



DHS - College and 6th Form Application FAQ

What are my options when I leave Durrington?

By law you must continue some form of education till you are 18. This usually takes the form of further education at College or 6th Form. Other options are taking on an apprenticeship or a traineeship.

What if I want an apprenticeship? Can I just wait till 2020 to look for one?

No. Apprenticeships at 16 are brilliant for some people but because you must find an employer, you may not be able to secure a place. Therefore, you must apply to a college or 6th form by 30th November even if you are planning on searching for an apprenticeship in 2020. If you do find an apprenticeship then you do not need to enrol at your college. However, if you don't find one you will have a college place to go to. There are lots of college courses that offer similar skills training to those offered by an apprenticeship and these can be highlighted to you by the DHS careers team.

When do I need to apply by?

For colleges and 6th forms we ask that you apply by 30th November 2019. This ensures you have the best chance of getting onto the courses you want and enables you to concentrate on your exams and getting the grades that you need.

Do I need to apply to more than one destination?

We recommend you apply to at least two though you can apply to as many as you like. This ensures you have a wide choice of options.

How do I choose which courses to apply to?

You can research using the college and 6th form websites as well as their prospectuses. If you have a question you can either come and see the DHS careers team or you can contact the college directly.

How will I know which college or 6th form is right for me?

Do your research and most importantly go to visit them. There is a list of the currently advertised open days in this pack and new ones may be advertised on the college / 6th form websites. We will also keep a list available on the careers section of the DHS website.

How do I apply?

You apply online via the college websites. You may need to register for an account and it is very important to use an e-mail address that works and is monitored, as that will be the primary form of contact. The application process is very simple. It will take approximately 15 minutes per college and is formed of personal information, the courses you want to apply for and your projected GCSE grades at the time of application. The DHS careers team can provide help when applying if needed.

What if I change my mind on the courses I want to do after I apply?

Whilst it is important to apply to the courses you want to do at the time, you are not fully committing to those courses at this stage. Changes can still be made, and these can be discussed when you go for your interview. If it's a major course change such as wanting to switch from business to aircraft mechanics, then you should contact the college to discuss as it may affect the location of your interview.

What if my projected grades do not meet the entry requirements for the college or course?

Colleges and 6th forms have strict entry requirements for a reason. Meeting those grades gives you the best chance of completing the course you are applying for. If there is a small shortfall then this can be discussed at interview. You should be ready for it to be raised and you should have a plan in place as to what you are doing to get the grades they require. If in any doubt, contact the college before you submit your application.

Do I have to go for an interview? What will they ask me?

You will have to go for an interview at every college you apply to. This is a relaxed short discussion, so they can find out a bit about you and most importantly discuss with you the courses you have applied for to ensure they are the right choices. It may be that they can suggest better alternatives depending on what your goals or preferred learning styles are.

What happens if I get offers of a place from more than one college or 6th form?

You should accept both offers but you do not need to decide where you go and begin enrolment at your chosen destination until after you get your GCSE results in August 2020.

Where can I get more help?

Between now and the end of November you will be invited to a careers interview to discuss your thoughts and plans with a qualified adviser. However, you do not need to wait if you have a question or need help now. You can go and see the DHS careers team any time. They are available every day during both breaks and after school. They run a specific college application club on Mondays after school and their computers are available to use for all career related activities. They have qualified advisers waiting to help you so head over to the career's library at the end of the first-floor art corridor.