

# Lesson 2b: What is a college? (45mins)

Activity	Teaching Notes	Resources
Introduce the Session	Download and set up the PowerPoint. Using Slide 2 let the pupils know that today you will be learning more about what a college is. Remind the pupils of the previous lessons and that college was one of the pathways you discussed.	PowerPoint
Group Activity	<p>Divide the pupils into groups of 4-6. Using the PowerPoint tell the pupils that they will be taking part in a group activity. There are two ways to run this activity, either ask each group to look at all five questions or give each group one question to consider and feedback on to the rest of the class. Remind them that this is not about being right or wrong but rather what they think the answer is. Depending on the timeframe you could ask the pupils to note down bullet points or create a mind map or ask them to do a group poster of their ideas. When the pupils finish the activity go over each question as a class. If you split the questions up between different groups, start by asking the group to feedback and present their ideas and then open the discussion to the rest of the class. Use the PowerPoint to go over the activity. Below are some of the main points you would want to cover for each question.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>What does a College look like?</b></li> </ul> <p>The pupils' ideas may centre around the idea of a "big school" and this is fine. You can confirm that like university, college is indeed like a big school, with lots of different students, studying different subjects and doing different classes. However, in terms of appearance use the slide to show the pupils that colleges can look lots of different ways and that different colleges will offer different courses so when thinking about going to college, it is important to pick the right one for you and that offers the course you want to study.</p>	PowerPoint Paper/Pens

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- **Who goes to College?**

The pupils may come up with a whole array of wonderful answers. As with the university lesson, you can probe the group by asking them what age they think a college student is; What do they think a typical college student might wear? Again, the pupils may come up with a full array of weird and wonderful answers. The main message that you want to get across when going over this question is that anyone can go to college, if that is what they want to do. Make sure to highlight that you can go at any age, and that you can go to university when you are 16 after S4 or when you are 70. You can go straight from school or decide to go when you are older and have worked in a different job. The pupils may say that people who cannot go to university go to college. What you want to get across is that yes sometimes if you do not have the right qualifications to go to university from school, you may go to college. However, for some jobs you will need a college qualification and not a university one. You want to make sure that the pupils understand that both pathways are valid, and one is not better than the other.

- **Why do people go to college?**

Ask the pupils to feedback their ideas before using slide 6 to go over the answers. Similarly to lesson 2a, most of the time pupils will focus on the idea of needing qualifications for specific jobs or career prospects which is fine. However, you also want to highlight the fact that some people may go because they want to learn a new skill. For example, maybe when you are in secondary school you discovered a real love of cooking or an interest in hair dressing. You can go to college to develop these skills. Make sure to highlight that sometimes you can do things at college that you cannot do at

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school and learn something new. For example, you can gain qualifications in beauty or fitness. You also want to mention the fact that a lot of people go because they want a new experience and to meet new people. Going to college, like going to university you are going to be in a new environment with people from all over the world and from different backgrounds.

- **What do people do at a College?**

The pupils may not be entirely sure of what happens at a college. When going over this you can start with terms that the pupils will understand like 'study,' and 'go to class.' Tell the pupils that at college your timetable will depend on the type of course you are studying. For example, if you are studying for a National 5 or Higher qualification, the qualifications you do at school, your timetable and experience will be like that of being in school. If you are studying something more practical or a skill like cooking or hairdressing, most of your classes will be very practical and hands on. Some courses may involve placements where you will be gaining work experience. In this section it is also important to highlight the social/non-academic aspects of further education. Many pupils may not realise that while at college you can join societies and clubs. Many colleges have sports facilities and student clubs that you can join. You want the pupils to understand that alongside the academic side of college, they will have the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends who share similar interests, while also having the opportunity to try new things.

- **What can you study at a College?**

Make sure that the pupils understand and are aware of variety and breadth of subjects that you can do at college, and that there is something for everyone if that is what they want to do, including the different range of qualifications. The word cloud has some examples.

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Summarise	Summarise the activity and let the pupils know that you will continue to look at this topic in the coming days/weeks and that next you are going to look at apprenticeships in more detail. Check the Lesson Plan for this lesson for follow up activities.	PowerPoint