



YEAR 10

EXPERIENCE DAYS
AT YEOVIL COLLEGE



BUILDING AN EXTRAORDINARY FUTURE

A supportive guide for parents and guardians

Welcome to the informational guide for parents' and guardians' ahead of the Yeovil College Experience Days for Year 10 students. This guide has been designed specifically to support you, to in turn support your son or daughter take their next post-16 career steps, whilst getting the very best opportunity and information from their experience day programme.

The objective of Experience Days is to offer our future students an insight into their post-16 options, with Yeovil College being an unrivalled option in terms of its first-class and UK-leading facilities, achievement rates, relentless ambition for students and progression opportunities. This event has been designed to introduce post-16 transition in a safe and supportive environment with the focus completely placed upon your child/children, whilst sharing the multitude of options available beyond school. The strengths and benefits of such choices, career possibilities and how to secure the best route for your children will be discussed, and of course we will start to introduce all aspects of life at college including study routes, Yeovil Edge and enrichment, our academic success, resources and the high expectations created at Yeovil College.

What happens at a Yeovil College Experience Day?

We have a set agenda for the event, which allows each student to maximise the time at Yeovil College:

Time	Activity
9.30-9.40am	Arrival at Yeovil College (school will advise)
9.40-10.15am	Introduction from CEO & Principal of Yeovil College, Mark Bolton
10.15-11.45am	First taster session choice and college tour
11.45-12.45pm	Lunch and activities on Kingston Green
12.45-14.15pm	Second taster session choice
14.15-14.30pm	Back to Kingston Green and depart for school



Who will be on Campus During Experience Days?

Experience Days are dedicated to our future students, which means that the only other students on campus, will be those who are looking at their post-16 options and are currently in Year 10.

Throughout the two days, there will be students from:

Tuesday 5th July

- Westfield Academy
- Preston School
- Wadham School
- Beaminster School
- Sir John Colfox Academy
- Shaftesbury School

Wednesday 6th July

- Buckler's Mead Academy
- Gryphon School
- Stanchester Academy
- Gillingham School
- King Arthur's School
- Ansford Academy

Your child and their school will already know which day they are attending Yeovil College and which subjects tasters that they have selected. At this stage the tasters are confirmed, however should your child be having any major doubts or second-thoughts about their options, then please contact us at marketing@yeovil.ac.uk and we will do our very best to make appropriate adjustments.

There will be a select number of current Yeovil College students onsite, who have been carefully selected to support their teachers during the event.

You may have heard discussions about our Year 8 My Futures Day, this event is completely separate and takes place on Thursday 7th July, in partnership with the 14-19 South Somerset Partnership.



Getting the most out of the event

We encourage all school pupils to integrate, be confident and embrace the opportunity provided to them. Ideally, students will approach the event with a positive and open attitude; be prepared to engage and learn, ask questions, open their mind, and fully integrate with the experience.

Classes will be mixed and will contain pupils from all local schools, therefore students will be integrated with one another based on their preferred curriculum choices, which means that your son or daughter is likely to be surrounded by like-minded people. This approach also encourages students to help make the experience as varied and as diverse as possible.

Support during the event

Visiting Yeovil College is a big step for a Year 10 student, and for many, it can feel unnatural, daunting or beyond their comfort zone. At this stage, we want to reassure you that we are both anticipating this and have put measures in place to counteract, support and reassure the students:

- From the moment the students enter Yeovil College, they will be met by an army of welcoming and friendly support staff, all wearing blue Yeovil College T Shirts and lanyards. This team will show school pupils where to go, answers questions and take them to their intended destinations.
- We have two help zones in place – one in our main reception and one on Kingston Green, where all lunchtime activities will take place.
- Our Student Support team and Additional Learning Support teams have been fully integrated into the proceedings and are available to support those who need it, in any way that is appropriate.
- School staff from your child's existing school will remain at the event throughout and will circulate around campus to check on progress and performance. They will also meet their pupils back on Kingston Green for the lunchtime activities.
- During the lunchtime activity session, we have the full Yeovil College team also on the Kingston Green to help, support and look after our visiting pupils.
- Finally, our staff are brilliant. We have run this event for many years, in partnership with our local schools, which means that the team are extremely familiar with potential issues that may arise.

We are regularly praised by schools, government agencies and the 14-19 South Somerset Partnership for the work we do around transitions, and this sets us apart from other colleges and sixth forms. Be assured that we pull out every possible stop to support both you and your child.

Outcomes and Next Steps

Careers are no longer linear. The idea that you embark upon a career and stay within that sector or industry for the rest of your life is very much obsolete, particularly now. By the end of Experience Days, your son or daughter will hopefully have a better understanding about Yeovil College, our study programme offer and the opportunities and the choices that await.

We appreciate that making next-step decisions can be extremely difficult, particularly when it involves your child. At Yeovil College, we are perhaps different to other institutes, we actively encourage you to do your research, don't just consider Yeovil College, look at other options, think about the end position for your child, which may be university, employment further study, apprenticeship or independence, and weigh up which type of programme is best suited to them, whether this is an A Level, T Level, a Vocational qualification or an Apprenticeship. This is a huge decision for your family unit, one which will have a significant impact upon your son or daughter's future – we are here to support you, without condition, whether you ultimately choose Yeovil College or not.

Supporting Your Child beyond Experience Days

Visit an Information Event: Yeovil College information events are celebrated for their informative, friendly and warm approach, where every visitor is appreciated and respected. We pride ourselves in delivering a valuable and unique experience; one not to be forgotten. Your next Information Event is on Tuesday 18th October, 16:00 to 20:00, with bookable timeslots. Head to www.yeovil.ac.uk/events to find out more about upcoming events.

Careers Team: We have a wonderful, highly professional and independent careers team, led under the guidance of Team Leader, Gayle Pogson, who will support your child to make the right decision for them.

School Partnership: We work closely with all local schools and share a wealth of information with them for students, particularly those in year 10 and 11. Our aim is to support your research and showcase why we believe we are a positive option for your child.

Campus Tours: We run a set of very small and extremely bespoke campus tours each academic year, which will be communicated to your school.

Apprenticeship Job Fair: This annual event will be held on Wednesday 8th February, 16:00 to 20:00, during National Apprenticeship week. It is ideally suited to students in year 10 or 11 interested in developing their career through an Apprenticeship and provides the opportunity to liaise directly with employers and businesses within our local community.

