

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
- A reference
- A Personal Statement
- Review of a portfolio of general or specialist work, or an audition.

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.

Home-educated applicants

The college will need to be clear that your education demonstrates learning at the appropriate level to meet the college and subject entry criteria. Where applicants do not have formal qualifications, literacy, numeracy and other test may be set.

Applicants will need to be able to discuss the reasons for the choice of home education, in particular, where the choice related to bullying at school. Additionally, the interviewer will want to explore the change of learning situation and the move to a systematic instruction model.

While the college does recognise that not all home-educated applicants have socialisation issues or learning support requirements, these issues can be discussed if required.

Home-educated applicants with dyslexia or other learning support needs should provide up-to-date reports and assessments (not more than two years old).

What to bring

- A general portfolio with examples of your work, and a portfolio of art work (for art and design courses);
- Your instrument (for music practice course);
- Comfortable clothes and shoes (for performing arts).

Preparing for your interview

The best things you can do to prepare are:

- 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;
- Complete your application form fully;
- Inform yourself about the careers and university choices available to you after the course by using your library or Connexions adviser;
- Think about relevant work experience opportunities;
- Have a practice interview with someone you don't know well;
- Be prepared to give your opinion