



Information and Guidance Attending a College Interview

Attending a college interview

Attending a college interview can be a daunting experience. However, they are not as formal as a job interview and are a brilliant experience to build your confidence! Remember that the person interviewing you will understand if you are nervous and will appreciate it may be the first time you have ever attended any type of interview.

Below are examples of the types of questions you may be asked at interview.

1 TELL ME ABOUT YOURSELF?

This question seems easier than it is. It is hard to avoid average answers like “I’m friendly” or “I’m a good student”. Of course you want to demonstrate that you are friendly and studious but also try to say something memorable that really makes you different from other college applicants. It doesn’t have to be a long answer as further questions will allow you to talk more about yourself in relation to your application.

2 WHY ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OUR COLLEGE?

Be specific when answering this, and show that you have done your research. What specifically about the college distinguishes it from others you are considering? The interviewer is hoping that you are interested in the college for reasons other than convenience or it is where your friends are going. Similarly, if you say you applied because your parents want you to go there, you’ll be suggesting that you have not made the choice yourself.

3 TELL ME WHY YOU HAVE APPLIED FOR THIS COURSE(S)?

It may be that you have applied for several options and are yet to decide, that is absolutely fine but it still helps to be able to explain why you have picked those options. You can also discuss why you are unsure between them as they may be able to help you make a decision. If you have chosen a specific course explain your reasons for choosing it. This could be because it will lead on to the job/career you want or a degree programme you are interested in. It could also be that it is your favourite subject at school and you are passionate about it even if you are unsure on where it will take you (again they will be able to provide guidance on this).

4**TALK ME THROUGH YOUR PREDICTED GRADES/FAVOURITE SUBJECT'S**

At interview they will usually ask you to talk through your predicted grades and subjects you enjoy. This is a great opportunity to explain how your favourite subjects link to your college application. When you enjoy studying something it often shows when you talk about it. At the interview or on your application, you often have an opportunity to also explain an anomalous grade. It may be that your Maths/English mock results are low but if you are attending after school revision or have a tutor, mention this during your interview. If you have other low grades discuss this and explain how you aim to improve them over the course of Year 11.

5**WHAT DO YOU LIKE DOING IN YOUR SPARE TIME?**

"Dunno", "Nothing", "Seeing Friends" are weak answers for this question. College life obviously isn't all work, so they like to hear that you are doing interesting or productive activities outside of school. Do you play a sport? Write? Fish? Do you attend clubs such as Scouts or cadets? Babysitting? Do you have a part time job or volunteer? If your interests relate to what you are applying for then even better! If you are unsure what to say and your favourite activity is seeing friends explain what you like doing when you see them.

6**ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?**

College's will usually ask this question so it is useful to have a couple of questions written down to ask. It may be that through your discussion your questions have already been answered, this is absolutely fine, just tell them they have answered all your questions already. One great question to ask them is what happens next? They should be able to tell you about any events they have such as induction/enrolment. It is also a good idea at this point to thank them for their time.

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR COLLEGE INTERVIEWS

1 DON'T BE LATE

Interviewers are taking time out of their working day to meet with you, whether they are teachers or part of the admissions team, they often have back-to-back appointments scheduled. Lateness disrupts this and shows irresponsibility on your part.

IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE LATE - as soon as you know you are going to be late contact the college to let them know, everyone appreciates public transport issues and family emergencies so as long as they know they should be able to make adjustments.

2 DO DRESS APPROPRIATELY

Every college is different but for those who invite you to interview during your school day it is totally acceptable to arrive in your uniform, just ensure that it is neat and tidy.

The same applies if your interview is outside of school hours and you choose to wear your own clothes just ensure you still look smart.

3 DON'T BE SHY

As previously mentioned, interviewers will appreciate you may not have had an interview before. They also understand that you may never have visited their campus and you could feel out of your comfort zone. However, the interview is the opportunity to get to know each other, the more you interact, the more you will get from the experience.

4 DO BE POSITIVE

Comments like "you're my back-up choice" or "I'm here because my parents told me to apply" come across quite negative. This may be the case but similar to above the more positive and engaging you are, the more you will get from the experience. You may also change your mind on them being your back-up.

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5 DON'T LIE

This should be obvious, but some pupils do get themselves in trouble by fabricating half-truths or exaggerating during the interview. It is a waste of time lying about predicted grades as it will impact the outcome of the interview and/or your options. It is absolutely ok to not know everything and/or have all the answers. That is the point of college, to learn more and build on the knowledge and skills you have. No pupil is an expert at 16.

6 DO BE POLITE

Say "hello" and "thank you." Introduce your parents if they are in the waiting area. Say "thank you" again at the end and put your chair back neatly. Good manners make a great impression.

7 DON'T CHEW GUM AND TURN OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE

Please turn off your mobile phone during the interview, if it keeps vibrating or ringing whilst you are in an interview it can be very distracting, even worse if you are looking at your phone as it indicates you don't care and are disinterested.

Lastly... GOOD LUCK!!!!

Remember all pupils have to go through this experience; whether they are going to college or applying for an apprenticeship. The more experiences you have like interviews, the more confident you will feel in the future!

The image features a white background with scattered confetti in teal, yellow, and purple colors. The confetti consists of small, rectangular pieces of varying lengths and orientations, primarily concentrated in the top and bottom corners of the frame. In the center, the words "Good Luck!" are written in a bold, gold-colored, sans-serif font. The word "Good" is on the top line, and "Luck!" is on the bottom line, with an exclamation point at the end.

**Good
Luck!**