

Hi new applicant

When I first applied for my course at college and began my new journey I felt so many emotions. Excitement, shock, but mainly nerves.

I remember turning up on my first day and worrying about how different college might be to secondary school. I was nervous about meeting my tutor and all the new people who applied for the same course as me who I'd be spending the next two years with. They all actually turned out to be great people who made my two years at college even more enjoyable.

Starting at a new place and transitioning from school to college can be very daunting for some people and I can't begin to imagine how you might feel, but what I can say to make you feel better is that college is full of tutors and friends who support and encourage you to always try your best and achieve your goals.

During my two years at college I studied Level 3 childcare. During this time I was given the opportunity to do so many things, including work placement in where I worked with children from 0-5 years at different places and also gained my first aid certificate. However, I have to say my best experience at college by far was the opportunity to work with a charity called The Maun Refuge where I planned and led several activities with children, each time based on a different theme. My personal favourite was the pirate hat and eye patch decorating and we danced and sang like pirates. It was so much fun and really creative.

Throughout college you will be given the chance to attend several trips and build on not only your knowledge but also your skills. It's such a great thing to be able to do with your friends. You have the opportunity to visit and look around different universities in preparation for your future – so make sure you ask questions.

These trips are a great experience and really help you when deciding on your next steps after college. In my opinion though the best part had to be the bus journey there and back. You get to socialise with friends, sing along to the High School Musical album and also watch tutor Davina get up and dance at the front of the bus before setting off!

This was defiantly a trip I will never forget. Oh and I can't forget the bus driver and his silly jokes. I quote: "If you leave any of your belongings on this bus don't worry you can find them on my website [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com)".

There are also other trip opportunities such as the chance to go to a different country and work with children in schools abroad. You can learn so much from this however only two people from the course get to go as this trip is open to several other courses so you have to apply.

College also sets up lots of fun activities for you to do in the atrium. These include free slush puppies, laser tag and the Nando's prize wheel which is all fun and games until you land on the five push-ups section and can't do them, just my luck I guess! It must have changed though because on my second go I won some hot sauce and a chocolate fudge brownie - delicious.

By reading this letter I hope you can see that college sound like lots of fun, which don't get me wrong it is - but there's also the work side of things. Throughout your time at college it may seem like a lot of work but trust me it will al be worth it at the end when you can walk away and get your dream job. I know thanks to all my tutors and teachers over the past two years I will be able to get mine.

So remember - work hard and have fun. Good luck in the future

Yours sincerely

**Courtney Abbott**