Opportunities in numbers

Time needed: 10–15 minutes

This task will see students research and present data, using live job and apprenticeship vacancy information found at **plotr.co.uk** as stimulus.

Aims

- To practise using mathematical tools to present information gathered from **plotr.co.uk**
- To familiarise pupils with career opportunities that are available locally.

Key learning outcomes

By the end of the activity students will:

- Have practiced using mathematical tools including reasoning, probability, ration, proportion and rates of change.

Resources

- Access to IWB or internet access for each student/group.

Use me during:

- Maths lessons
- Form/tutor time
- Careers discussions
- Homework activity

Task

1. Introduce Plotr

- Introduce plotr.co.uk as a place to find out about careers and jobs, and to hear from companies about what it is like to work there.

- Mention to students that there are a number of different ways they can explore the site's content, but that you'll be using the **Jobs & Experience** finder today. This tool allows you to run targeted searches on Plotr's database of thousands of jobs, apprenticeships, work experience opportunities and more.

> **Top tip** Refer to the Quick Start Guide for more detailed information.

2. Showcase the Jobs & Experience finder

- Using the navigation at the top of the website, show students how to access (click on **Jobs & Experience**).

- Show them the search fields, and search for a role within 30 miles of your school/college's postcode (keep all other fields blank). Do you get any results? If not, try searching by industry.

3. Set the task

- Ask students to work in small groups to use the **Jobs & Experience** search tool to look for national and regional opportunities by:

  - Keyword

  - Industry

  - Category

  - Distance

- Once students are familiar with how the tool works, explain that you need their help finding the answer to a series of questions.

- Depending on the skills that need to be practised, pupils could be asked to find various types of information. Suggested questions include:

  - Find out how many opportunities there are within a 30 mile radius of the school. What is the ratio of apprenticeships to jobs?

- Find out how many apprentice vacancies there are within a 30 mile radius of Plotr's HQ (postcode SW12 9ER). How does this compare with the number of apprentice vacancies within a 30 mile radius of the school? How can this be expressed as a percentage?

- Find out the number of opportunities available within a 5, 10 and 25 mile radius of the school. Present the results by type of vacancy in a graph. Can you show the results by distance from the school and type of industry in a graph?

- Compare the availability of opportunities in various industries. Calculate the ratios in a particular search area.

Extension

- Ask students to present their findings in the form of bar, pie chart or line graphs.

- Suggest students might want to register with Plotr and play the Game. Powered by a personality assessment test, this specially designed game will help them discover careers that match their interests, skills and strengths.