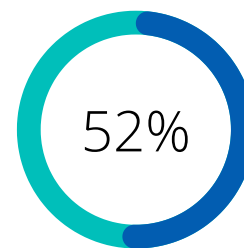
86% of Year 11's are planning to do some work experience



74% of Year 11's told us they are planning to go to college

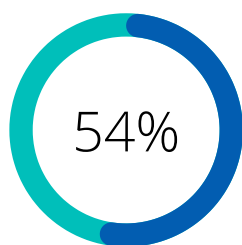


64% said they are planning to volunteer to gain experience once school finishes



52% of young people are planning to go onto sixth form when they leave school

Our survey also found that...



54% of Year 11's are unlikely or definitely not planning to start an apprenticeship once they leave school

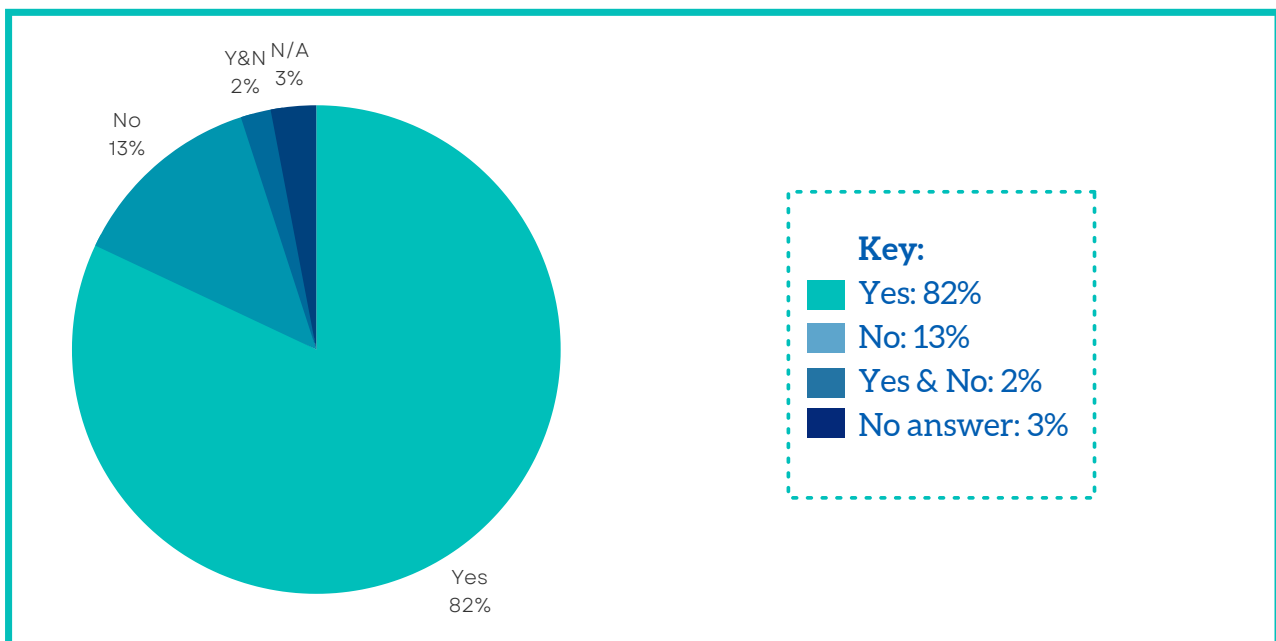
When it comes to future plans, finding a job and gaining work experience are top of the priority list for Year 11's.

Alongside focussing on work, 74% are looking at going to college.

Our findings suggest that many Year 11's are planning to do both work and college side by side to continue their education, whilst also beginning to gain that all important work experience.

QUESTION 2

DO YOU FEEL YOU UNDERSTAND ALL THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO YOU?



It is positive to see that 82% of Year 11's feel well prepared for their future and understand all the options available to them.

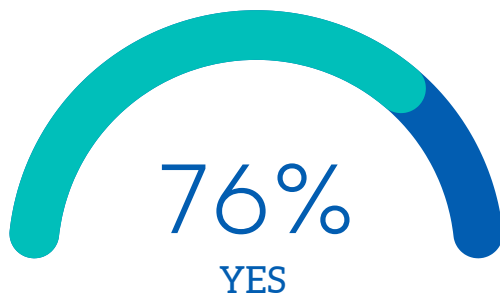
This does leave 13% of young people who are unsure what is the best route for them to take once they finish school.

The 13% who don't feel they understand all the options available to them, could be at risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) when they leave school.

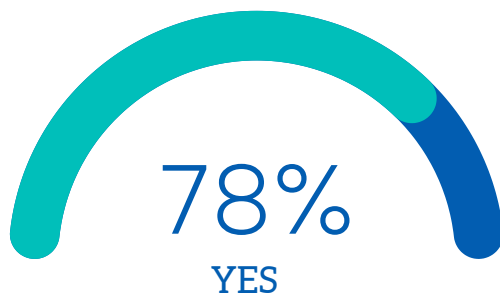
QUESTION 3

ARE YOU ON TRACK TO GET A 4 OR ABOVE IN YOUR MATHS & ENGLISH GCSE'S?

MATHS



ENGLISH

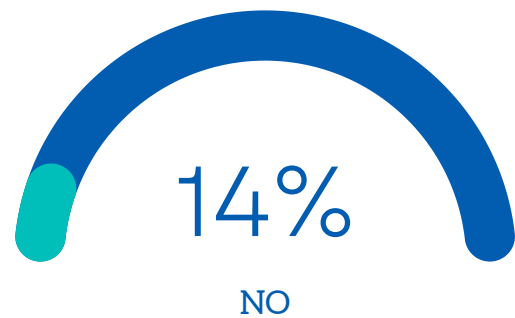
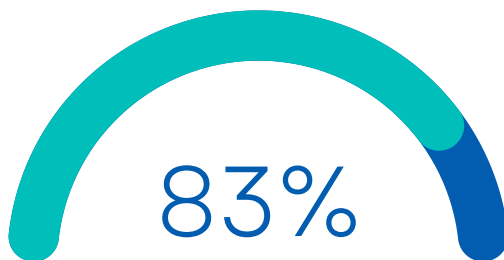
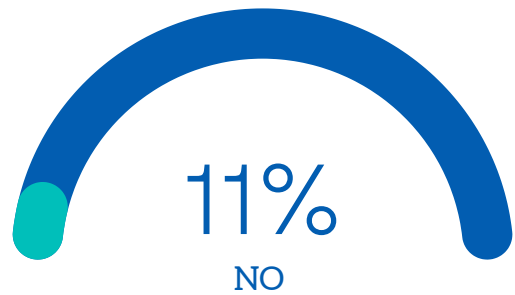
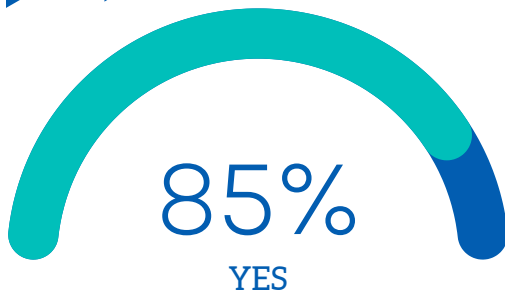


NO ANSWER
MATHS: 1% ENGLISH: 2%

From questions 3 & 4 we learnt there are a number of Year 11's who feel passing their Maths & English is important for their future, but at the same time they are not sure if they are on track to gain these valuable qualifications.

QUESTION 4

DO YOU THINK PASSING YOUR MATHS & ENGLISH IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR FUTURE?

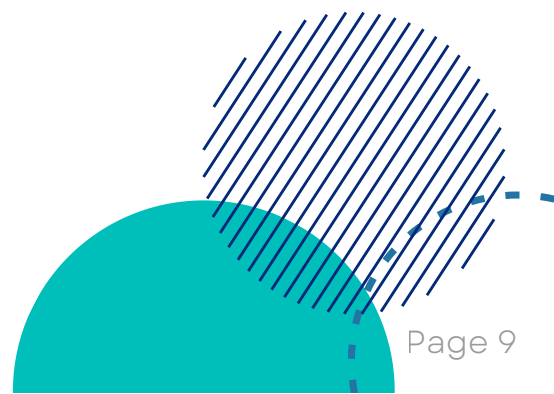


NO ANSWER
MATHS: 4% ENGLISH: 3%

YES

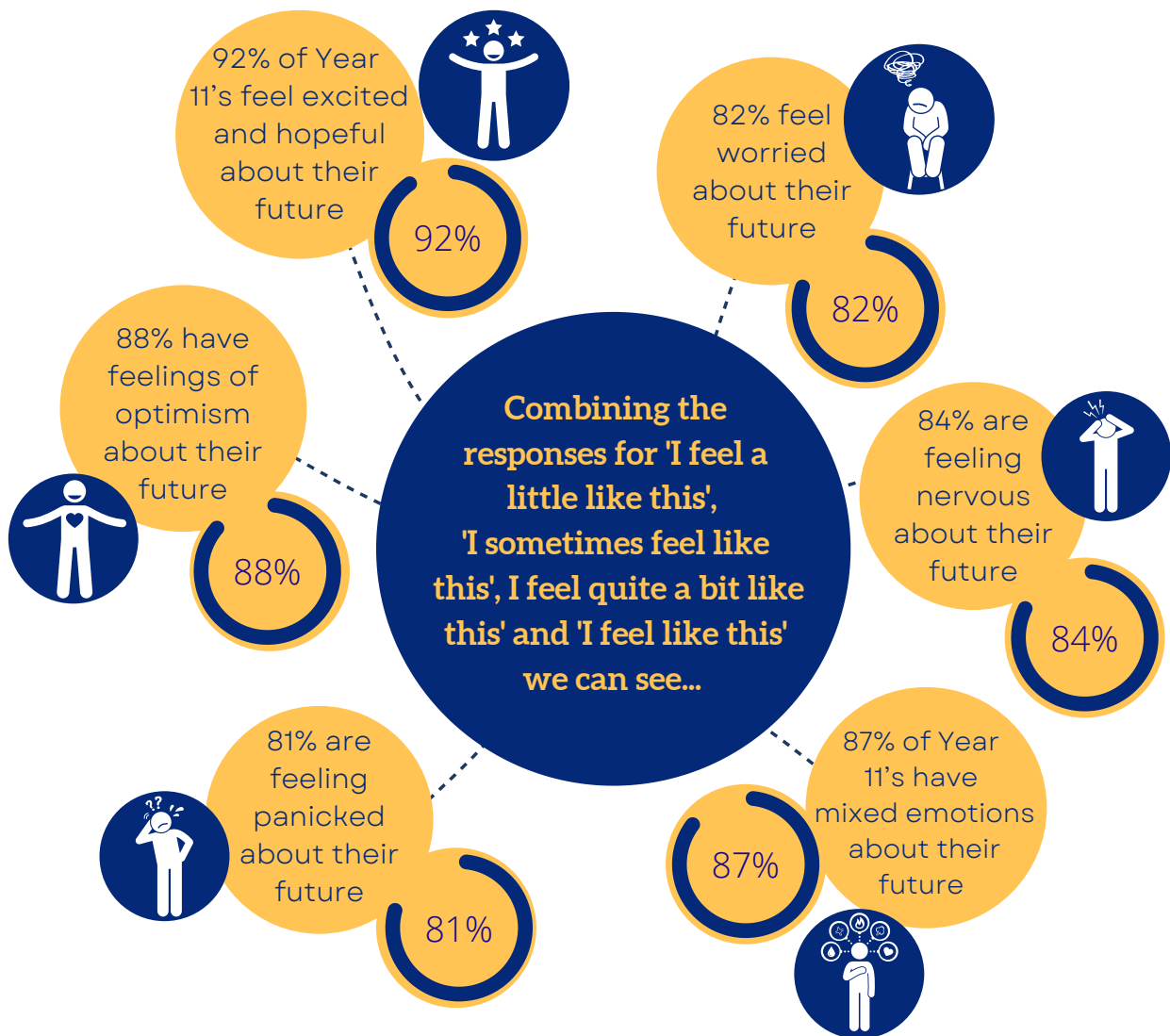
NO

85% of Year 11's told us that having their Maths GCSE would be important for their future, but only 76% said they are on track to get a 4 or above in their exams.



QUESTION 5

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR FUTURE?



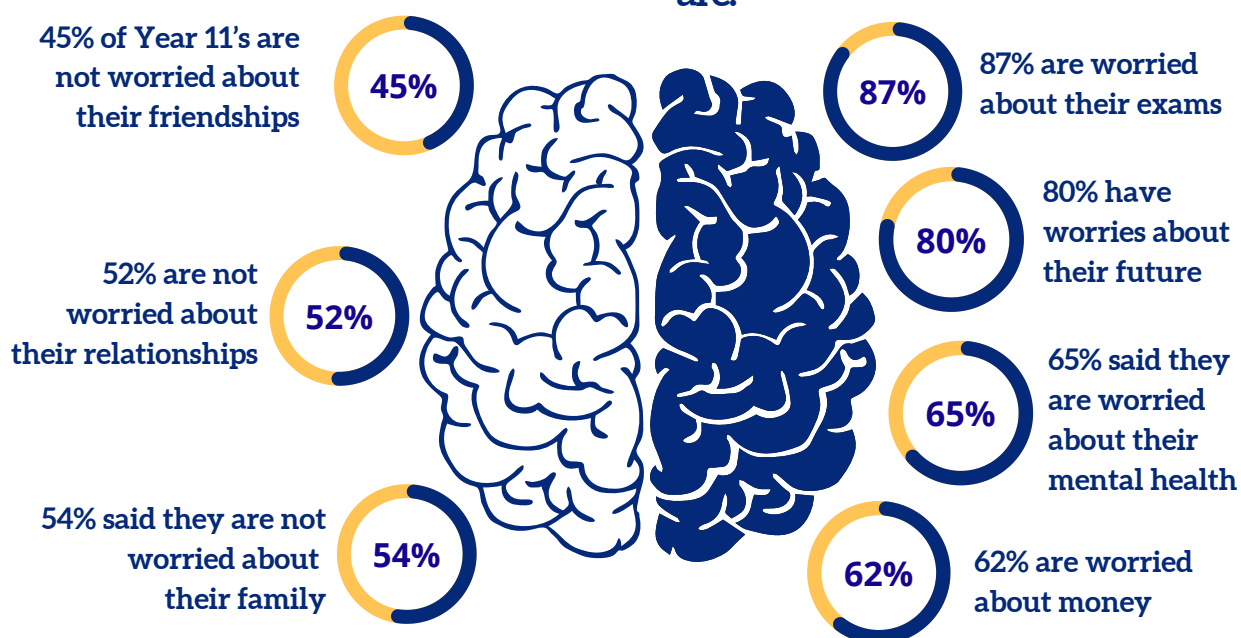
It is clear to see from the results that Year 11's are currently feeling lots of emotions about their future. 92% feel some level of excitement and hopefulness about their future plans, however at the same time 81% are experiencing feelings of panic. 82% are feeling worried and 84% have feelings of nervousness about their future. It is a time of high emotion, full of mixed feelings and anticipation about what is next.

QUESTION 6

WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY MOST WORRIED ABOUT?

It's great to see that...

Combining the results for 'a little worried', 'somewhat worried', 'quite worried' and 'very worried', we can see the top four worries for Year 11's are:



Exams take the top spot for worries for Year 11's and lead to many young people also worrying about what their future holds and their mental health.

62% said they are worried about money and this links back to question 1 where 91% told us they are considering, likely or definitely planning to find a job once they leave school.

It is also very interesting to see what is currently falling on the not worried list. 45% are currently not worried about their friendships, 52% are not worried about their relationships and 54% said they are not worried about their family.

QUESTION 7

WHO HAS HELPED YOU TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT YOUR FUTURE?



65%

Parent / guardian



60%

I've made this decision on my own



26%

Friends



20%

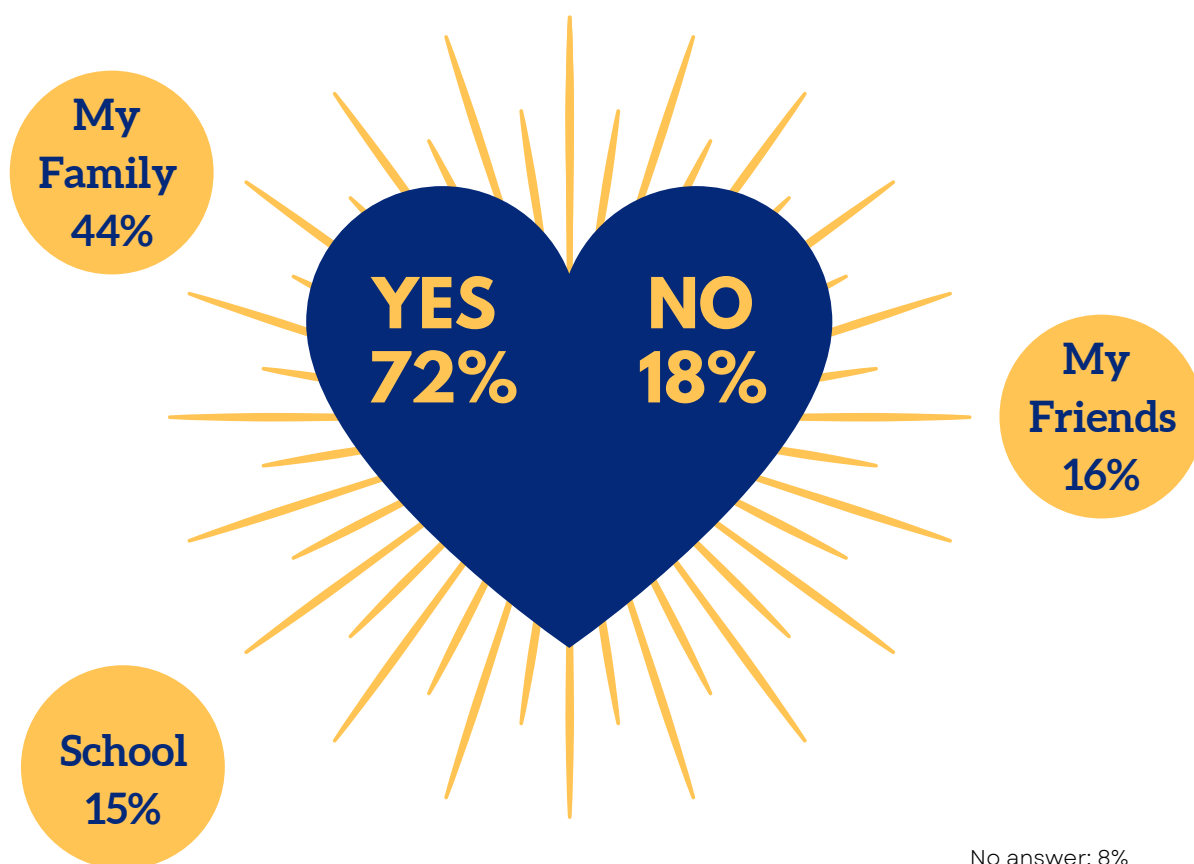
Teachers

Many of the young people who completed the survey ticked the boxes for 'parent / guardian', 'friends' and / or 'teacher' and also ticked 'I've made this decision on my own'.

This shows us that many Year 11's have received input from others, but ultimately feel they've made the final decision about their future. It is great to see that 60% of young people feel empowered about their decisions and feel in control of the paths they have chosen to pursue.

QUESTION 8

DO YOU FEEL YOU CAN GO TO SOMEONE FOR SUPPORT IF YOU NEED TO?



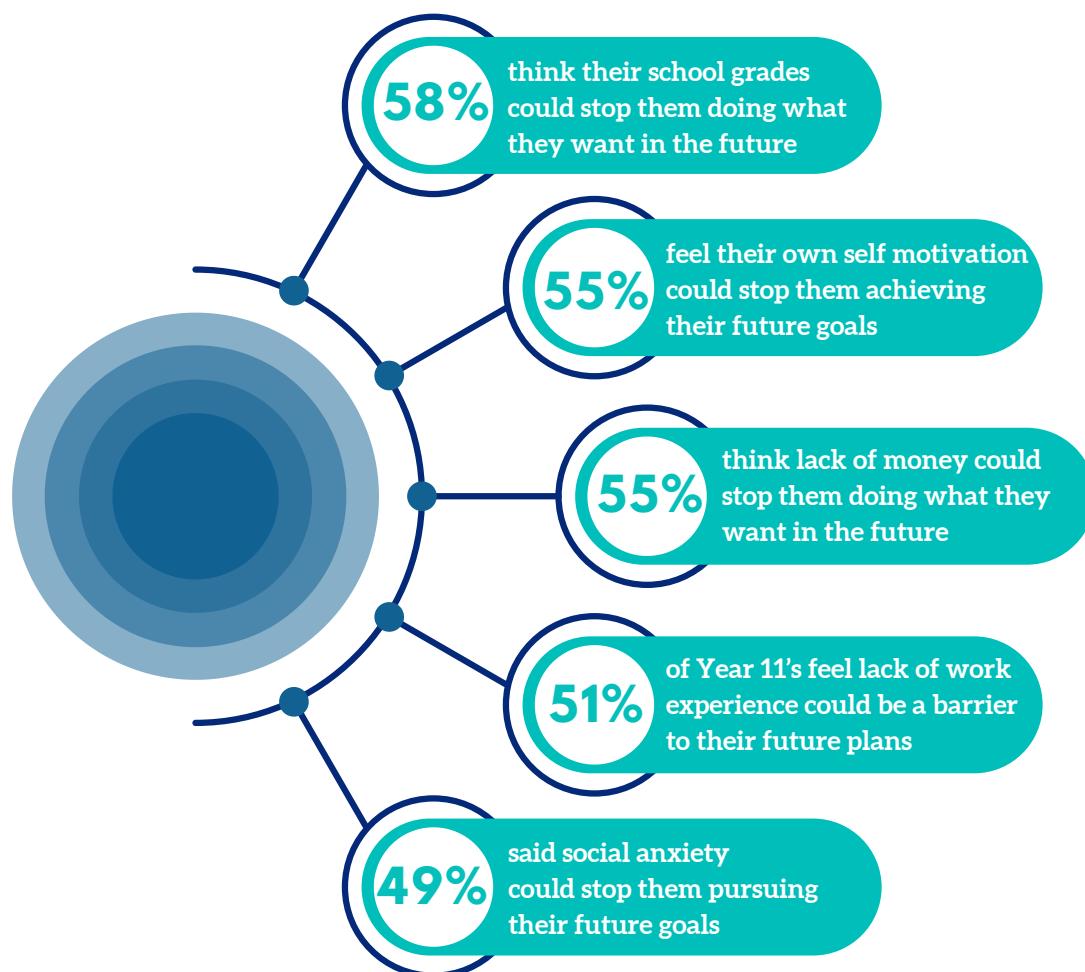
72% of Year 11's told us they can go to someone for support if they need to. This does leave 18% of young people who feel they don't have someone they can turn to for support.

We also asked them to tell us who they turn to for support. 44% of Year 11's said they go to a family member for support. 16% told us they go to their friends and 15% said they speak to a teacher or someone at school when they need support.

QUESTION 9

TO WHAT DEGREE WOULD ANY OF THE FOLLOWING STOP YOU DOING WHAT YOU WANT IN THE FUTURE?

Combining the results for 'possibly', 'likely' or 'very likely' we discover...



School grades, motivation, lack of money, lack of work experience and social anxiety are the key factors that could stop around half of Year 11's doing what they want in the future. These barriers could prevent some young people from accessing further education or finding a job and potentially lead to them becoming NEET once they leave school.

QUESTION 10

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING ANY LIFE SKILLS?



57%
**Money
Budgeting Skills**



38%
How to cook



43%
**How to
write a CV**



39%
First Aid



18%
Computer Skills

Year 11's are keen to learn a variety of life skills that will benefit them in the future. The most popular life skill young people would like to learn is money budgeting. When asked if there are any other life skills they want to learn, the responses included anything to do with money from learning how to pay bills to understanding taxes and opening bank accounts. Other suggestions were around housing to find out more about renting, mortgages and how to run a home.

The Future

This Your Community, Your Voice School Leavers Survey has given 330 local Year 11's a chance to tell us how they are feeling about leaving school, if they are on track to gain their qualifications and what they plan to do once school finishes.

In response to the survey findings, LYP aims to support Year 11's as they make these important decisions about what they want to do once they leave school. Our goal is to ensure all young people know the options available to them and have the support and resources they need to access their chosen path. We want to work with young people to raise their confidence and aspirations and help them fulfil their potential.

Taking the findings from this report, LYP has begun working with the local community and partner organisations to explore how we can best support young people as they leave school. We are developing plans to help more young people achieve their Maths & English, providing mentoring support and opening up job opportunities to help young people begin careers in their chosen industry.

If you would like to make a donation towards all of LYP's work you can do so using the following methods:

Online: You can use our JustGiving account to donate to us online. Simply visit www.justgiving.com/leatherheadyouthproject and click on the 'donate' button in the top right corner.

Standing order: If you would like to set up a regular donation by standing order, please complete the LYP Standing Order Mandate which can be downloaded at www.leatherheadyouthproject.com/standingorder and return it to us by post. Alternatively, you can set up the standing order using online banking by quoting the bank details on the LYP Standing Order Mandate.

By Post: You can send us a cheque to Leatherhead Youth Project Ltd, All Saints Church, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, KT22 7BT. If you are a taxpayer, please download the LYP Gift Aid Declaration at www.leatherheadyouthproject.com/giftaid. Including this form will enable us to claim back the basic rate tax you've paid on your donation.



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Leatherhead Youth Project

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