

### How can I support my son/daughter in the search for a college?

You can help by encouraging your son/daughter to raise their aspirations and to be optimistic about the future. Your son/daughter should be involved, as much as possible, with the task of searching for a college and applying for a course. They should research colleges, request information, make visits and write their own applications.

A parent/guardian can help by asking questions such as:

- What they like about studying;
- What course/subjects they may choose at college;
- What career path they may pursue;
- Whether they want to go to higher education;
- If they want to apply for a job.

### Events to help you decide which college is your 'best fit'

Strode College offers a number of events which you and your son/daughter can participate in, together with a range of support leaflets:

- Talks at school open/careers/parents evening;
- Specific events for Year 11 students in school;
- College Open Evenings throughout the year to view facilities and meet staff;
- College Experience Days to attend taster lessons and spend time in the college;

### Publications

The college provides a number of publications to help you understand the courses and subjects on offer. These include:

- Full-time course Prospectus;
- Specific course and subject leaflets;
- Information on the college website [www.strode-college.ac.uk](http://www.strode-college.ac.uk);
- A Youtube video [www.youtube.com/TheStrodeCollege](http://www.youtube.com/TheStrodeCollege);
- Android and iPhone apps.

Additionally, information is available on the following related topics:

- Transport network;
- Completing the application form;
- The admissions interview;
- What happens after the Admissions interview?

### The admissions interview

Encourage your son/daughter to re-read their personal statement and CV and to bring the additional items they need such as a portfolio (for art & design); instrument or music (for music); a general portfolio (for home educated students).

Admissions interviews are an informal exchange between the applicant and the tutor. The college is seeking to ensure that the applicant has:

- Participated in an informal guidance interview between a member of college staff and the applicant, which covers essential details;
- An acceptable reference from the applicant's school or college;
- Is estimated to be on target to achieve the specific grade requirements for their chosen course;
- Where applicable, demonstrated the necessary skill, proficiency or aptitude (eg art, music);
- Indicated a commitment to study and to the values of the college;
- Is of appropriate age and has sufficient motivation;
- Any learning difficulties and/or disabilities can be supported within the College's provision.

We do not normally expect parents to participate in the interview, but you are welcome to attend if you wish.

The interview is primarily for the applicant to demonstrate that they meet the entry criteria, however, if there are circumstances which you feel may affect your son/daughter's application, you may present these as part of the application.

### Offers

Applicants are made one of three offers:

- **Unconditional.** The applicant has met all the academic and college criteria for the selected course and there are places available.
- **Conditional.** The applicant has been made an offer based on predicted academic grades and/or meeting other college admissions criteria.
- **Deferred.** The college needs to obtain further information prior to making an offer. This might be a reference or details of learning support requirements or some other college admissions criteria.

### School history

If your son/daughter has experienced difficulties at school, including exclusion, we are still happy to talk through the issues and challenges surrounding college life, in order to make an informed decision.

### Learner Support

If your son/daughter has a learning support requirement, this should be declared on the application form. It will be discussed sympathetically and confidentially at the admissions interview or at a separate interview as appropriate. The college will not make an offer where it cannot meet the support requirements of an applicant.

### Results

Don't worry if your son/daughter under-achieves at GCSE level (or over-achieves), we can take this into account at enrolment. The applicant will undergo a confirmatory interview where course transfer may be possible.

### Support while your son/daughter is at college

Regular information is provided to you about your son/daughter's progress and parents advice evenings are offered. Your son/daughter will have a designated personal tutor who is your first point of contact for all matters.

### Data Protection Act

Our relationship with the applicant (your son/daughter) is governed by the Data Protection Act. We provide data to agreed organisations (such as the Learning & Skills Council). We cannot release details to anyone without the permission of the applicant, current student or past student.

### Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)

For courses where the applicants will be on work experience involving contact with vulnerable children or adults (Childcare, Health & Social Care and Sport for example), then a CRB check will need to be made at a cost of £44.00 to the applicant. This is a mandatory requirement for all such courses at all colleges. There is a separate leaflet available to explain the process.