

# TRANSITION FROM YEAR 11

## PARENTS AND CARERS WEBINAR



After completing their GCSEs in Year 11, students will need to move onto their next step in education. Aimhigher are here to help you support your child through their transition from Year 11. Here we've compiled some useful information about college, sixth form and the available qualifications.

### COLLEGE OR SIXTH FORM?

There is no right or wrong answer when it comes to your child choosing where they'd like to study. However, it's important they do their research and attend an Open Day before applying whether that's visiting in person or by viewing it virtually!

#### SIXTH FORMS

- Tend to be smaller than colleges.
- Typically part of a school and so the surroundings are more familiar.
- Perfect for students who enjoyed learning in a school-style environment.
- Typically offer a smaller selection of subjects and courses.
- Tend to offer more academic support, such as teachers chasing students for homework and deadlines.
- Typically wear smart business attire.

#### COLLEGES

- Tend to be a lot bigger, have their own campuses and have specialised facilities for vocational courses.
- A great opportunity to meet lots of new people from a mix of backgrounds/ages.
- Offer a wide variety of courses and subjects, including A-Levels, BTCEs and Apprenticeships.
- Tend to be a lot more independent and students typically need to be a bit more self motivated.
- Students may have free periods where they can leave the college site.
- No uniform!

### CHOOSING A COURSE?

When choosing what to study, your child should be aiming for Level 3 qualifications. Some careers may require specific qualifications, so students need to always do their research!

#### A-LEVELS

- Stands for Advanced Level Qualifications.
- Subject-based qualifications which consist of classroom-based learning.
- Usually assessed by exams.
- Students can typically pick 3-4 subjects.
- Students need at least five GCSEs at grades 4-9 to study A-Levels, but this may vary across different institutions.
- Ideal for students who are not sure what career they'd like to do in the future, studying A-levels can be a good way of keeping their options open.

#### BTECs

- Stands for the Business and Technology Education Council.
- Specialist work-related qualifications designed for young people who are interested in a particular job sector or industry.
- Usually assessed by course work, but occasionally there will be exams.
- Combine hands on practical learning with subject specific study, and some BTECs will include opportunities for work experience.
- Some courses will require students to complete a Level 2 BTEC first.
- Students can choose to study a combination of BTECs and A-levels or choose a standalone course.

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### TIPS FOR THE APPLICATION PROCESS AND ONLINE INTERVIEWS

Most applications for colleges and sixth forms will involve filling out an online form, this will include filling out personal details such as name and contact details, as well as information on their current school and predicted GCSE results. The application process may differ depending on where your child is applying to and some courses may require an interview! Below are some of our top tips:

- 1 Make sure students have a back-up option by applying to more than one place
- 2 Students should write down all the application deadlines so they don't miss any
- 3 Students should be honest on their applications, their school will verify the information!
- 4 Proof reading is essential! Parents and Teachers can check students' applications
- 5 For online interviews make sure students practice using the software beforehand
- 6 Try to make sure the camera background is plain and there are no noisy distractions

### WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you'd like to find out more about you child's next steps after Year 11, try watching our helpful video below. Either click on the image or copy and paste the link into your browser.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDID\\_se44g4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDID_se44g4)



If you have any further questions please get in contact with us via email:

[aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:aimhigher@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

Or chat live with one of our helpful advisors via The Access Platform on the link below:

<https://aimhigherwm.ac.uk/speak-to-aimhigher/>

### OUR PARTNER COLLEGES

**Birmingham Metropolitan College**

<https://www.bmet.ac.uk/>

**Halesowen College**

<https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/>

**Heart of Worcestershire College**

<https://www.howcollege.ac.uk/>

**Hereford College of Arts**

<https://www.hca.ac.uk/>

**Herefordshire and Ludlow College**

<https://www.hlcollege.ac.uk/home>

**South and City College Birmingham**

<https://www.sccb.ac.uk/>

**Solihull College and University Centre**

<https://www.solihull.ac.uk/>

**Walsall College**

<https://www.walsallcollege.ac.uk/>

**University College Birmingham**

<https://www.ucb.ac.uk/study/college/>