# Follow your head or your heart?

Repositioning careers guidance as enabling people to flourish as lifelong learners

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## Key to lifelong learning: head or heart?

- Lifelong learning is an economic imperative.
- More people with higher level skills are needed.
- People are learning that to progress, remain employable, or change direction they will need to re-skill.
- This may involve a return to education or engaging in higher education for the first time.
- Providing high quality careers education, information and guidance is vital to support decision-making at key transition points.

#### Imperative in knowledge economy







#### News World news United States

#### Unemployed graduate sues US college

Trina Thompson claims a college in New York should refund her tuition because she has been unable to find a job

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#### Unemployed graduates: We've made the grade so where are our jobs?

#### guardian.co.uk

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Quarter of 'Class of 2005' graduates not in full-time work Graduate with no job unfurls CV on plinth .... and gets work



It took two hundred years to fill the shelves of the Library of Congress with more than 57 million manuscripts, 29 million books and periodicals, 12 million photographs and more.

Now the world generates an equivalent amount of digital information nearly100 times everyday.



We are currently preparing students for jobs that don't yet exist

in order to solve problems

we don't even know are problems yet

## Today's learners will have 10-14 jobs by the time they are 38



Half of what a technical student learns in his/her first year will be out of date by their third year.

## out of date

On 2 September 2009 an American science student captured images of the curvature of the earth using equipment costing 102 euros (NASA's budget is \$17billion)

#### Imperative in knowledge economy







Want **good** work

- Makes a difference
- Shared values
- Flat structures
- Self-development
- Ethical & sustainable operation
- Sharing learning & working in teams

#### Changes in careers guidance?

- Is the concept of 'career as a fit' out of date?
- Careers theories of Parsons & Holland.
- Human resource management is about moving individuals from an old to a new structure.
- Do education and employment maps still match?





#### **World of Education Map**



### Failure!

- Unplanned and unpredictable events and experiences are often crucial in determining an individual's career direction.
- At different stages of our life we also aspire to different goals and our value systems evolve.
- Do we need to find alternatives to *career fit*?

## CHANGING GOALS

### Managing change

ANSWERS RD

- CHANGE Key guidance role today is enabling clients to manage change in their lives.
  - Help the client to spot opportunities, recover from setbacks and capitalise on chance.
  - Create dissonance by challenging or suggesting alternative courses of action.

### Key interventions

- How can we enable the graduate to manage the complexities, uncertainties and dynamic aspects of modern work?
- Influence personal aptitudes e.g. persistence, flexibility, risk taking & curiosity.
- Facilitate movement through different phases in career development.



#### Mechanisms to manage change

- Projects that encourage multidisciplinary working such as 'creative' students working alongside 'science & technology' students.
- Mini work based learning projects where graduates are 'problem solving' for 'SME's which can also grow new jobs.
- Alumni mentoring students/graduates and providing models for managing uncertainty.
- Unexpected changes, Paul Theroux.

### WORKING TOGETHER

#### Discussion

- Have you examples of ways you have experienced or addressed any of the issues we've outlined?
- Do you think we need to do anything different to respond to these issues?

If you would like our notes from this session and/or to be kept up to date with the progress of the 'People with Passion' research please leave your business card or email jeanne@jeannebooth.co.uk

Or if you have case study examples of how you have successfully worked with clients to manage career change email

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