

Aim To encourage students to examine the choices some people might have to make when considering their careers in retail.

Preparation VIEW Retail must be pre-installed on a stand alone PC or network (where licensed). The activity could be undertaken by an individual or group of students.

Students will need some support in beginning their exploration of VIEW Retail. This can be achieved through a quick demonstration of by using the 'student guide' first. The students may also benefit from having access to maps on a printed sheet, to help them navigate around.

Students will need the attached student sheet with a pen or pencil, writing on the sheet or on another piece of paper.

Links to WRL Careers Education

Outcomes Improved skills with VIEW
Familiarisation with topic content in VIEW
Improved understanding of career choices

Pre activity Discuss the fact that like most jobs a career means 'moving on' from one job role to another with more responsibility, pay etc. Sometimes the decision isn't easy and people make choices for all sorts of reasons.

Some familiarisation with VIEW is necessary as the students need to look around the store.

Activity Students explore the House of Fraser and find a magazine, a notice board and an interview which all provokes issues of choice in a career

Post activity The students can discuss the reasons why they make the decisions they do and what extra information they might want to have.

Where can anyone get careers advice both now and later when they are in work?

Extension activities Explore careers related resources, books, magazines, websites etc that promote career choices.

Move further into the HR offices and find Gavin the HR development manager who answers some questions that might provide an insight into how a business develops their staff.

You will need...

You will need a paper and a pen or pencil to make some notes.

You will need headphones to listen to the answers an employee provides to questions in an interview.

Having a printed copy of the floor maps might be useful to help you find your way around.

Having a printed copy of the questions asked of the employee, it will help you choose to listen to the answers that best inform you about their career choices.

The House of Fraser employs many people and some will stay in store for a long time whilst others come and go. People switch jobs for many reasons and for some it is about furthering their career in one direction or another.

The store actively encourages its employees to look at opportunities within the House of Fraser nationally as a career choice. These opportunities are promoted through internal documents, newsletters and notice boards.

You are going to go to three sources of career choice information and look at the decision some people might have to make.

First lets find Michael a sales advisor who has been at the store for just three months and has mostly the 'money' as his motivation for work. After you enter the store, move towards the ground floor lifts and take the lift to the first floor. Turn right and move towards the east end of the sales floor. Rotate around this area for menswear until you see a group of people. Use the timeline to interview Michael a sales advisor here in menswear.

Listen to some of Michael's answers to questions. He is unsure of what he is going to do next but points to opportunities in the store. What advice would you give to Michael to make sure he makes the right choice at the end of the year?

Now, move back to the lifts and take the lift to the fifth floor.

Rotate around until you see the sign for the offices and click on the door. At this first point on the stairs, look around at the posters on the wall. Click on the 'job opportunities' board to the left of the cork notice board. If you click on the 'next button' again and again you can move forward through a sample of the House of Fraser job opportunities advertised here for employees. Use the 'prev' button to move back through the set of images.

These are all jobs with responsibilities that someone with some experience might want to apply for. There is no mention of any salaries or locations but on the

Making a choice

information provided choose two that you think you might like to do one day. Be prepared to give a reason for your choice however.

Now use the 'back' button to return to the rotating image and turn around to click on the stairs and go up to the top landing. Go through the double doors marked HR Offices. Then rotate right straight away – can you see that magazine on the small table? Click on it.

The magazine is called 'Retail Therapy' and is produced by a national organisation called 'Skillsmart' who are the sector skills council for retail. Flick through the magazine until you find a page with a headline 'Made to measure' – it is close to the end of the publication.. Use the 'view images in more detail' button to get close in and read about Hannah and push the screen up and down so that you can read the whole article. Hannah is asking for some careers advice and she gets three options presented to her on the next page. Read about Hannah and the three choices and advise her on what you think she should do.