

**Personal Statement student guidance - just some ideas to get you started.**

You should aim to type about one side of A4. Please write about:

- why you wish to continue in education or apply for training
- why you have chosen the course(s) you are applying for
- any ideas you have about possible careers, and whether or not you are thinking of applying to university
- the interests and activities you follow in your own time and in school
- any work experience you have had (both paid and unpaid)

The personal statement describes you, what you are good at, what skills you have, and anything you have learnt about yourself. It would be a good starting point to think about how your friends would describe you in a positive way, helping you get an idea of your positive qualities.

- a) What do you want to do in the future? How will the courses you have chosen help you do this?
- b) See what your friends say about you – are you outgoing? Confident? Friendly? Reliable? Responsible? Good listener? Ambitious? What have you done to display these qualities?
- c) Look at attendance and punctuality data – are you always punctual? Do you always attend school? Remember that the Colleges ask to see this data.
- d) Think about any positions of responsibility you have had – babysitting, Saturday jobs, paper rounds, school forum, tour guides, interviews, Sports Captain, mentor – what skills do you need to have to be successful at these?
- e) Are you part of any groups that promote positive qualities? – Cadets, Scouts, Guides, Rangers.
- f) What opportunities have you taken? – school trips, music lessons etc.
- g) What have you learnt from the opportunities? – team work, culture etc.

- h) What are you currently studying and how will these subjects help you in the future?
- i) Have you represented the school at anything?
- j) Have you passed any official exams / awards? – Music, Life guarding, First Aid, ski awards, JSLA.
- k) Have you won any awards at Presentation Evening? If so what?
- l) Do you play for any teams, either inside or outside school?
- m) Have you taken part in any productions? – dance show, drama, concerts, art festivals.
- n) Have you taken part in any fundraising activities?
- o) What work experience did you do? How will it help with your future career? What did you learn?

Remember that there will be lots of students applying with the same grades as you and the personal statement is the way that you will stand out from the crowd. Certain institutions have many more applicants than places and they are looking for students who can offer their institutions something. You need to sell yourself and show that you are a well rounded person with a variety of interests so make sure you include everything that you want the institutions to know.