



DHS – 2023 College and Sixth Form Application FAQ

What are my options when I leave Durrington?

By law you must continue some form of education till you are eighteen. For most this takes the form of further education at college or a sixth form. Other options are apprenticeships or a traineeships.

What if I want an apprenticeship? Can I just wait till 2023 to look for one?

No. Apprenticeships at 16 are brilliant for some people but because you need to find a job you may not be successful first time. Therefore, it's important that you apply to study at a college or sixth form even if you are planning on searching for an apprenticeship in 2023. If you do start an apprenticeship then you do not need to enrol at your college. There are lots of college courses that offer practical pathways similar to those in an apprenticeship and these can be highlighted to you by the DHS careers team. You could still gain an apprenticeship after college as well. In fact, at any point in your life.

When do I need to apply to college by?

We want you apply to at least one destination by **2nd December 2022**. This ensures you have the best chance of getting onto the courses you want and will enable you to concentrate on your mock exams so you can get the grades that you need. If you are applying to **BHASVIC** then you absolutely must have your application in by this date to be considered. Their deadlines are very strict.

Do I need to apply to more than one destination?

We recommend you apply to at least **two** though you can apply to as many as you like. This ensures you have a wide choice of options.

How do I choose which courses to apply to?

Make sure you are fully informed by drawing on all your careers learning and combine this with your own research using the college and sixth form websites or their brochures.

How will I know which college or sixth form is right for me?

Do your research and most importantly go to visit them at their open events. You can start by talking to them at the Careers Evening event in school on **15th September**. There is a list of open events in this pack and any new ones will be advertised on the college websites.

How do I apply?

You apply online via the college websites. You may need to register for an account and it is very important to use an e-mail address that works, as that will be the primary form of contact. The application process is very simple. It will take approximately 15 minutes per college and is formed of personal information and your **projected** GCSE grades at the time of application. The DHS careers team can provide help when applying if needed. They can even do it with you if you like.

What if I change my mind after I apply?

It is important to be well informed and apply to the courses you feel are right for you, but we can all change our minds and you are not fully committing to those courses when you apply. Changes can still be made, and these can be discussed when you go for your interview. If it's a major course change such as wanting to switch from business to aircraft mechanics, then you should contact the college to discuss as it may affect the location of your interview.

What if my projected grades do not meet the entry requirements for the college or course?

Colleges have entry requirements for a reason. Meeting those grades gives you the best chance of succeeding at the course you are applying for. If there is a small shortfall then this can be discussed at interview. You should be ready for it to be raised and you should have a plan in place as to what you are doing to improve your grade. They may offer other courses that will be more suitable.

Do I have to go for an interview? What will they ask me?

You will have to go for an interview at most colleges you apply to. This is a relaxed discussion so they can find out a bit about you and discuss the courses you have applied for to ensure they suit your pathway. It may be that they can suggest better alternatives depending on what your goals or preferred learning styles are. It also gives you an extra look at the place! At this interview or shortly after you they will let you know if they are offering you a place to study.

Should I accept? What happens if I get offers of a place from more than one college or sixth form?

You should accept **all offers** that you want to have as an option. These will usually come to you via email so it's important that you keep a close eye on your inbox. Accepting an offer is not committing you to study at that college. You do not need to make a final decision and choose where you want to enrol till August 2023 when you have your GCSE results in hand.

Where can I get more help?

It is important that you ask for help if you need it. Go to careers at the end of the art corridor at break times or directly after school to ask questions or use their resources. If you prefer you can also email careers@durring.com though be aware that it may be easier to visit if its more than a simple question. The important thing is that you know that you are not alone and there is support waiting for you.