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### **Students' interests**

Students at one school valued the wide-ranging 'alternative' options they could pursue in Year 10, when they turned 15. For many of these students, pursuing academic National Curriculum subjects towards GCSE examinations was not necessarily appropriate. The alternative options offered by the school – including off-site activities like car maintenance or woodwork or on-site life skills sessions preparing their own lunch in the school's learning support centre – provided them with opportunities to follow their own interests and motivations but also to experience success.