

**St Paul's Academy, Careers Adviser
Mrs Vicki Banbrook**

**SIXTH FORM / COLLEGE
APPLICATIONS**

THIS PACK CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION WHICH MUST BE SHARED WITH YOUR PARENTS/CARERS. YOU WILL BE CONTACTED REGARDING AN INTERVIEW WITH A CAREERS ADVISER. THIS DOCUMENT WILL HELP YOU TO FOCUS YOUR RESEARCH SO THAT YOU CAN GET THE MOST OUT OF THAT INTERVIEW.

This guide is to help you with your choice of college/6th form and your choice of qualification/subject, it is very important that you start to research this at the beginning of the autumn term of year 11.

You will also see a Careers Adviser and you can then discuss your choices of course, institution and career but this may be after some of the college/6th form open days as they can be as early as the third week of the autumn term - so it is vital that you start the research early.

Which course to take after Year 11

Think about which level of course is right for you to take next year

Level 3 Courses – 2 years

If you are predicted to achieve GCSEs grades 9-5/4 including English language & maths (this is a minimum, always check the requirements of the school/college you want to apply to) then here are some of the courses you can apply for:

A Levels (at least 5 GCSEs grades 9-5 but often more, usually to include maths and English language required)

You will usually study 3 or sometimes 4 A level subjects. There are a wide variety of subjects. Usually lots of theory and also lots of exams at the end of the two years.

International Baccalaureate Diploma (IB) (high grade GCSEs required, usually at least grades 9-6)

You will study 6 subjects (an English, a maths, a language, a science, a humanities/social science, and an arts/more practical subject) 3 subjects at a higher level and 3 subjects at standard level. You will also have to study the theory of knowledge, complete an extended essay and get involved in further activities called CAS creativity, activity, service which could be voluntary work, involvement in a sport, a performing art etc.

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma (usually 4/5 GCSEs grades 9-5/4 often including maths and English language required)

This course is equal to 3 A levels. It is vocational / work related i.e. sport, childcare, health & social care, hospitality, animal care etc. You will be assessed throughout the course and there will be some exams. It is for students who have an idea of their future career area, for example, you want to work with children or in sport.

Please note –

The BTEC Level 3 Diploma is equivalent to 2 A levels.

The BTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma is equivalent to 1.5 A levels.

The BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma is equivalent to 1 A level.

The BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate is equivalent to 1 A level.

The BTEC Level 3 Certificate is equivalent to 0.5 A levels.

Note - It is sometimes possible to study a mixture of A levels and BTECs. Aim to have an overall equivalent of 3 A levels or more.

T Levels or Technical Levels (some became available in September 2020, more will be introduced over the next few years)

These are new Level 3 courses. They are vocational / work related qualifications in career areas such as Accounting, law and finance, Business and administration, Hair and beauty. They are equivalent to 3 A levels. The majority will be college classroom based including a work placement of 45 days.

With any of the above level 3 courses you can apply to University. To find out more about university go to www.ucas.com. Or you could seek employment or a higher level or degree apprenticeship, or a place on a school leaver programme.

Level 2 Courses – 1 year

If you are predicted to get less than 4/5 GCSEs 9-5/4 grades in your GCSEs (let's imagine you achieve mainly grade 3s) then here are some of the courses you can apply for:

BTEC Level 2 Diploma

This course is equal to 4/5 GCSEs 9-5/4 grades and is marked Pass, Merit or Distinction. Students can progress from this course on to a level 3 course (often a BTEC level 3 course but see page 3 for the different types of level 3 courses that may be available) if you obtain a Merit or Distinction. You will be assessed throughout the course.

It is for students who have an idea of their future career area, for example, a student wants to work in business or in engineering, and there are many other areas. Look at college/sixth form prospectuses to get the full range.

GCSE Resits

There are just a few colleges where you can commence a one year GCSE retake year, normally a student can retake 4-5 GCSEs. They usually require you to obtain grade 3s at the end of Year 11.

If you are unsure if you will achieve 5 GCSEs 9-5/4 grades then you should apply for some level 2 and some level 3 courses.

Level 1 courses – 1 year

If you are predicted to get mainly 3-1 grades in your GCSEs then here is one of the courses you can apply for:

BTEC Level 1 Diploma

From this course you can go onto the BTEC Level 2 Diploma (as above). It is for students who have an idea of their future career for example working with animals or hairdressing; you will be assessed throughout the course.

Note – Some Colleges also offer Entry Level courses for those students that may need additional support.

Choosing Which Subject/s To Take

A good starting point is to consider which future career interests you. Always think about your interests, skills, personal qualities, abilities and values and try to match these to each career that you research, is it a good match? If you research into any career either at your school careers library or online you may find that there are some preferred or essential courses/subjects needed for that career, for example Chemistry and Biology for Medicine, Maths and possibly Physics for Engineering, a Child Care course for Nursery Work or a Hairdressing course to work as a Hairdresser.

If you are not sure what course/career you want there is a website that has a careers quiz to give job ideas: <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk> use the 'skills health check' section. Or you can use www.eclips-online.co.uk log in for St Paul's Academy students is SE2 9PX and use the 'careers wizard' quiz.

If you are unsure about a future career and prefer to keep your career options open you could choose a mixture of subjects that you enjoy and are good at, look at A levels and choose 3/4 subjects or study for the IB where you will study 6 subjects and other core elements.

Just remember it's important to take qualifications linked to the career if you do have any ideas i.e. science qualifications for a science based career. Art careers may require a qualification in art/design or something similar, but may also require a portfolio (a folder with your creative work).

Taking your future career into consideration should help you determine whether you want to take:

- a course where you would study several subjects (this could be A levels, or the International Baccalaureate)

OR

- a vocational course e.g. a BTEC or a T Level in a specific career area like child care, health, catering, animal care, hair & beauty etc - usually meaning that you are interested in that career path

Sometimes the career path you want to follow will list qualifications at degree level for example for a career as an doctor you would usually need a degree in medicine, in this case look at those degrees using the UCAS website www.ucas.com and research into the entry qualifications which are needed to take the recommended degree. This should result in a narrower list of level 3 qualifications which are required in order to take that degree.

National Qualifications Framework (comparing qualifications)

This educational table has been included to show that certain qualifications are on a similar level to others.

| LEVEL | GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS | VOCATIONALLY-RELATED QUALIFICATIONS | OCCUPATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS |
|--------------|---|--|--|
| | Attainment in a subject | Attainment in a vocational area | Competence in the workplace |
| Level 4/5/6 | Courses in Higher Education such as HND/ Foundation Degree/ Degree - Non Vocational | Courses in Higher Education such as HND/ Foundation Degree/ Degree - vocational | NVQ 4/5/6 Technical, Management and Professional |
| Level 3 | A Level International Baccalaureate | BTEC Level 3 : Some examples = Subsidiary (equiv. 1 A Level), Diploma (equiv. 2 A Levels) Extended (equiv. 3 A levels) T Levels | NVQ 3 Advanced Apprentice, Technician and Supervisor |
| Level 2 | 4-5 GCSEs 9-5/4 grades | BTEC Level 2 | NVQ 2 Apprentice/ Crafts(wo)man |
| Level 1 | 4-5 GCSEs 3-1 grades | BTEC Level 1 | NVQ 1 Basic Skills e.g. packer, typist, checkout operator |
| Entry level | | Preparation for Level 1 Qualifications | |

If you want to go on to a level 3 course you will normally need a minimum of 4/5 GCSEs including maths and English language at 9-5/4 grades

If you want to go on to a level 2 course you will usually need GCSEs at mainly grade 3

If you want to go on to a level 1 course you will usually need GCSEs grades 3 – 1 or pass a test and/or interview at the college

Entry Level qualifications are for those that need some extra preparation before entering Level 1

Schools with Sixth Forms/Sixth Form Colleges/Further Education (FE) Colleges - How to narrow your list

It is usually a good idea to make notes about the different schools/colleges you are looking at. You may find the "Research Tips" included in this document helpful. Keep a record of all of the places you look at, it will help you to compare schools/colleges later. It is sometimes difficult to remember what you liked about different places after a few months. Further on in this document there are lists of many possible institutions where you can continue your education after you complete year 11.

Criteria to Consider:

Different types of Post 16 institutions

- School 6th forms- schools which have students from 11-18 years (all schools with a 6th Form e.g. Thomas Tallis, Woolwich Poly)
- Sixth Form College/Post 16 Campus – have students mainly 16-19 years (e.g. Shooters Hill, Christ the King)
- FE Colleges- may have all age students 16-60 years! (e.g. Greenwich Community College, North Kent College)

Ease of Access

Check where it is (if you are unsure look at Transport for London web site and an A-Z Map). Don't forget you will be making this journey regularly in all weathers and will need to be punctual. If you apply to schools/colleges some distance from your home check their selection policy to make sure you do not live too far away. This is more often the case with some schools rather than FE colleges.

School Type

For example a Church school (where you may be asked to complete a church attendance information form which would need to be signed by your priest) OR a grammar school. If possible try to apply for a variety of schools.

Qualifications Taught

Does the institution provide the qualifications that you want? There may be restrictions in the combinations of A levels or they may or may not offer the International Baccalaureate or Vocational Qualifications.

Past Results

A table of a summary of results in each borough are usually available online via the borough's government site (i.e. www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk) try searching for post 16 performance tables or post 16 league tables. Performance tables are published yearly by the Times, BBC, Telegraph and other organisations, the recent versions will be available by using an appropriate search for example "A level performance tables 2020". For league tables per borough or county you can also use www.compare-school-performance-service.gov.uk/compare-schools then click on 16 to 18 performance and search for results per local authority e.g. Greenwich or per county e.g. Kent. You may need to contact the school/college directly for results particular to a subject e.g. How did the students achieve in Maths A level?

In Depth Research

When you have made a list of all the institutions you want to research look at their web sites (some addresses are listed in this booklet if not google them), most places now have online prospectuses, if not check the careers library or email them (many email addresses are listed in this booklet if not google them) and ask for a paper prospectus to be sent to your home.

Visits

It is your/your parent's responsibility to check the dates of the open evenings/days, each institution will have a different date. Think of any questions you may need to be answered.

Applications

It is your/your parent's responsibility to check the closing dates for college/sixth form applications and apply in good time, each institution will have its own individual closing date. It is always best to apply for several schools/colleges. Make sure that the institutions and courses you apply to cover the range of possible results that you may achieve as you cannot be certain of the result i.e. you may hope to achieve 9-6 grades so you may have applied to a few schools/courses asking for 9-6 grades, but also you should have applied to some asking just for all 6s and also to some asking for lower grades than 6s as everyone needs a back up.

Just **SOME** of the schools/colleges you could look at when researching (arranged by borough/county, e.g. Greenwich, Bexley etc). These include institutions that students from St Paul's Academy have gone to in the past, but there are many more that you could consider.

It is Your/Your Parent's responsibility to check with each school/college in September for the date of their open day/evening and their closing dates for applications.

Borough websites (under education) give links to 6th forms and colleges in their area and often have a Post 16 brochure on line.

Care was taken to ensure the following information was correct at the time of printing but please do double check any information that is particularly important to you.

| Type | I B | Local Authority Name | Name | Contact Number | Email | Website address |
|---------------------------|--------|----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Sixth Form | | Bexley | Beths Grammar School | 01322 556538 | admin@beths.bexley.sch.uk | www.beths.bexley.sch.uk |
| Further Education College | | Bexley | Bexley College (LSEC) | 0203 954 4000 | studenthub@lsec.ac.uk | www.lsec.ac.uk |
| Sixth Form | y | Bexley | Bexley Grammar School | 020 8304 8538 | enquiries@bexleygs.co.uk | www.bexleygs.co.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bexley | Bexley Partnership 6 th (Trinity & Welling Schools) | T = 01322 441371 W = 020 8304 8531 | reception@trinity.bexley.sch.uk office@wellingschool-tkat.org | www.trinity.bexley.sch.uk www.wellingschool-tkat.org |
| Sixth Form | | Bexley | Bexleyheath Academy | 020 8303 5696 | info@bexleyheathacademy.org | www.bexleyheathacademy.org |

| Type | I B | Local Authority Name | Name | Contact Number | Email | Website address |
|---------------------------|--------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|
| Sixth Form | | Bexley | Blackfen School for Girls | 020 8303 1887 | admin@blackfen.bexley.sch.uk | www.blackfenschoolforgirls.co.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bexley | Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School | 020 8302 6511 | enquiries@csgrammar.com | www.csgrammar.com |
| Sixth Form | | Bexley | Christ the King - St Mary's | 020 8309 4760 | stmarys@ctksfc.ac.uk | www.ckstmarys.ac.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bexley | Cleeve Park School | 020 8302 6418 | enquires@cleevepark-tkat.org | www.cleevepark-tkat.org |
| Sixth Form | | Bexley | Harris Academy Falconwood | 020 8304 4916 | info@harrisfalconwood.org.uk | www.harrisfalconwood.org.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bexley | Harris Garrard Academy | 020 8320 4800 | info@harrisgarrard.org.uk | www.harrisgarrard.org.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bexley | King Henry School | 01322 348231 | info@kinghenry.org.uk | www.kinghenry.org.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bexley | Townley Grammar School for Girls | 020 8304 8311 | admin@townleygrammar.org.uk | www.townleygrammar.org.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | Bishop Justus CofE School | 020 8315 8130 | admin@bishopjustus.bromley.sch.uk | www.bishopjustus.bromley.sch.uk |
| Further Education College | | Bromley | Bromley College (LSEC) | 0203 954 4000 | studenthub@lsec.ac.uk | www.lsec.ac.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | Bromley High School (Independent) | 020 8781 7000 | bhs@bro.gdst.net | www.bromleyhigh.gdst.net |

| Type | I B | Local Authority Name | Name | Contact Number | Email | Website address |
|---------------|--------|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | Bullers Wood Girls School Bullers Wood Boys School | 020 8467 2280 020 8016 0710 | sixthform@bwsgirls.org office@bwsboys.org | www.bwsgirls.org www.bwsboys.org |
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | Chislehurst School for Girls | 020 8300 3156 | office@chsfg.co.uk | www.chislehurstschoolforgirls.co.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | Coopers School | 020 8467 3263 | adm@coopersschool.com | www.coopersschool.com |
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | Darrick Wood School | 01689 850271 | office@darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk | www.darrickwood.bromley.sch.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | Eltham College (Independent) | 020 8857 1455 | mail@eltham-college.org.uk | www.elthamcollege.london |
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | Harris Academy Orpington | 01689 819219 | info@harrisorpington.org.uk | www.harrisorpington.org.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | Harris Girls' Academy Bromley | 020 8778 5917 | info@harrisbromley.org.uk | www.harrisbromley.org.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | Hayes School | 020 8462 2767 | postmaster@hayes.bromley.sch.uk | www.hayes.bromley.sch.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | Langley Park Boys (mixed in 6th form) | 020 8639 4700 | office@lpsb.org.uk | www.lpsb.org.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | Langley Park Girls (mixed in 6th form) | 020 8639 5200 | info@lpgs.bromley.sch.uk | www.lpgs.bromley.sch.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | Newstead Wood School for Girls | 01689 853626 | office@newsteadwood.co.uk | www.newsteadwood.co.uk |

| Type | I B | Local Authority Name | Name | Contact Number | Email | Website address |
|---------------------------|--------|----------------------------|--|-------------------|--|--|
| Further Education College | | Bromley | Orpington College (LSEC) | 0203 954 4000 | studenthub@lsec.ac.uk | www.lsec.ac.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | Ravenswood School | 01689 856050 | office@rws.uk.net | www.ravenswood.bromley.sch.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | St Olave's Grammar School | 01689 820101 | office@saintolaves.net | www.saintolaves.net |
| Sixth Form | | Bromley | The Ravensbourne School | 020 8460 0083 | office@trs.e21c.co.uk | www.ravensbourne.info |
| Specialist College | | Croydon | BRIT School for Performing Arts & Technology | 020 8665 5242 | info@brit.croydon.sch.uk | www.brit.croydon.sch.uk |
| Further Education College | | Croydon | Croydon College | 020 8686 5700 | info@croydon.ac.uk | www.croydon.ac.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Greenwich | Blackheath High School (Independent) | 020 8853 2929 | info@bla.gdst.net | www.blackheathhighschool.gdst.net |
| Sixth Form | | Greenwich | Colfe's School (Independent) | 020 8852 2283 | office@colfes.com | www.colfes.com |
| Sixth Form | | Greenwich | Eltham Hill | 020 8859 2843 | info@elthamhill.greenwich.sch.uk | www.elthamhill.com |
| Further Education College | | Greenwich | Greenwich Community College (LSEC) | 0203 954 4000 | studenthub@lsec.ac.uk | www.lsec.ac.uk |

| Type | I B | Local Authority Name | Name | Contact Number | Email | Website address |
|-------------------|--------|----------------------------|--|-------------------|--|--|
| Sixth Form | | Greenwich | Harris Academy Greenwich | 020 8859 0133 | info@harrisgreenwich.org.uk | www.harrisgreenwich.org.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Greenwich | Plumstead Manor | 0203 260 3333 | info@plumsteadmanor.com | www.plumsteadmanor.com |
| Sixth Form | | Greenwich | Royal Greenwich Trust School | 020 8312 5480 | info@rgtrustschool.net | www.rgtrustschool.net |
| Sixth Form | | Greenwich | Shooters Hill Campus | 020 8319 9427 | admissions@shc.ac.uk | www.shootershill.ac.uk |
| Training Provider | | Greenwich | Skills For Growth Apprenticeships / Traineeships (Various locations available) | 020 8221 0500 | helensenton@skillsforgrowth.org.uk | www.skillsforgrowth.org.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Greenwich | St Mary Magdalene C of E School | 020 3873 5555 | info.sixthform@koinoniafederation.com | www.koinoniafederation.com |
| Sixth Form | | Greenwich | Stationers' Crown Woods Academy Arden Sixth Form | 020 8850 7678 | info@scwa.org.uk | www.scwa.org.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Greenwich | The Halley Academy | 020 8856 2828 | admin@thehalleyacademy.org.uk | www.thehalleyacademy.org.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Greenwich | The John Roan | 020 8516 7555 | info@thejohnroanschool.org.uk | www.thejohnroanschool.org.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Greenwich | Thomas Tallis | 020 8856 0115 | Post16admin@thomastallis.org.uk | www.thomastallischool.com |

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| Sixth Form | | Greenwich | Woolwich Polytechnic for Boys (mixed sixth form) | 020 8310 7000 | enquiries@woolwichpoly.co.uk | www.woolwichpoly.co.uk |
| Type | I B | Local Authority Name | Name | Contact Number | Email | Website address |
| Sixth Form | | Hammersmith and Fulham | The London Oratory Prospectus available mid Sept | 020 7385 0102 | reception@los.ac | www.london-oratory.org |
| Further Education College | | Islington | City & Islington College | 020 7700 9200 | courseinfo@candi.ac.uk | www.candi.ac.uk |
| Sixth Form | y | Kent | Dartford Grammar School (Boys) (Mixed sixth form) | 01322 223039 | info@dartfordgrammarschool.org.uk | www.dartfordgrammarschool.org.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Kent | Dartford Grammar School for Girls (Mixed sixth form) | 01322 223123 | school@dartfordgrammargirls.org.uk | www.dartfordgrammargirls.kent.sch.uk |
| Further Education College | | Kent | Hadlow College (Tonbridge Main Site) (There are other campuses) | 01732 850551 | hadlow@northkent.ac.uk | www.hadlow.ac.uk |
| Further Education College | | Kent | North Kent College | 01322 629400 | Complete the enquiry form on website | www.northkent.ac.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Kent | Wilmington Grammar Sixth Form for Boys & Girls – WG6) | 01322 223090 | office@wg6.co.uk | www.wg6.co.uk |
| Type | I B | Local Authority Name | Name | Contact Number | Email | Website address |
| Sixth Form | | Lewisham | Christ the King - Aquinas | 020 7358 2400 | aquinas@ctksfc.ac.uk | www.ctkaquinas.ac.uk |

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|---------------------------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| Sixth Form | Lewisham | Christ the King – Emmanuel | 020 8297 9433 | emmanuel@ctksfc.ac.uk | www.ckemmanuel.ac.uk |
| Sixth Form | Lewisham | Haberdasher Ask's Federation (Hatcham College, Knights Academy, Crayford Academy) | H 020 7652 9510 K 020 8461 9240 C 01322 402180 | Hhreception@haaf.org.uk Kkreception@haaf.org.uk Ccreception@haaf.org.uk | www.habshatcham.org.uk www.habsknights.org.uk www.habscrayford.org.uk |
| Further Education College | Lewisham | Lewisham College | 020 3757 3000 | info@lewisham.ac.uk | www.lewisham.ac.uk |
| Sixth Form | Lewisham | Prendergast School | 020 8690 3710 | admin@prendergast-school.com | www.prendergast-school.com |
| Sixth Form | Lewisham | Sedgehill School | 020 8698 8911 | info@sedgehillschool.org.uk | www.sedgehillschool.co.uk |
| Sixth Form | Lewisham | St Dunstan's College (Independent) | 020 8516 7226 | admissions@stdunstans.org.uk | www.stdunstans.org.uk |
| Sixth Form | Lewisham | Sydenham & Forest Hill School 6 th Form | 020 8699 6731 ext 484 | l.daniels@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk | www.sfh6.org |
| Sixth Form | Lewisham | Sydenham High School (Independent) | 020 8557 7004 | admissions@syd.gdst.net | www.sydenhamhighschool.gdst.net |
| Further Education College | Newham | Newham College | 020 8257 4000 | info@newham.ac.uk | www.newham.ac.uk |
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| Type | I B | Local Authority Name | Name | Contact Number | Email | Website address |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------------------------|---|-------------------|--|--|
| Sixth Form | | Newham | Newham Sixth Form College NewVic | 020 7473 4110 | info@newvic.ac.uk | www.newvic.ac.uk |
| Further Education College | | Southwark | Southwark College | 020 3757 4000 | Submit a general enquiry via website | www.southwark.ac.uk |
| Further Education College | | Tower Hamlets & others | New City College (There are many campuses inc. Tower Hamlets Epping Forest, Redbridge, Havering x 2, Hackney, Ilford, Attlee, Rainham) | 0330 135 9000 | info@ncclondon.ac.uk | www.ncclondon.ac.uk |
| Sixth Form | | Wandsworth | St Francis Xavier Sixth Form College | 020 8772 6072 | enquiries@sfx.ac.uk | www.sfx.ac.uk |
| Further Education College | | Westminster | City of Westminster College | 020 7723 8826 | customer.services@cwca.ac.uk | www.cwc.ac.uk |
| Specialist College | | Westminster | The Fashion Retail Academy | 0207 307 2345 | info@fra.ac.uk | www.fashionretailacademy.ac.uk |
| Specialist College | | Westminster | The London College of Beauty Therapy | 020 7208 1300 | info@lcbt.co.uk | www.lcbt.co.uk |
| Further Education College | | Westminster | Westminster Kingsway College | 0207 963 4181 | Complete the General Questions Form on Website | www.westking.ac.uk |

Some Tips on How to Research Post 16 Schools, Sixth Forms and Colleges

Where should I look? Internet/relevant websites, prospectuses (booklets from institutions or online), books from the careers section of the school library and go to Open Days/Evenings

What should I look for? (Print one copy of this page and the next for each Institution you are considering – make notes on the following when researching and attending Open Days/Evenings)

Name of the Institution _____

1. The Course – What will I be studying (course content)?
2. What grades will I need to get into the subjects/course I wish to study (entry requirements)?
3. What grades/results did the school/college achieve last year in the subjects/course I am considering choosing (past results)?

4. How will I get to this institution (location)? (use Transport for London website www.tfl.gov.uk and map).
5. What is the atmosphere like at this institution?
6. Other things that are important to me? (for example I wish to go to a Grammar School).
7. Where did students go after this course (destination information)?
8. Thinking about the above questions - what is my overall impression?

Useful Web Sites, Information and Advice

If you are planning eventually to go to university and you know what you would like to study, look at the UCAS website www.ucas.com and make sure the qualifications you are choosing at A level/IB/BTEC Level 3/T level are the ones required for that degree, for example which subjects are required for Pharmacy?

To find out more about careers you are interested in read the careers books (in the School library). Also you could use <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk> and go to the Job Profiles section to view a careers database to find out about the career you are interested in and to make sure the qualifications you are planning to take are relevant. You can find similar information by using www.eclips-online.co.uk log in for St Paul's Academy students is SE2 9PX, use the Job Group section.

If you are not sure about your future career look at <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk> the 'skills health check' section, there is a careers quiz that should give you some job/career ideas. As an alternative use www.eclips-online.co.uk, log in as above and use the 'career wizard' quiz.

Look at Sixth Form/College prospectuses either online or order a paper prospectus to find out more about courses on offer and the institutions themselves.

Make sure you go to open days/evenings for the Sixth Forms/Colleges that you are interested in. **You/your parents are responsible for researching the relevant dates for the open events.**

Look at last year's results - Google 'A level performance tables 2020' also directly ask the schools/colleges you are researching about their past results.

Make sure you apply to at least 5 colleges and sixth forms and always before their closing dates. **You/your parents are responsible for researching the relevant application closing dates for each college/sixth form.** Then later attend any enrolment days to secure you place hopefully at your first choice institution if not, at one of your back up institutions.

Apprenticeships (the other option)

This booklet is focusing on School/College Applications. For those who want an apprenticeship see below, do remember that it is advisable to also apply for a school/college place as a backup plan as apprenticeships are still quite difficult to find.

If you are interested in applying for an apprenticeship you should register with this website for opportunities and information www.apprenticeships.gov.uk. Also tell your Careers Adviser she will let you know of any opportunities from January/February onwards and will discuss this option with you in depth and will give you other tips on when and how to apply.

Mrs Vicki Banbrook – Careers Adviser September 2021