



## Year 11 Careers Newsletter: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Hello, Year 11

How did your first exam go, Year 11? Now you have the weekend to continue revising. A balance between part-time jobs and mock revision is important. Remember to make time for yourself though, too. If you are tired, this will inevitably affect your performance. Strike the correct balance.

I was very concerned when a student told me that they had not attended the college Open Morning where they plan to apply to study. The reason? "I didn't get out of bed early enough!" Certainly not something I wanted to hear and definitely not an 'excuse' I want to hear again. Getting yourself ready and off to college will be more of a challenge for some of you more than others. Catching the train is going to be a new experience and one that is going to require good time management and organisation. The excuse that you were "not able to get out of bed in time to catch the train", will fall on deaf ears at college. If you think that this is something you are going to struggle to manage, you must take this into serious consideration when making your course choices.

This feels like another moan, Year 11, and very unlike me, but I believe it is very important to draw your attention to what I am hearing. Earlier this week, my attention was drawn to a student looking to apply for courses with entry requirements above their target GCSE grades, i.e. the courses required Grade 5s but the student had targets of 4s, apart from maths. If this student had applied for these courses they would likely have faced disappointment. You must look first of all at the entry requirements for the course you are interested in. If the difference between your targets and the course requirements is too significant, you must reconsider. This is particularly the case when considering A-Levels. Grade 5 in English and Maths, as a minimum, are advisable, even if the college states that they will accept you if you have Grade 4 targets. A-Levels are very challenging. Grade 5 GCSE qualifications will prepare you better than Grade 4. Those of you who are looking at applying for vocational courses, e.g. Plumbing, Early Years, etc, will likely need to make a choice as to whether to apply for a Level 1 or Level 2 course. It tends to be the Trade courses, i.e. Vehicle maintenance, Electrical Installation, etc, that require Level 1 as standard entry. This is understandable as you couldn't possibly change the spark plugs in a car, if you can't identify them. The information on the appropriate course pages in the prospectuses, will tell you what Level they will allow you to enter in at. The Sport and Early Years courses tend to allow you to enter at a Level that reflects your GCSE targets. Again, applying for courses where there is a difference between the entry requirements and your targets, could cause you a nasty surprise. There is nothing to stop you applying for more than one course and to more than one college. I always advise a Plan B in the event that the summer results are better than you had anticipated, or not what you had hoped for. Be aspirational; I actively encourage it of you all. But, be realistic at the same time. Do your research carefully. Ask your parents / carers, Tutor or me if you are unsure.

The very best of luck to you all for the next couple of weeks, Year 11. Do the very best that you can do.

Mrs Griffiths-Jones.