

Get ahead... become a hairdresser

BY JOHN HIGGINSON

YOUR parents may have told you to work hard at school and go to university so that one day you could land a lucrative career as a lawyer or doctor.

But that well-worn mantra might soon be abandoned, with parents urging their offspring to quit lessons at 16 and get a job in a hair salon.

Hairdressers, builders and fitness instructors can expect to see their salaries soar faster than any other profession in the next 15 years, a study said yesterday.

Demand for their skills will help them earn up to 30 per cent more than the national average wage, it predicted.

By 2020, hairdressers will be raking in up to £55,000 a year, compared with a typical salary of £36,600.

But the fitness industry will enjoy the biggest pay increases. Sports and leisure centre managers can expect to be paid up to £80,000 a year.

Other 'golden' vocations with potential to earn big bucks include restaurant management and information technology, said training body City & Guilds.

Director Keith Brooker added: 'There will be rising demand for vocational workers, so there are clear incentives in terms of earning potential.'

'This will attract more people into these

NICE LITTLE EARNERS



Average wage:	2005	2020
Fitness instructors	£17,633	£79,881
Care assistants	£27,301	£38,609
Hairdressers	£20,936	£55,736
Security guards	£25,391	£70,572
Chefs/cooks	£26,255	£35,679
Plumbers	£42,076	£52,793
Call centre staff	£26,538	£48,197
Mechanics	£33,444	£34,221
Beauticians	£22,103	£55,736
Sales assistants	£17,910	£39,728
Electricians	£37,823	£53,071
Engineers	£37,239	£49,806

Source: The Future Earnings report

occupations during the coming years.' The report excluded the 'few thousand' high-flyers such as stockbrokers, whose stellar salaries skew the average, to give a truer picture of national salaries.