

Hints for PLC Interviews:

- Although some courses require you to do no more than fill out an application form (paper or online) and send a deposit to secure your place, most PLC Courses will require some type of interview. The occasional one might be held over the phone! But the majority will require you to meet a Course Director. Many of the Childcare or Social Studies Courses might even have a two or three person panel interviewing you. An interview might last anywhere between five and thirty minutes. Most interviewees are told whether they have been successful before the final week in May. The following are some simple suggestions, which might help some students.
- Find out about the course and the college before hand so that you come across as being interested. Check out their Website, read the prospectus. If you know someone who is on the course get as much 'insider information' as possible.
- Decide the night before what clothes to wear. Preferably not a school uniform. Also, flashy clothes or strong perfume might not be advisable. Do wear comfortable clothes but nonetheless dress neatly and respectfully.
- Have an early night beforehand to avoid yawning and blurry eyes.
- Bring any necessary documentation with you (e.g. Mock Results, Character & Academic References, Portfolio, CV etc)
- Arrive at least ten minutes early. Allow for traffic jams and late buses. Phone if you know you are going to be unavoidably late.
- Greet the interviewer or interviewers with a smile and a warm handshake.
- Listen to the questions being asked. Some people get overexcited and interrupt. Not a good impression.
- Think before you give an answer. Don't argue even if you know the interviewer has got his/her facts wrong.
- Try to do most of the talking. Keep "ums" and "ahs" to a minimum.
- Never give a monosyllabic answer. "Yes" and "No" is not enough, explain yourself to the best of your ability.
- Be confident and sell yourself, talk about your achievements and your ambitions. But don't be too brazen. Be positive: 'Talk about what you can, not about what you can't do'. Never speak badly about your school or teachers.
- Even if you are a little nervous, and everyone will be, try not to fidget too much. Never smoke.
- Remember an interview is a two-way process, so ask appropriate questions at the appropriate time.