



Year 11 Applying to College Support

College Pathway



Timescales

- **September – October**

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**

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. 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**

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 make all events on their website public

- **February – April**

Students will during this time be offered an Interview from college to discuss their application. These interviews will take place either at school or during the evening at the college or virtually. 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.



How to Apply to College?

- There are two main ways to apply to College

The main way is directly through the College website and there will be an applications section with an electronic form.

The second way is through a paper-based application form found at the back of a college prospectus.

- Important things to include in your applications.
 - Provide more than one email (your personal email /school email and a parent's email). Your personal email is your primary one.
 - Provide contact numbers, parents numbers also.
 - Check all details before submitting
 - Remember to select the appropriate courses for yourself.



1:1 Support and Advice

- 1:1 Careers advice can be given via individual interviews in school with Vash Lad.

How?

Indicate to your form tutor that you need some additional support with post 16 progression and your name will be passed to Vash Lad.

Vash will arrange a time when your 1:1 will take place and come and collect you from lessons. These 1:1's in the Connexions office in A Block music corridor.

Vash Lad will be in school on Wednesday/Thursday.

Careers conversations can be held in A3 on Thursday lunchtime to collect a college prospectus. 12.20-1.10pm Starting from 13th October.

Tutors can contact Vash through Microsoft Teams / Email vlad@westhoughton-high.org with specific student requests or whole form discussions.



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.