

Student Guide: S5 General Workshop

Aim

This workshop is designed to encourage pupils in S5 to think about the next stage of their learning, ie. college or university. The workshop will focus the need to complete proper research into courses and institutions, and to make informed decisions when choosing a course. It will also cover starting to think about personal statements. Central to the workshop is the valuable interaction pupils have with current college/university students – i.e. you!

Format

The workshop begins with an introduction of the workshop team and the objectives of the session – you may be asked to introduce yourself to the class giving your name, what you are studying and where.

The workshop leader will then facilitate a brief class discussion. This involves asking the pupils what they should be thinking about at this stage and what they could do to find out more information about college and university.

Pupils then write down a subject that they are interested in studying. Working with you, (a LIFT OFF Student!), pupils then use prospectuses, guides and copies of Stepping Higher to research possible courses. This information is recorded on a worksheet.

The focus is now on Personal Statements. The workshop leader will explain what a Personal Statement is and how important it is. Pupils are given a worksheet entitled 'It's all about me!' that asks for additional information that would support their application to college or university. Pupils have to think of three things they have already done and three things they can do before applying to make their application stand out.

Students' Role

You will be expected to assist the pupils in their research, answering questions and explaining vocabulary (e.g. 'seminar', 'semester', 'UCAS points', 'personal statement', 'clearing', 'Module', 'hall of residence'). If you don't know the answer, direct the pupil to the workshop leader or to where they could find the info out (e.g. university admissions etc.) Be ready to answer all sorts of questions on student life and encourage interaction between yourself and the pupils. You will also help to answer any questions, help gather in worksheets and place tables and chairs back in the correct position at the end of the workshop.

Further Briefing

You are asked to arrive at the school reception **at least 10 minutes before** the start of the workshop for a final briefing and to be informed of any ad hoc changes that may need to be made. **Remember: if you cannot attend the workshop, please let us know!**