



College Applications - Aims

To understand more about the application process.

To understand more about which courses I should apply for.

How to look for courses.



College Applications - how much do you know?





College Applications - True or False?

FALSE

I can leave
education at 16



College Applications

Fact

You can leave school on the last Friday in June if you'll be 16 by the end of the summer holidays.

You must then do one of the following until you're 18:

stay in full-time education, for example at a college

start an [apprenticeship](#) or [traineeship](#)

spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training



College Applications - True or False?

FALSE

You must have five
grade 5 and above
passes to go to
college



College Applications

Fact

There is a college course out there for everyone whatever your grades.

This will depend on which level course you wish to study. More information on this to follow.



College Applications - True or False?

TRUE

**Colleges don't
just look at
grades**



College Applications

Fact

Your grades are really important and each college will have entry requirements.

However, colleges also look closely at things like:

- Attendance and punctuality
- Exclusions
- Interests and hobbies
- Your involvement in school and community life



College Applications - True or False?

TRUE

I can apply to as many colleges as I like



College Applications

Fact

There is no limit to how many colleges you can apply to.

You should ALWAYS apply to several colleges and ALWAYS have a backup plan.

For example, some colleges may accept your enrolment but not offer you the course you want.

KEEP YOUR OPTIONS OPEN



College Applications - True or False?

FALSE

I don't have to
apply yet



College Applications

Fact

College deadlines vary - some are as early as November and others extend to April/May.

Some colleges also operate on a first come first served basis.

The earlier you apply the better. This also means that your applications are sorted and you can focus on your exams.



College Applications - True or False?

FALSE

I have to let a college know if I have applied to other colleges



College Applications

Fact

Some colleges may ask you either on an application form or in an interview which other colleges you have applied for. You are under no obligation to inform them. This is your choice!



College Applications - True or False?

TRUE

I can make my final decision about which college to go to in August



College Applications

Fact

You may receive several 'conditional' offers. This is absolutely fine.
You can make your final decision and accept your place in August.



College Applications - True or False?

FALSE

Sixth forms are better
than colleges



College Applications

Fact

Both sixth forms and colleges have pros and cons.

Sixth forms are based in a school and will usually only offer level 3 courses. They will probably also have a dress code or uniform and rules similar to school.

Colleges tend to offer more courses and will also offer a range of level 2 and 3 vocational courses.



College Applications - Information

- At college / sixth form you can study level 1, 2 or 3 courses. Level 3 is the highest. You will need to study level 3 courses to go on to university.
- To study a level 3 course you are likely to need five or more grade 5 and above passes and in the courses you wish to study. Entry requirements do vary though so it's important to check each college/sixth form's entry requirements.
- Entry requirements for level 1 and 2 courses are lower - you will need to check individual colleges.
- A levels are level 3 courses - you will choose four subjects.
- There are lots of level 3 vocational courses also such as childcare, hair and beauty and many apprenticeships.
- Level 1 and 2 courses tend to be work based courses. You can apply for level 3 courses once you have passed a level 2 course.
- Apprenticeships are usually level 2 and 3 courses.



College Applications - find a course

Search 'National Careers Service' and click on 'find a course'.

Or follow this link: <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/course-directory/home>



College Applications - what's important?

Activity

In silence write one thing on each post-it that is important to you when choosing your course. You can write as many or as few post its as you like.

You have 3 minutes!

Now discuss in groups of 3 or 4.

Choose the most important post its in your group and stick them on this board.

You have 3 minutes.





College Applications - top tips

- Choose subjects you enjoy and are good at
- Apply to several colleges/sixth forms - keep your options open
- Visit as many open days as you can - ask questions!
- Look at how far a college is and what your route will be.
- Look at jobs or university courses you are interested in and see what you need to study to get there
- Do your research - knowledge is power
- Don't worry about where friends are going - true friends will stay in touch anyway!
- Take care with applications - this is a college's first impression of you!
- Start as early as possible - check deadlines.



College Applications - any questions?

