

## College Interview Hints and Tips

1. **First impressions last**

Greet your interviewer with a smile and a firm handshake

2. **Be prepared**

Take a Progress File with you to your interview. Additional information such as an Art & Design portfolio will also support your application for relevant courses. Find out information about the college/sixth form from their website beforehand.

3. **Be confident**

Listen carefully to the questions and answer properly. Don't 'waffle' – take your time to gather your thoughts. It's better to say you need a minute to think about your answer rather than speak instantly and regret it afterwards.

4. **Why should you be on the course?**

All interviewers are looking for the right person for the right course. Be prepared to talk about your knowledge, experience, abilities and skills in this subject area.

5. **Be positive**

Your interviewer will be thinking about what it would be like to have you on their course, so they won't want to hear negative comments or a lack of enthusiasm. Interviewers like to see someone who enjoys a challenge and is enthusiastic.

6. **Body language**

It's not what you say but how you say it. During the interview, don't slouch, lean back, fold your arms or look down. Sit upright, make eye contact, use your hands and lean forward when making a point.

7. **Develop rapport**

Show energy, a sense of humour and smile.

8. **Clarify anything you are unsure of**

If you are not certain what is meant by a particular question, ask for clarification.

9. **Remember your manners**

Make sure you are on time for your interview. Be polite, as this will be noted and remembered.

## **Questions You Might Be Asked at Interview**

### **What are your predicted grades?**

Take your predicted grades, estimated grades, mock exam results or grades already achieved to your interview (they should also be on your CV). The interviewer will need to see if you are likely to meet the entry requirements for the course you are applying for.

### **Why do you want to do this course?**

Interviewers use this question to see if you have done your homework and thought about your future. Do you really want to do this course?

### **What are your strengths?**

This is your chance to say what makes you stand out from other applicants.

### **What work experience have you done?**

At Fisher More we do work experience during Year 10 and this can be valuable. You need to keep all records and put these in your file. If you have a part-time job, do voluntary work or even help out in a family business, you should tell the employer about this and be able to say what you do and what you have learned from it.

### **Describe a problem you have faced and how you solved it.**

This is a tough question that is very common in interviews. Interviewers are looking for your critical thinking skills and to work out if you can formulate solutions.

### **Tell me about yourself.**

The interviewer is trying to figure you out professionally. Pick a couple of points about yourself, in relation to what you want to do in the future. The interviewer will not be interested in the games console you play on and that you spend most of your time hanging around with your mates. Do you have any ambitions? Who inspires you? What gives you the most satisfaction? Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time? There are many more.

## **Questions You Might Want To Ask at Your Interview**

**What enhancement courses are available? (e.g. volunteering projects, first aid, Duke of Edinburgh)**

This tells the interviewer that you are interested in extra courses within the college/sixth form and want to have the opportunity to explore different activities. It also shows that you are keen to contribute to the provider, not just take the education!

**What is the dress code?**

Different colleges and training providers will have different views on appropriate dress wear. Some courses might require overalls or work boots. Generally, school sixth forms will require a school uniform.

**Is there a full induction onto the course and the college?**

Inductions onto courses are always important, making sure health and safety issues are covered to ensure your time spent at the college is safe and enjoyable.

**What could this course lead to?**

It is important to know what options are available to you after the course, so you may know your progression route to reach your career goals.

**How will I be assessed?**

Will there be exams? When are they? Is course work assessed during the year or at the end?

**How many hours will I be in college and how many hours of self-supported study will I be expected to do?**

What will my timetable be like? How much extra work will I have to do at home?

**May I contact you if I have any further questions?**

It's always good to end an interview with this question. It keeps the door open for further communication.