

COLLEGE INTERVIEW

Here are some tips:

1. Make sure you have a clear understanding about the course you have applied for and exactly what you will be studying – do your research!
2. Before you go for your interview, make sure you know the exact location of the college.
3. Make sure you know how to get there and how long it will take you.
4. Remember to take your interview invitation letter with you – it will contain exact details of where you have to go and who you will be seeing.
5. Take evidence of your predicted grades – or your most recent school report.
6. If you are applying for a creative course, you should take along a portfolio of your work (art, creative writing, and hairdressing) to illustrate your abilities and passion for the subject. This can be photos on your phone.
7. If possible, take someone with you – you may have to wait and the interview process can take up to 2 hours.
8. Make sure you dress appropriately either in school uniform or in suitable smart clothes – try not to wear trainers or jeans, but if you have to, make sure they are clean and smart.
9. Remember to greet the staff at the college with a smile and always be polite.
10. MAKE SURE YOU ARRIVE AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE TIME OF YOUR INTERVIEW.

Questions you may be asked could include:

1. What do you know about the subject you are applying to study?
Be clear and honest about why you have chosen the course.
2. Why are you interested in this subject?
This is your opportunity to say, with passion, why this subject interests you.
3. Why do you want to attend this college in particular?
Make sure you know about the college and what they stand for – this will be on their website. You can also talk about suitability of distance and the standards of the courses.
4. What are your short-term goals?
You should talk about how you want to progress to the next stages of your studies after your first year at college.
5. What are your long-term goals?
You should talk about your long-term career aspirations.
6. What do you like to do in your spare time?
Make sure you can talk about what you do in your spare time (not just ‘hanging out with my mates’!). This will demonstrate what kind of person you are.
7. Have you ever done any volunteering?
Don’t worry if you haven’t, but if you have – talk about it as it will attest to your qualities, skills and work abilities.

8. Why has there been a gap in your schooling?
If you have had a gap, then please be honest about it – they are not trying to trick you. If it is for health or mental health reasons they will be asking because they want to make sure they can support you.
9. Why do you attend a Pupil Referral Unit?
Again, be honest. If you feel uncomfortable talking about it, please refer them to your school where they can get official professional-to-professional information.
10. What are your predicted grades?
These will be on your latest school report (which you should take with you) but you should try to know them without looking at the report to show that you are interested in your own education.
11. What is your attendance and punctuality like?
This is not something you can lie about! They will check with school records and find out the truth so be honest about any issues that cause dips in attendance and punctuality.
12. Have you applied to any other colleges?
Tell the truth. You will not be penalised for being honest.
13. Why do you think you may be more suitable for this course than any other applicant?
Again, this is your chance to speak about your enthusiasm for the course you have chosen and about your career aspirations.

You need to have some questions to ask the interview(s). Here are some suggestions, but you can make up your own as well.

1. How many students will be in each class?
2. Will there be an opportunity for me to do work placement during my course?
3. I know that the college fees are free to under-18s but will there be any additional costs for equipment and materials on my course? (This mainly applies to e.g. hair/beauty, art, and construction courses).
4. If there are equipment costs, can I apply for a bursary or funding to help with the costs?
5. What activities do the college run outside of attending classes? (Such as sports clubs, homework clubs, amateur dramatics, music etc.)
6. If I don't get C grades in English and/or Maths, how much extra tuition will I receive – in addition to my course work – to help me re-sit the exams next year?
7. If I still fail to get C grades in English and/or Maths, will I have an additional opportunity to continue with extra tuition and re-sit again in year 2 of college?
8. If I need learning support, what kind of support does the college offer?
9. If I need pastoral support, does the college provide counsellors?
10. Does the college offer regular Careers Advice so that I can constantly have help reviewing my career pathway?
11. Does the college provide crèche facilities?