

# Advice from some recent CDHS pupils who moved away to Further Education

## COURSES

- Choose a course that you think you'll ENJOY. Listen to teachers and family to help you decide. You may have loads of options for careers and while some courses may lead to high earning careers, if you don't enjoy the subject you won't stick the course! Choosing a course/subject you are interested in makes college/ uni much easier and more fun to do than high school (even though the work is harder!)
- Go to as many Open Days as you can, ask lots of questions to find out all about the course and the city. Make sure you do enough research into the course before you decide to go for it, speak to the members of staff at Open Days. Also read up online on what the course involves and what it could lead to after you have finished.
- If you choose a course that you have some previous experience in you will feel more confident in your ability and not be as nervous!
- Don't try to apply for totally different subjects in your personal statement. Try to focus a personal statement on one subject rather than for example physics and drama because chances are you will get rejected from both courses!
- Some courses are really competitive to get into. Therefore you need a really great personal statement or some work experience that puts you above the rest, to have a chance of getting in. Try not to put all your eggs in one basket – have a back-up plan in case you don't get into your preferred course.

## ACCOMMODATION

- Try to get your accommodation sorted as soon as possible as places can book up fast! However don't worry too much, as whichever flat you end up in, you will have lots of opportunities both in your accommodation and course to make friends.
- Go and look at the accommodation before you actually make the big move!
- Try to make your flat as homely as possible, put pictures up, fairy lights, cushions, wee bits and bobs, etc that make it feel comfortable for you.
- Meeting flatmates prior to moving helps ease the nerves - some Unis have dedicated Facebook sites for their accommodation blocks to allow students to "meet" each other prior to arriving.
- Attend any boot camps on offer by the Uni as they help you meet people who will be on your course or in the same Faculty.

## SETTLING IN

- It's really important to throw yourself into things right from the first day - whether it be socialising in your flat, joining societies or going out - they are all really good ways to make friends and the sooner you do that the sooner you will settle in - it keeps you busy and avoids you sitting in your flat alone!
- Go out socially with people from your course, this can be the quickest way to build friendships as it's a very relaxed way of getting to know people and easier to talk to them!
- Give yourself time to settle in and make friends before you visit home. If you come home too soon you may feel like you are missing out and worry that everyone else is making friends while you are away!
- Never feel pressured to do something you're not keen to do, it's really important to do what makes you happy and what you want to do.
- Don't be shy about going up to new people to talk to them. If you don't, then chances are, they won't either!
- If you're nervous about leaving home, it really isn't so bad and meeting people on your course who have the same interests as you, makes it a bit easier. Making friends at Uni/College is easy, so that's the least of anyone's worries! (Especially if you follow all the advice above!)

## STUDYING

- Don't let college/uni work get on top of you. Whenever you have a spare moment have a quick run through of anything you need to check up on. It will help so much to get stuff done and out the way because the workload really piles up quickly.
- You may find it easier to study in the university library. It's often quieter than trying to concentrate in your flat and it provides a better atmosphere to work in, with fewer distractions!
- Remember it's up to you to control your workload stress and be in control of your life.