

Overview

When you join the College, your personal tutor will both help you settle into College life and will help you to plan and prepare for your next steps. Your weekly tutorial session is a vital part of our Careers Programme. The vast majority of our students progress onto university or into a Higher Apprenticeship, so no matter what your background, if you study with us you will have the opportunity to do the same.



Jo Wood
Head of Student
Development &
Careers Leader

Getting Started

Thinking about what you might want to do for the rest of your life may feel a little overwhelming - but there are lots of things you can do to get started.

Where do I start?

UCAS (the universities admissions service) have lots of resources that can help you get going. Take this fun online quiz to find out more about your personality type and careers that you may enjoy: <https://www.ucas.com/careers/buzz-quiz>

Now go to: <https://beta.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/> and complete the assessment. This will suggest some further ideas that might suit you.

Remember that some of the suggestions may seem a little random - these tools are simply designed to get you started and give you some ideas about where to begin the next part of your research.

What are the different careers areas and which careers might suit me?

Next, follow the below links to easily explore a broad range of career areas and find out which subjects/qualifications are recommended for each. You can start by looking at careers suggested by the previous tasks – but do also search more widely. The more career areas you know about, the more able you will be to make well-informed decisions about your future.

<https://www.ucas.com/further-education/find-career-ideas> - Start by clicking on 'researching some careers'.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers> - either type in a career you want to know more about, or explore by job category. There are endless job roles that you may not even have heard of. Try researching a few roles that you haven't heard of before – you may find something a little bit different that appeals to you.

When looking at these career areas, think about whether each career would suit your personality, consider the skills you will need, and look carefully at the qualifications you will need to get a job in this area.

You may already have ideas about the type of industry you want to work in, but you may not be aware of the wide range of careers within it. Using these links will help you to find different roles within career areas that you weren't previously aware of. They will also help you to be sure that you fully understand the career area and what it takes to be successful in it.

Remember – as an adult you will spend a lot of time at work, so finding a job that you love is really important!

Will your sixth form subject choices affect your degree options?

Some (not all!) university degrees and/or careers require you to have studied particular Level 3 courses (**Level 3 means the A Levels or BTECs you will study with us at College**). Hopefully you will now have some ideas about what career you might want to pursue, and should also be a little clearer about what you want to study at university. This means that you can check that you have chosen the right courses to study at College. Follow this link to find out more:

<https://www.theuniguide.co.uk/advice/a-level-choices/what-a-levels-do-you-need-for-the-degree-you-want-to-study>

Remember that for the vast majority of degrees your Level 3 grades are more important than your *subjects* – so if you are still undecided after doing this research, stick to Level 3 subjects that you think you will enjoy and are likely to be good at.

If you feel that you may have chosen the wrong Level 3 courses – don't worry! You will be asked about your choices again at Enrolment and will have the opportunity to discuss other options then.

Suggested Reading



We want you to be excited at the prospect of going to university – it's the natural next step for Level 3 students and many people describe it as the best time of their lives! Not only do you leave with a fantastic qualification that will help you earn more money – but the social side of university allows you to develop your independence and essentially have a great time!

There are lots of websites that you can browse to get a greater understanding of what university life is like and what the benefits of Higher Education are. Here's some sites to get you started:

<https://www.ucas.com/>

<https://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/>

<https://www.opendays.com/>

Please note that this research is designed to give you a taste of what tutorials cover – you will have lots of support to explore your ideas further and it's no problem at all if your career ideas change over time.

If you want to have a chat with one of our Careers Advisers, simply email careers@bsfc.ac.uk and they will take it from there.

We look forward to welcoming you in September!