



Year 11 Applying to College Support

College Pathway



Timescales

- **September – October 2020-21**

Colleges provide Information, Guidance & Support about what their college offers. This information will be about the college courses, differences in those courses, opportunities at the college and generally what it is like to attend that college. This maybe done in a virtual way given the situation with Covid 19.

- **October – December 2020-21**

Students will start to make their applications and are encouraged all to make several applications to different colleges. Students can make applications beyond this timeline and applications can be made several ways. From September 2020 we will be encouraging all students to use a new Xello system to apply for post 16 opportunities rather than individual college websites. This system is still being piloted so we may have a blended approach to applying. Students can apply directly through the college websites. Students are supported with the application process through form time and can book 1:1 careers appointment with the schools Connexions Careers Advisor Claire Storey.

- **October – February 2020-21**

Colleges and other Post 16 providers will publish their Open Evening & Open Day events that are shared with all students and parents. Students and Parents are encouraged to attend these events for several different colleges to ensure an informed choice can be made. Colleges publicise all events on their website.

- **February – April 2020-21**

Students will during this time be offered an Interview to discuss their application. These interviews will take place either at school or during the evening at the college. In these interviews students will be asked if they still want to complete the application and confirm a place. We encourage students to be honest with colleges and if unsure still accept.



What should I consider before applying?

- Do I want to go to College?
There are other options, apprenticeships, training, the Army?
- How will I get to College?
- Will I like the College Campus?
- Do I want to go where my friends go?
- Does the College do the courses I want?
- Does the College get good results?
- Does the College have good resources?



What should I do before applying?

- **Research** — Take time to look at the college Virtual Assemblies on the School Website. Look at the college websites also to check out the range and level of courses they offer. Look at the other post 16 choices like apprenticeships, traineeships as an alternative to college.
- **Learn** — Take time to learn the differences between and Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 course. Your GCSE's are a level 2. Try and find out what the entry requirements are for each college and for the different pathways of study the colleges offer.
- **Explore** — How the choices you are thinking about link to future choices. Will these subjects support the degree I want to do? Do these subject choices support the career / job sector that I want to work in?
- **Use** — The support in school and online to help you make the choices you want. Use the wide range of websites provided to investigate the vast amount of careers getting inside information about what it is like to work in that sector.



Support and Guidance

- Please use the following link to access some of the support resources listed below. Some fantastic resources to support your child in their next steps planning.

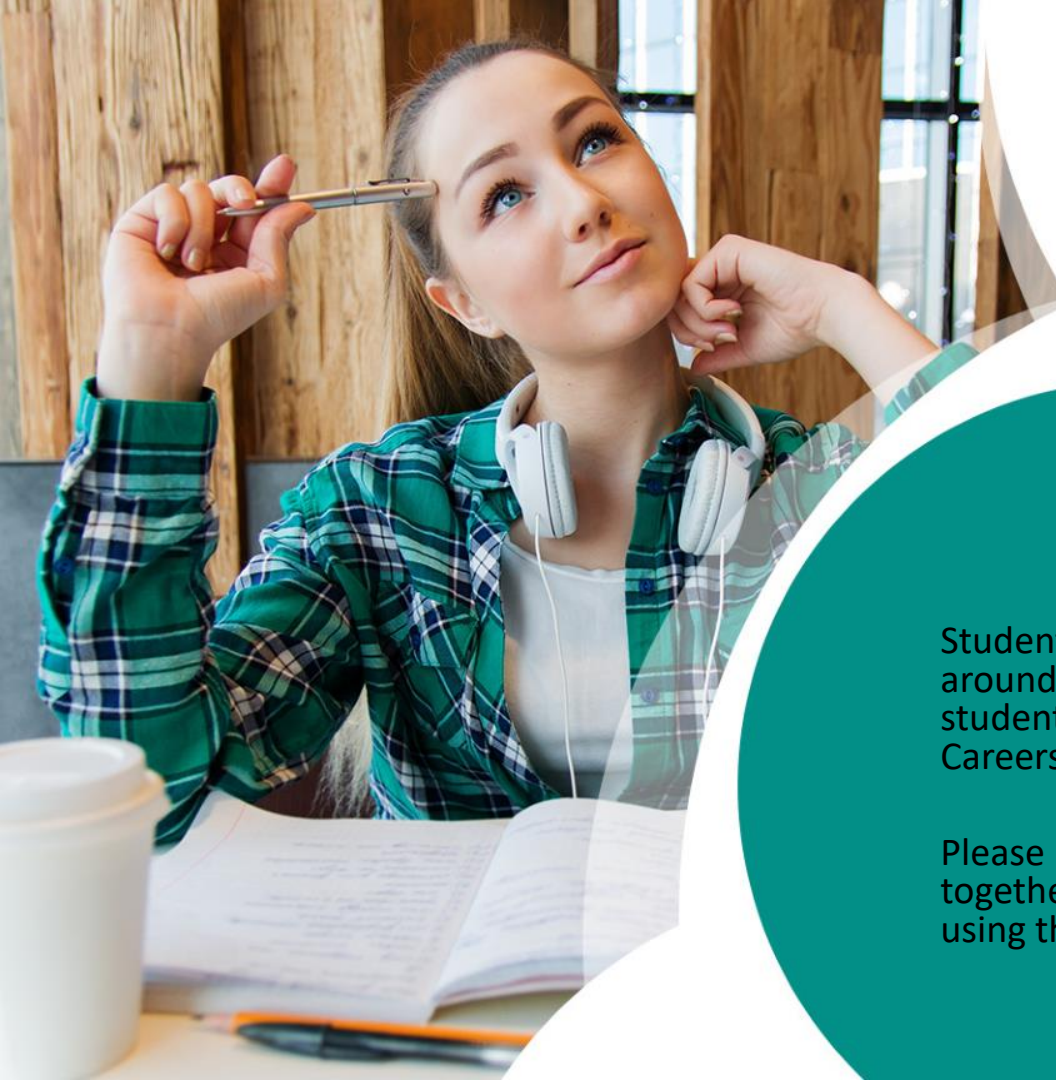
<http://www.westhoughton-high.org/about-us/ceiag/post16-student-parent-information>

- Virtual Assemblies from a range of Colleges.
- Student and Parent Careers and Pathways Booklet.
- Useful List of College and Careers Website – These provide information around colleges, universities, apprenticeships and careers platform with a host of activities and videos to explore different careers whilst finding out more about possible career paths based on a students skills and interests.
 - Apprenticeship Booklet.
 - Virtual Experience Handout.



Guide to Website Links

- <https://www.startprofile.com/about-start/> - investigate careers, watch videos and get great advice, find out about employers and work experience opportunities in your area.
- www.careersbox.co.uk – video based job profile information and skills explorer tool.
- <https://www.thewowshow.org/students/>
A fast-moving magazine-style programme. Engaging encounters with young inspirational people for an authentic view of what the world of work really means. Lots of different videos embedded on this site that really give you an insight into careers, skills, and frequently asked questions about specific jobs. Some links below will give you an indication of this
- <https://www.thewowshow.org/national-careers-week/>
- <https://www.thewowshow.org/careerscast-episode-1/> at the bottom of this page there are lots more videos to explore
- <https://www.thewowshow.org/careerscast-episode-2/>
- <https://sites.google.com/dartoncollege.co.uk/y11revision/revision-tips?authuser=0> – one stop shop for a range of videos from learners that support learners through a range of barriers and offer support in the best habits around studying, the power hour, motivation, revision skills, getting started and the staying on track.
- Explore more about Careers and your futures using more of the web links provided on the Post 16 Parent and Student Support Section on the website.



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Students will be offered support about making decisions around their Post 16 Choices through tutor time and students can book 1:1 interview with Claire Storey our Careers Advisor

Please in the meantime over the Summer Break explore together the choices available to you and your child using the resources available.