

## **FACTORS TO CONSIDER AND THINGS TO FIND OUT WHEN RESEARCHING COURSES AND COLLEGES/ SIXTH FORMS**

Tip - Always choose your course before you choose your college or sixth form

- What courses are on offer at this particular college/sixth form? e.g. A levels, IB Diploma, BTECs, T levels etc.
- What is the course content of... e.g. the BTEC in Business or the T level in Digital?
- What is the content of these subjects... e.g. A level Sociology, A level Film Studies, A level Geography?
- What are the entry requirements for this course or this subject at this particular college/sixth form?
- How will I be taught? e.g. teacher-led classroom discussions, fieldwork, in a laboratory
- How will I be assessed? e.g. coursework, exams, a mixture of both
- Past exam results for this course or this subject at this particular sixth form?
- Destination Information – After this course where did the students go? e.g. University, Apprenticeship, Employment
- Location of college/sixth form – travelling distance from home, my journey?
- Size of college/sixth form?
- Type of college/sixth form? e.g. Religious, Grammar school, school sixth form, Further Education (FE) college, sixth form college etc?
- Demographics of students on this course or at this college/sixth form? e.g. age, gender, ethnicity

- What facilities are there at this particular college/sixth form? e.g. library, computer suites, sports equipment
- Anything else that matters to you?

Try to get the answers to these questions for each course and each college/sixth form that you are considering, then you will be in a position to compare the courses and the colleges/sixth forms.

Only once you have most of this information will you really be able to make informed decisions.

Vicki Banbrook – Careers Adviser  
May 2024

Use these below to help you with your research:-

- College/sixth form individual websites
- College/sixth form online or paper prospectuses
- Telephone or email the college/sixth form and ask questions e.g. could you please send me your past exam results booklet and your destinations booklet
- Open Days – ensure you ask the teachers/lecturers about the courses/subjects (as they will be the experts), ask about course/subject content, entry requirements, teaching and assessment methods. Also take a tour of the campus and talk with current students
- Which A levels? – a book
- Choosing Your A levels – a book
- [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org) – IB Diploma
- [www.btec.co.uk](http://www.btec.co.uk) – BTECs
- [www.tlevels.gov.uk](http://www.tlevels.gov.uk) – T levels
- <https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/info/200289/post-16> - Greenwich Post 16 information and a link where you can search for courses e.g. which institutions offer A level art
- <https://www.bexley.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/post-16-education-bexley/decisions-post-16> - Bexley Post 16 information and a Bexley Post 16 Directory where you can search for courses e.g. which institutions offer BTEC level 3 Business
- Most Local Authorities will have similar so google e.g. Lewisham Post 16

- Seek Information, Advice & Guidance from your Careers Adviser and any other knowledgeable school member of staff
- Discuss with your Family and Friends – but remember ultimately these are your decisions
- For university research – [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

For Careers Research - information about jobs/careers and about labour market information (LMI) and other topics start with:-

- Unifrog – you all have your individual accounts
- [www.eclips-online.co.uk](http://www.eclips-online.co.uk) login for St Paul's Academy Community Only = SE2 9PX
- Use the school's (SPA) website – click on Careers (top right) and see title Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance, then many links to careers related topics

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