What did the study involve?

**Small-scale Randomised Control Trial**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Control group</th>
<th>Intervention group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>347 students</td>
<td>647 Year 11s (aged 15-16)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>received</td>
<td>received</td>
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<tr>
<td>School's existing careers program</td>
<td>3 careers talks from external speakers</td>
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**Findings**

- There were modest, positive effects on exam (GCSE) grades as a result of the careers talks.
- The equivalent of one student in a class of 25 beating their predicted grade by one grade.
- Students in the intervention group reported, on average, a 9% higher increase in weekly exam revision hours than those in the control group.
- Lower achievers and less engaged learners responded best to the intervention program.

**Student feedback on the careers talks**

- 83% said the talks helped them understand the link between school and work.
- 74% said the talks made them feel more motivated at school.
- 66% said the talks helped them to believe in themselves and their capabilities.
- 49% said the talks had impacted their plans to revise for upcoming exams.
- 41% said the talks had resulted in them changing their career or education pathway choices.
- 22% said the talks had made them a lot more motivated for their exams.
- 7% said the talks played a role in reflecting on their post-school education pathway and career choices.

New research from the UK has explored the impact of extra careers talks by employers on secondary students' motivation to study, achievement, and their career plans and anticipated pathways. Here are some of the research findings.