

## Personal Statements

### What is a Personal Statement and when would I need one?

Most College application forms include a section for you to fill in called a personal statement. This gives you the opportunity to tell the College what you are good at, what you like, what you have achieved, why you have chosen a particular course and how this fits in with your career plans.

This is your chance to make a good impression on the College and make yourself stand out from other applicants.

### What could I include?

**There are no set rules about what you must and must not include in your personal statement.**

**Remember its personal to you. However, there are some pieces of information that you may want to include**

- What you want to study and why
- Specific aspects of the course that interest you
- Things you have read related to the subject area
- Work experience or voluntary work in this area
- Personal experiences which lead to the decision to take this subject
- Where you hope a course in this subject will lead.
  
- Achievements within school
- Subjects you study which are not examined
  
- Experiences which show you are a reliable and responsible person
- Part-time job
- Community and charity work
- Helping out at school events and open days.
  
- Your hobbies, interests and skills
- What you like to do in your free time
- Sport and leisure activities - particularly if you play for a team
- Musical instrument which you play
- Languages which you speak
- Prizes you have won or positions achieved in your interests

Remember to think about your entire time at school from Year 7 onwards.

### Useful Check list

- Any information you include should be truthful and accurate. Be prepared for colleges to check information during interview and with your referees.
- Is your information presented in a logical way?
- Have you checked your spelling and grammar?
- If handwritten, is your writing clear and easy for other people to read?
- Have you been consistent with the size and style of font you have used?
- Have you chosen a clear layout that is easy for others to follow?
- Have you been asked to demonstrate that you have certain skills/experience? Have you included this information?
- Have you read over your Personal Statement? Could you make any improvements?

### REMEMBER!

**If you're not sure ask someone to check**

## Example Paragraph Plan

### Paragraph 1

- What do you want to study and why
- Specific aspects of the course that interest you and why
- Anything that you have done in school that relates to, or you feel would help you, with your chosen course
- How your subject choices relate to your career ideas

### Paragraph 2

- Achievements in school - think about the whole of your time at Hathershaw, from Year 7 onwards
- What are you good at?
- Are you a senior student, peer mentor, taken part in a show or event, helped at parents evening or something similar?

### Paragraph 3

- Work experience - where did you go and briefly what did you do?
- What skills did you develop?
- Which of your personal qualities did you use?
- E.g. I undertook work experience at ..... I was responsible for  
.....
- What did you enjoy? What did you do well? Did your employer give you any positive feedback?
- Do you have a part time job?
- Do you volunteer?

### Paragraph 4

- Hobbies outside of school
- E.g. Outside of school I play Cricket for .....

### Paragraph 5

- Closing paragraph - what do you want the college to remember about you?
- Include personal qualities and what you hope to gain from attending college.
- E.g. I believe I am.....I feel I have made the most of all opportunities and experiences offered to me both in and out of school and hope that by attending xxxxxxxx College I will be able to further improve my knowledge of ..... I am looking forward to  
.....