



Department
for Education

Our Future News



#2

Hello

Welcome to the second edition of Our Future News.

For the past two years you have helped the Department for Education by taking part in the Our Future Study. This is a unique study which is very important to us. That means that you are important to us, so thank you for continuing to help make this study such a success.

As a reminder...

Many surveys give a one-off snapshot of what people are thinking or doing at the time they are interviewed. Our Future is different as it follows young people's lives over a number of years and sees how and why changes happen, which gives us a really interesting and dynamic picture. Only a study like this can help us plan for the future. Now that we have spoken to you on two occasions, we've included some more findings from Our Future in this leaflet.

If you have access to the internet, you can also go to the Our Future website: www.education.gov.uk/ourfuture. This is a website for you and everybody else taking part in the study.

You can also use the site to find out about what's happening this year and find contact details for the Our Future team if you need to get in touch with us.

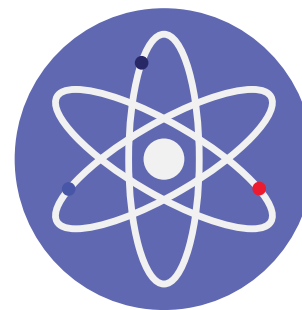
#2



What you think of school

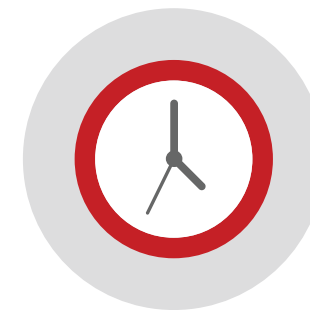
The last time we spoke to you in 2014 we asked for an update about how you were getting on at school, with questions about what you were studying and how much you enjoyed your work. Once again we had some really positive answers! 62% of you said that the work you do in lessons is interesting to you, even though 42% of you said that there were GCSE subjects you wanted to study but didn't.

Girls were more likely than boys to agree strongly that they work as hard as they can at school, though the difference between boys and girls was smaller than it was the year before. Despite this, 60% of boys and girls agreed that on the whole they like being at school.



62%

The work I do in lessons is interesting to me – % agree.



60%

On the whole I like being at school – % agree

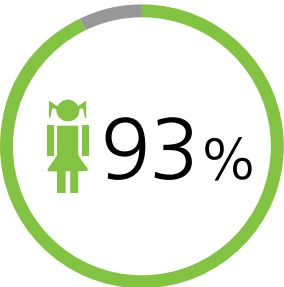
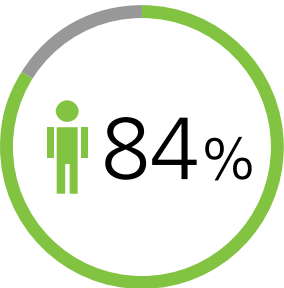
Plans for the future

As you'd begun studying for the first year of your GCSEs in Year 10, we wanted to know if you'd had any thoughts about what you might do after this. So, whether you thought you'd get a job or do some kind of training, stay on in full time education following Year 11, or even whether you had considered going to university.

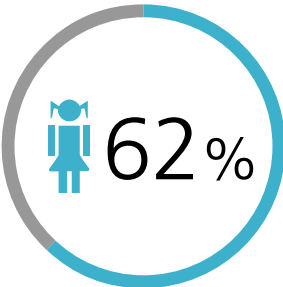
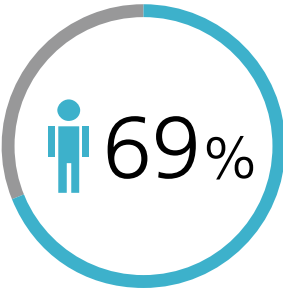
We found that young people are definitely thinking about their futures early on and some of you have already decided to leave school, while others thought that they'd stay on in full time education at the end of Year 11. Amongst those of you who plan to leave school, apprenticeships are the most popular next step for both boys and girls (69% of boys who will be leaving school are planning an apprenticeship, as are 62% of girls who intend to leave school).

Of those who didn't plan to stay on in full time education:

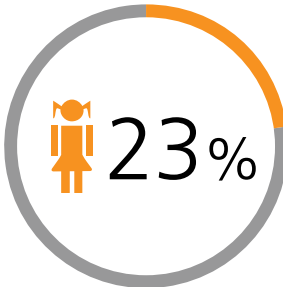
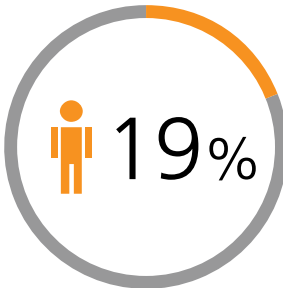
Plan to stay in full time education



An apprenticeship



Start work with some education and training



Outside of school

Not only are we interested in how you're getting on at school but we also wanted to hear about what you do in your spare time. So we asked about the leisure activities you got up to in the last 4 weeks. From what you said, in their free time boys were twice as sporty as girls, with 61% of boys saying that they had taken part in any kind of sport in the last 4 weeks, compared to 32% of girls.

Took part in any kind of sport in the last 4 weeks



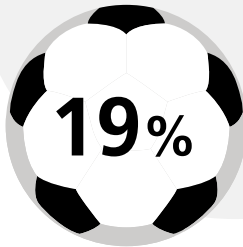
Done community work in the last 4 weeks



14% of boys and girls had gone to a youth club or something similar, whereas 38% of boys and 31% of girls had preferred to spend time near their home. Interestingly, 7% of boys and 10% of girls told us that they had spent time doing community work in the last 4 weeks.

Some of the other things that were popular included going along to watch the football or some other sporting event (19% of you had done that), playing snooker, darts or pool (12%) and playing a musical instrument (16%).

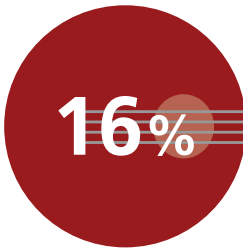
Gone to see a football match or other sports event in the last 4 weeks



Played snooker, darts or pool in the last 4 weeks

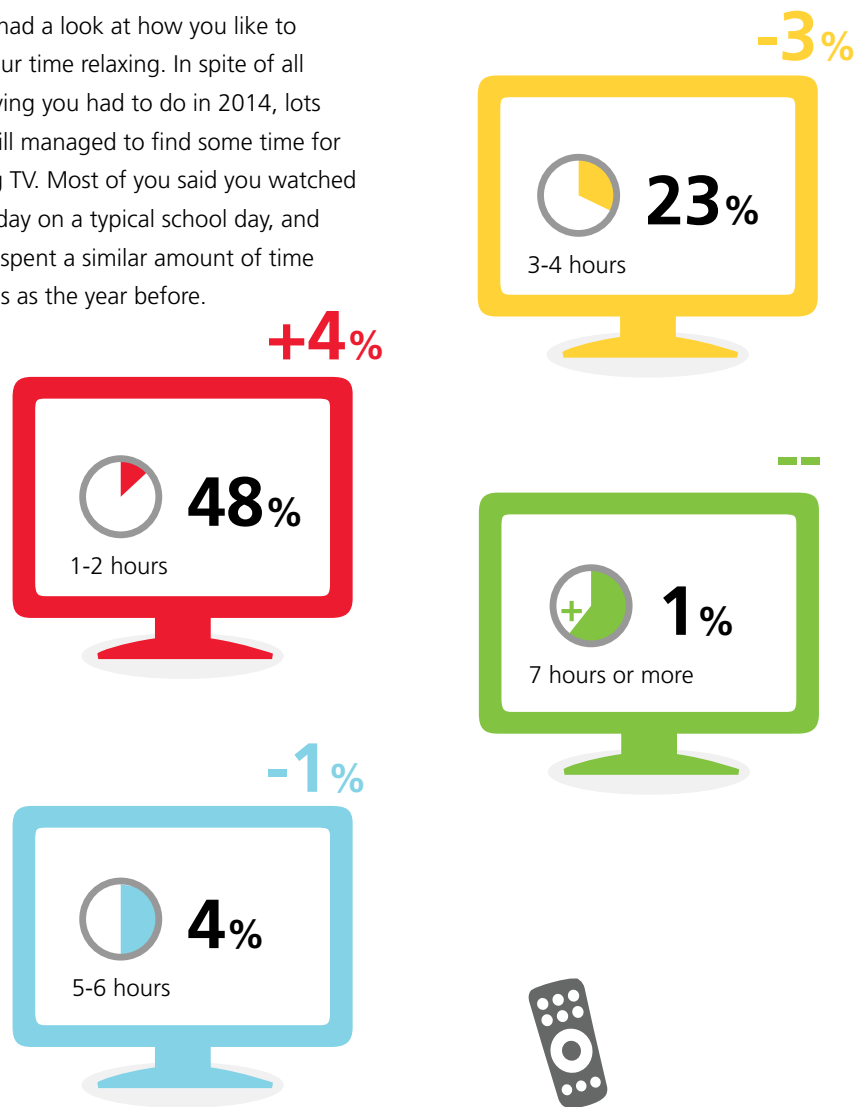


Played a musical instrument in the last 4 weeks



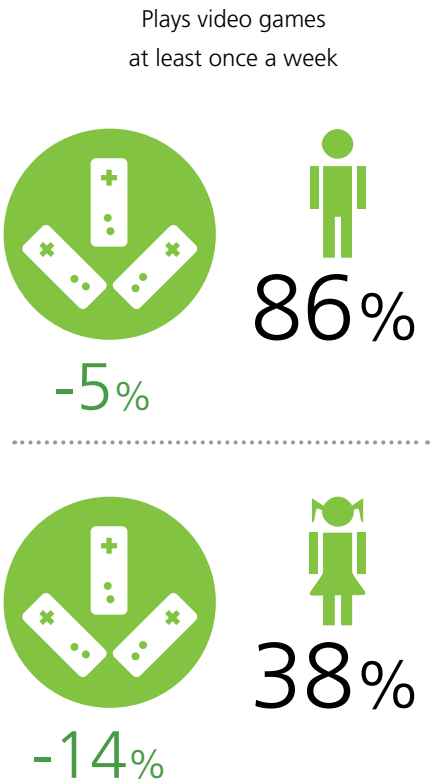
Your leisure time

We also had a look at how you like to spend your time relaxing. In spite of all the studying you had to do in 2014, lots of you still managed to find some time for watching TV. Most of you said you watched TV everyday on a typical school day, and that you spent a similar amount of time doing this as the year before.



Change shown from 2013

It does look like you're spending less time playing video games, though. In 2013, 91% of boys and 52% of girls said they played video games at least once a week but this had fallen to 86% for boys and 38% for girls when we spoke to you last.

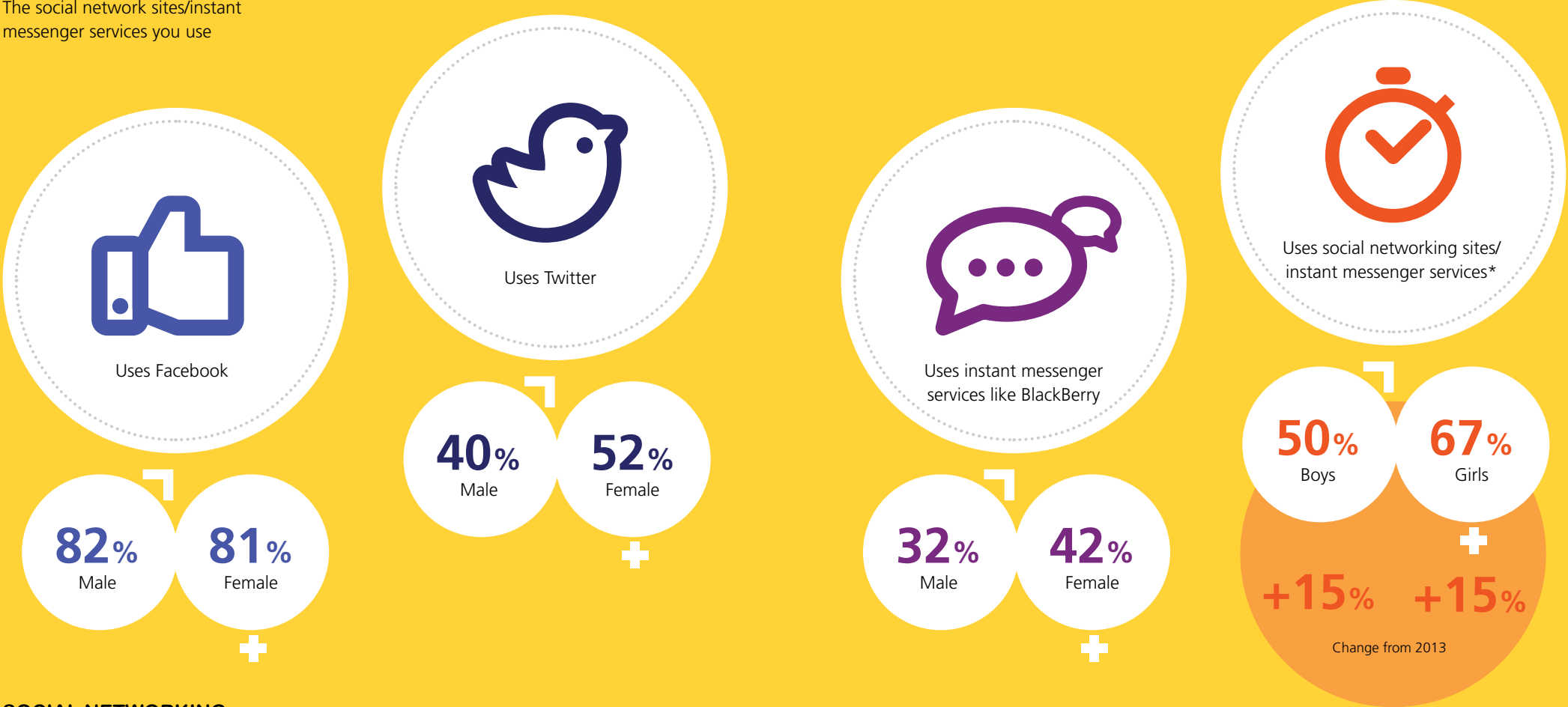


Change shown from 2013

Perhaps this is due to all the time you are spending studying, or maybe you're just doing other things – this time when we asked how often you read for pleasure, 21% of you said that you do this most days.



The social network sites/instant messenger services you use



SOCIAL NETWORKING

Finally, we wanted to compare the types of social network and instant messenger services used by young people and the amount of time spent doing this. In 2014 we found that about the same proportion of boys (82%) and girls (81%) use Facebook.

However, girls were quite a lot more likely to use twitter (52%, compared to 40% of boys) and instant messenger services (42% of girls, compared to 32% of boys). This hadn't changed dramatically from the first time we spoke to you, but the amount of

time spent using social networking sites or instant messenger services had increased quite a lot. 50% boys and 67% of girls used them regularly throughout the day in 2014, compared with 35% of boys and 52% of girls in 2013.

* regularly throughout the day

Thank you

We hope you have enjoyed this selection of findings from the second edition of Our Future News, and once again, thank you very much for continuing to help us.

If you have any ideas about results you would like to see in future versions of Our Future News please let us know. If you have any questions about the study – or about anything to do with education, training or services for young people – then get in touch with us on

ourfuture.study@education.gsi.gov.uk

We'll do our best to answer.

Our interviewer will contact you again soon to talk to you about what you're up to now. The interview will be shorter than the past two times we have spoken to you, and once again you will receive a £10 voucher in the post beforehand as a thank you. Please let us know if we don't have the best address for you or you have changed address so we can make sure this gets to you. It is only by continuing to follow the experiences of young people that we can understand how our policies impact on their lives, so we really hope you can take part again. By hearing your views we can help towards young people getting the best from their lives, so your voice really matters.

Let us know if you move or are planning to move

Email: ourfuture.study@education.gsi.gov.uk

Call: 0114 274 2437

Visit: www.education.gov.uk/ourfuture



TNS BMRB

