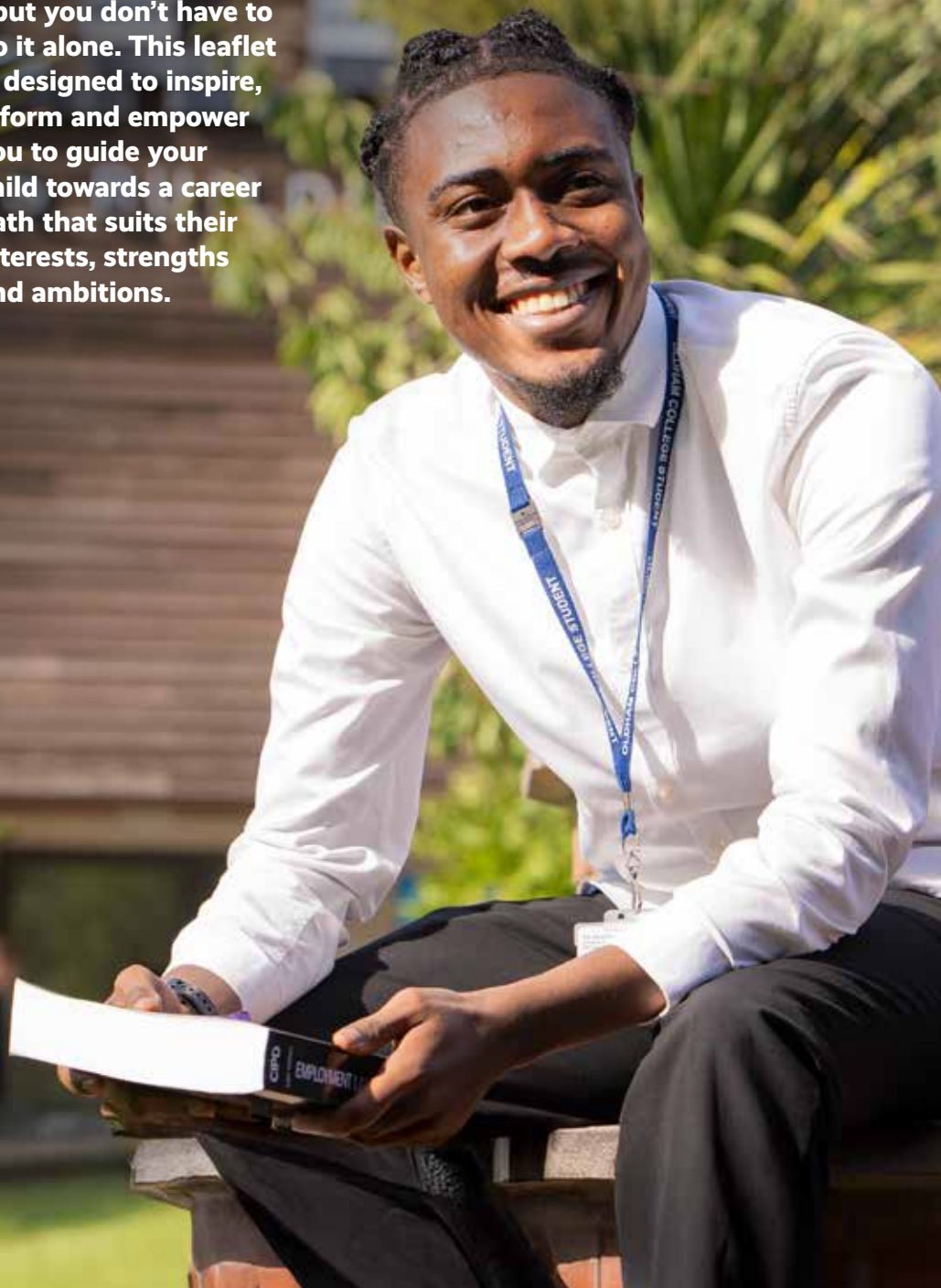


Opening Doors

A careers toolkit for
parents and guardians

Supporting your child to explore their future can feel overwhelming - but you don't have to do it alone. This leaflet is designed to inspire, inform and empower you to guide your child towards a career path that suits their interests, strengths and ambitions.



Top careers websites to explore together

National Careers Service

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

A trusted starting point for exploring a wide range of careers.

- Detailed job profiles (skills, salaries, entry routes)
- Information on qualifications, apprenticeships, and training
- Practical tools such as skills assessments and CV advice

Best for: Building a broad understanding of career options

UCAS – Parents and Carers

ucas.com/discover/advice-for-parents-carers-and-guardians

Your go-to guide for higher education pathways.

- Step-by-step application guidance
- Advice on personal statements, finance, and choices
- Key deadlines and timelines

Best for: Supporting university applications

Careerpilot

careerpilot.org.uk

A straightforward guide for young people aged 11–19 and their families.

- Clear routes from education into employment
- Information on GCSEs, T Levels, and apprenticeships
- Dedicated parent zone

Best for: Understanding education and career pathways

BBC Bitesize Careers

bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers

Engaging, accessible careers inspiration.

- Short videos and real-life case studies
- Links between subjects and careers

Best for: Sparking early interest and ideas

Start Profile (Barclays Life Skills)

barclayslifeskills.com

An interactive career discovery tool.

- Personalised career suggestions
- Matches strengths, interests, and preferences

Best for: Tailored career exploration

Prospects

prospects.ac.uk

Insight into future opportunities after higher education.

- Graduate careers and job sector information
- Labour market insights

Best for: Understanding longer-term career outcomes

Oldham College Career and Course Finder

oldham.ac.uk/study/career-and-course-finder

Has your young person got a future job or career in mind but not sure which course to choose? Our career and course finder will help them find the best qualification for them.

How you can support your child

As a parent or guardian, you play a vital role in shaping your young person's confidence and aspirations. Here are some simple but effective ways to help:



Start conversations

- Talk openly about interests, strengths, and ambitions
- Encourage curiosity and exploration — avoid pressure or expectations



Explore all pathways

There is no single “right” route. Consider:

- University
- Apprenticeships
- Employment and training



Look beyond the job title

When researching careers together, explore:

- Skills required
- Entry requirements
- Salary expectations
- Career progression opportunities



Encourage independence

- After exploring together, support your child to carry out their own research
- Help them build confidence in making informed decisions

A final word

Every young person's journey is unique. Success comes from finding a path that reflects who they are, what they enjoy, and where their strengths lie.

With your support, encouragement, and the right tools, your child can take confident steps towards a bright and fulfilling future.

Please contact the **Careers**

Team if you need any information, advice or guidance:

✉ careers.team@oldham.ac.uk

☎ 0161 785 4054



Oldham College