

TOP TIPS FOR MAKING THE MOST OF OPEN EVENINGS

College Taster Days and Open Events offer you the chance to visit the centres you are thinking of attending. Once there, you can talk to staff and students about available courses, and ask questions about post 16 study and what life at them might be like. Don't miss this opportunity as it can really help you to make a good decision. There will be plenty of people around to talk to you and they will be ready to answer your questions, and to help you with any problems you might have.

Before you go, ask yourself:

- What are my strengths and weaknesses?
- What are my skills and interests?
- What subjects do I currently enjoy, and which are my best?
- Do I want to do A levels, or another suitable qualification?
- Which centres can I get to? How would I get there?
- What career am I interested in doing, what qualifications would help me to do it?
- Which centres offer the courses and subject combinations I am interested in?
- What influence are friends and others having?
- Have I considered all options including Employment and Apprenticeship?
- Have I read the college prospectuses, or gone on their websites?
- Have I got older friends or relatives who can tell me about the different centres and different courses?

When you visit a centre:

- Try to talk to students who are already on the courses
- Check out where a course might take you in terms of work/training or higher education
- Check out what you need to be accepted onto a particular course - what are the entry requirements?
- Check out suitable alternatives to your main choice - **REMEMBER ALWAYS HAVE A PLAN B**
- Check out the costs such as equipment, clothing, field trips and books
- Check out the 'feel of the place'. Would you fit in and be happy? What does it offer in addition to the course?
- Check out transport arrangements