

The interview process

The majority of applicants for Strode College are called for interview between December and July. Interviews are:

- Mainly subject-related;
- Conducted by experienced staff;
- Last for approximately 30 minutes;
- May include additional interviews or tests according to your situation.

Why we use interviews

We use interviews to:

- Ensure that the applicant has chosen the right subject/course and has the potential to succeed;
- Ensure that the applicant has an opportunity to see the college, meet staff and ask questions.

The interview is just one part of the admissions process which also includes:

- The application form;
- School reference;
- Personal statement.

And, where applicable,

- The performance or work submitted at interview (eg portfolio of work for art and design).

Location of interview

Interviews for applicants from partner schools (Ansford, Crispin, King Arthur's, St Dunstan's, Whitstone) normally take place in school. Otherwise interviews take place at the Street campus.

What we are looking for at your interview

We would like you to demonstrate:

- An interest in your chosen subject(s) or course;
- The ability to say how your chosen course fits in with your future plans;
- Motivation, commitment and organisation.

We do this by an informal discussion. We do not ask trick questions, but we will try to get you talking about yourself, your interests, career aims, school life and progress.

The interviewer will use prompts from your application form.

The interviewer may need to clarify practical or factual issues with you based on what was written on your application.

It is usual for interviewers to allow you to ask questions. This usually occurs at the end of the interview, but feel free to ask during the interview if needed.

Preparing for your interview

We consider all aspects of your application. The best things you can do to prepare are:

- Work hard at school to achieve your predicted grades;
- Have thought very hard about your choice of course or subject(s) and made sure you have chosen the right one for you;
- Research Strode College courses via the prospectus, course leaflet, website and Open events;
- Completed your application form fully;
- If requested, bring the best work you have completed during your school studies;
- Inform yourself about the careers and university choices available to you after the course by using your school library or Connexions adviser;
- To think about relevant work experience opportunities;
- Have a practice interview with someone you don't know well;
- Be prepared to give your opinion and justify your answer.

What to bring

- Your portfolio (for art and design courses);
- Your instrument (for music practice) or comfortable clothes and appropriate shoes (for performing arts).

Interview tips

- Aim to arrive early and make sure you know where you are going
- If you don't understand the question, don't be afraid to say so
- If you need time to think about your answer, take as much as you need
- Be willing to think and justify your answers
- Keep a copy of your application form