

CAREERS BULLETIN

OCTOBER 3RD 2025

This week's Careers Bulletin focuses on open events and why they are so important. Our Year 11s are just starting to attend open days, but they are also great for students in Year 10, particularly if your child has an EHCP, so that they feel fully prepared for the transition at the end of Year 11.



Attending an open event at a Sixth Form, College or training provider isn't just a box to tick - it is one of the most helpful things students can do when planning their next steps. This bulletin explores why.

Watch [this short video](#) to refresh your memory on what the options are once your child finishes Year 11.



WHY ATTEND OPEN EVENTS?



Get a Real Feel for the Place

Websites and prospectuses look great, but walking the corridors, seeing the classrooms, and chatting with students gives you a genuine sense of the atmosphere.

Students and parents will quickly get a feel for whether a sixth form, college or training centre feels welcoming, inspiring, or just... not their vibe.

Explore Courses in Depth

Meet subject tutors and ask about course content, assessment methods, and progression routes.

Find out how subjects are taught - whether they are exam-heavy, coursework-based, or hands-on, practical learning.



in-depth

WHY ATTEND OPEN EVENTS?

Clarify Entry Requirements and Pathways

Not sure what grades are needed or which level to start at? Open events are perfect for finding out exactly what is expected.



Staff can explain how different qualifications (A Levels, BTECs, T Levels, Apprenticeships etc) lead to university, employment, or further training.



Talk to Current Students

Hear honest opinions from people already studying there.

Ask about workload, support, social life, and what they wish they had known before joining.

WHY ATTEND OPEN EVENTS?



Get Help with Applications

Many events have admissions staff on hand to walk you through the application process.

You might even be able to apply on the spot, saving time and stress later.

If not, you can always book an appointment with your schools Careers Adviser for help with applications.

Tour the Facilities

Science labs, art studios, salons, kitchens, or even aviation hangars - students get to see exactly where they will be learning.

You may even get to see live demos, tasters, or interactive workshops.

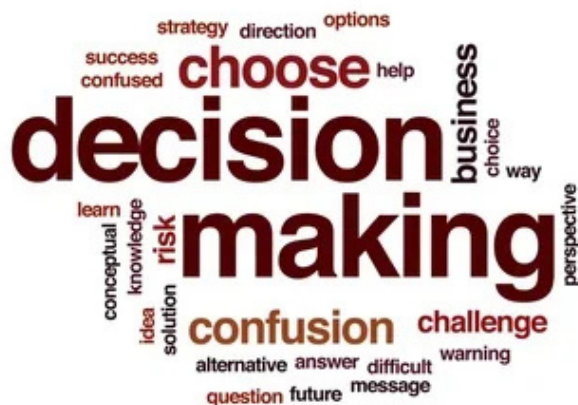


WHY ATTEND OPEN EVENTS?

Make a Confident, Informed Decision

Hopefully, you will leave the open event with a clear idea of whether the college or sixth form is the right fit for your goals, personality, and learning style.

And if it's not? That is just as valuable - you have narrowed your options and saved yourself a future headache!



Excellent Open Day Questions

Watch [this short video](#) and explore the following pages to find out about the best questions to ask at open events.



WHAT TO ASK AT OPEN EVENTS

Course & Curriculum

What subjects or qualifications are offered at this level? (A Levels, BTECs, T Levels, entry level or foundation courses etc)

How is the course assessed - exams, coursework, practicals?

Are there opportunities for work experience, placements, or strong industry links?

What progression routes do students typically follow after this course?



Teaching & Support

What is the average class size?

How much one-on-one support is available?

Are there academic support services (e.g. study skills workshops)?

What pastoral care or wellbeing support is offered and how can you access it?

WHAT TO ASK AT OPEN EVENTS

Facilities & Environment

Is it possible to visit the classrooms, labs, studios, or workshops used for the courses of interest?

What study spaces are available - library, quiet zones, group rooms?

Are there social spaces, cafés, or student common rooms?

What are the IT and digital learning resources like?



Admissions & Entry Requirements

What grades or qualifications are needed to apply?

Are there any subject-specific entry requirements?

How competitive is entry - is there an interview or audition, or is a portfolio required?

When is the application deadline?



WHAT TO ASK AT OPEN EVENTS

Careers & Progression

What careers do students go into after this course?

Do you offer career guidance, CV help, or mock interviews?

Are there links with universities, employers, or apprenticeship providers?

Do you provide help in finding work experience?

Can I combine study with part-time work?



Student Life & Experience

What enrichment activities, clubs, or societies are available?

Are there leadership or volunteering opportunities?

What do current students say about their experience here?

Is there a student council or voice platform?



WHAT TO ASK AT OPEN EVENTS

Transport & Logistics



What are the transport options –buses, trains, parking?

Are there bursaries or travel subsidies available?

What's the typical day like - start/end times, timetable structure?

What Next?

- Check the websites of all sixth forms and colleges of interest for open events and their prospectus/course guide.
- Sixth form open events are often in **October** and their application deadlines are usually in **January/February** - generally much earlier than college deadlines.
- **However**, if your child is interested in applying for **Leeds College of Building**, an early application is advised, as the deadline is likely to be in **January 2026**.