



The College

Luton Sixth Form College is a specialist Sixth Form College, providing academic and general vocational education for 16-18 year olds in Luton. Established in September 1966, it is the oldest such institution in the country and , with more than 3,100 students, it's also one of the largest. Young people wishing to study here can choose from a vast array of A Level and Vocational courses, as well as additional qualifications and awards.

At Luton Sixth Form College

Luton SFC believes that all students of all abilities deserve the opportunity to better their lives through academic study and progression to higher education or employment. The College is inclusive and does not operate a highly selective and restrictive admissions policy and entry criteria.

Mission Statement and Values

The College's mission is to provide an outstanding education for young people at the college and to work with other local providers to ensure that there are opportunities for all young people in Luton to succeed and achieve.

The College's values lie in the ability to **SMILE**:

- **STUDENTS**: as the focus for the work of everyone in the College
- **MUTUAL RESPECT**: caring for and valuing students, staff, governors and the local community
- **INTEGRITY**: honesty, working hard, taking personal responsibility and promoting equity and fairness
- **LEARNING**: a passion for learning and its capacity to change lives
- **EXCELLENCE**: high aspirations, high standards and high achievement

Career Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

The College holds the national [Quality in Careers Standard](#). Achieving the Standard was important to the College as it was a "stamp of approval" - i.e. an independent confirmation

that the College is doing well with its careers provision. The College found the Standard's alignment of its national assessment criteria with the Gatsby Benchmarks was especially helpful. Below are extracts from the successful Quality in Careers Standard assessment report (2021):

“Strengths:

- *Strong Senior Management and Governor support and a whole college approach to CEIAG.*
- *A committed, well-qualified and well-organised Careers Leader, who is part of the Senior Leadership Team and who engages well with other members of staff to deliver a comprehensive CEIAG programme*
- *Good use of the Gatsby Benchmarks to review and plan the careers programme*
- *A dedicated team of Progress Coaches who support students very effectively with individual career planning*
- *Comprehensive information on the college website about career opportunities and the labour market, to enable students, staff, parents/carers, and external partners to be kept up to date*

All students, staff and parents/carers have access to and make use of, reliable career and labour market information (LMI). Information is included on the college website and the VLE (e.g. Careerometer for LMI). In addition, a weekly jobs bulletin is sent to all students.

Students are made aware of the full range of opportunities in education, training and employment within their careers programme, as outlined in the Careers Plan

Raising aspiration is a key feature of the college and students are challenged with regard to stereotypical thinking. This takes place through a range of processes, examples of which include:

- *The tutorial programme*
- *Decision making sessions (Level 2 students)*
- *As part of 1:1 careers guidance interviews*
- *Through the 'Be Ready' programme*
- *The 'Realising Opportunities' programme, delivered by Nottingham University*

Students' achievements and progress, including career management skills, are monitored and recorded within the Promonitor Portal, which also covers attendance and communication. The information provided includes career plans and students are able to build on this during tutorials. Parents/carers and staff also have access to material which is not confidential.

Destination data is collected by a specialist team within the college and shared with Luton Borough Council. The Assessor saw the data for 2019/20 as well as a detailed analysis of destinations. The college is very keen to ensure that students are made aware of all post-18 opportunities and figures show that 75% went on to university and the remainder took up other options, such as employment and apprenticeships.

Destination data is used to 'inspire and inform learners', through presentations, social media and displays around the school (including photos of former students and their career path).

There is an extensive data base of Alumni, who are called upon to engage with current students in a variety of ways (e.g. mentoring and work experience). Videos of former students have been placed on You Tube, where they talk about where they are now and what they have been doing since leaving Luton Sixth Form College.

Careers progression is built into the curriculum from day one. Course descriptors contain careers and progression guidance, to help students choose the best courses for them'.

There are approximately 70 courses available at the college in total and there was evidence to show that all, including STEM subjects, include elements of career learning within curriculum programmes.

As part of the assessment, it was possible to speak to two different subject teachers who outlined the various ways in which they cover elements of careers education:

- **The Head of Department for Creative Arts, English and Languages** stated that she 'is passionate about students being prepared for their next steps'. She has a number of external contacts who are brought in to engage with students and also organises visits (e.g. the London Fashion Institute'), mock interviews and work experience. In addition, she has created a display of former students, showing their individual career pathways since leaving the college.
- **A Computer Science teacher** is keen to encourage more girls to go into male dominated professions and has set up a 'Women in Technology' project. She regularly talks about the jobs that link to her subject and has links with local companies. She feels that it is important to make students aware of all the opportunities open to them and not just university.

Every student has at least one meaningful encounter with an employer or an employee through a range of processes, which include:

- Employers coming into college to work with students
- The annual Choices Fair
- Visits and outings
- Attendance at a regional Skills Show
- Virtual employer encounters
- Mock interviews
- Mentoring and coaching from employer representatives

There is an annual Careers Fair at the college during which students have the opportunity to find out about the full range of further learning and employment opportunities. A range of HE representatives take part and students can attend workshops and presentations.

Examples of the programme include:

- How to start researching what's right for you
- Students' guide: university vs apprenticeship
- Choosing the right course

- *Applying to Oxford and Cambridge*
- *UCAS application clinic*
- *Secrets to a powerful personal statement*
- *How to make your CV stand out*

Students also attend the National Apprenticeship Fair, to explore alternatives to university. Visits to universities under consideration are encouraged and subject teachers have their own higher education links, which they share with students.

There is a programme of 'Alumni Buddies' through which former students, who are now at university, mentor existing students, to help with university applications.

All students have the opportunity to have at least one careers guidance interview with one of the two internally-appointed careers advisers. The Careers Leader has a Level 7 qualification in IAG and the college Careers Adviser is working towards Level 6.

The Careers Assistant has nearly completed a Level 3 qualification in information and advice. Information focussed interviews last for 20 minutes and more in depth guidance interviews can be up to 40 minutes long."

Contact Details

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