**Mentor Pack – Session 1**

Your main goal as a mentor for the introductory session is to give your mentees some information about the purpose of the mentoring sessions. You will be helping them research different colleges and courses and by the end of the year they will have filled in a mock application for college.

**Introduce yourself/programme (5 mins)**

Introduce yourself and ask your mentees why they think their school has them involved in mentoring. Listen to the responses and clarify for them the purpose of the mentoring session. Be sure to mention:

1. You are going to be meeting with them 6 times over the year.
2. You are here to help them think about what they might want to do when they leave school and learn about how to apply for college
3. You went to college and are here to help them understand what is useful about going to college and what they might need to do if they are interested in it.
4. At the end of the year or next, (depending on whether or not they do transition year) they will make a very important choice about their subjects for the leaving certificate. This choice will affect what options they will have in the future.
5. You are not here to tell them what to choose but to help them decide what choice is best for them

**Icebreaker: Favourites (5-10 mins)**

Answer the questions below for your group then go around and have each mentee answer the same three questions you did. Some mentees may need encouragement.

1. Favourite Subject
2. Favourite TV Show
3. Favourite Hobby

**Ice breaker: Rules/Charter (5 mins)**

Explain to your mentees that everyone will have to make presentations and engage in group discussions over the next few sessions. With this in mind have them brainstorm a list of rules or a charter of rights for all participants in your sessions. See what they come up with and if you feel anything important is missing you can encourage them with questions. i.e “what if you are talking and somebody else is talking or laughing” Once you are all happy with the rules/charter make a note of it for later.

**Reflection: Subject Choice (5-10 mins)**

Split your mentees into pairs and have them ask their partner questions and fill in the attached worksheet on subject choice for senior cycle. Next have each student report to the group on their partner’s non-compulsory subject choices and why they made them.

Ask the group if they have thought much about this before today and whether they think it is important?

**Note:** If you have an uneven number you can pair with one of the students for this exercise. If you have an even number, fill in the sheet yourself (with your own choices as a student or what you would choose now) and share it with your mentees before they themselves report to the group.

**Assignment: Pick a College (5 -10 mins)**

Split your mentees into groups of two and have them pick a college from the list below. Make sure each group picks a different college.

* Trinity College Dublin
* NUI Maynooth
* Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT)
* University College Cork (UCC)
* Dublin University College (DCU)
* NUI Galway
* University College Dublin (UCD)
* National College of Art and Design
* University of Limerick

Once they have chosen a college explain to your groups that they will be giving a 5 minute presentation during the next session. Their presentation can be in any format they wish, PowerPoint, oral, musical etc. Their presentation can include any aspects of college they like but should also include answers to the following questions.

1. Where is the college? How would you get there from your local community?
2. How many students attend the college each year?
3. Name some famous people that went there?
4. List some extracurricular activities available?
5. Do they have any impressive facilities?
6. How much does it cost to go there?
7. What subjects do you need to study any course? (Matriculation)

Note: Encourage the students to include information not listed above that they find interesting. Also, encourage them to research extracurricular activities and facilities that may not be available in their own school.

**Mentee Pack – Session 1**

**Activity: Subject Choice**

What subjects will you have to take for the leaving cert?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **Level** |
| **Higher** | **Ordinary** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

What subjects will you choose to take for the leaving cert?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **Level** |
| **Higher** | **Ordinary** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Why have you picked these subjects? Are you interested in them? Do you think they are “easy”? Do you think you need them for college later?

**Group Assignment: Pick a College**

Form a team with someone else from the group and pick a college from the list below. You cannot pick the same college as the other group(s)

* Trinity College Dublin
* NUI Maynooth
* Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT)
* University College Cork (UCC)
* Dublin University College (DCU)
* NUI Galway
* University College Dublin (UCD)
* National College of Art and Design
* University of Limerick

Before the next session your team must meet and prepare a presentation on your chosen college. Your presentation must last 5 minutes and can use any format. You can give a simple oral presentation but it may be helpful and fun to use pictures, slides, music or videos too.

You can include any information on the college you like but your presentation must include answers to the following questions:

1. Where is the college? How would you get there from your local community?
2. How many students attend the college each year?
3. Name some famous people that went there?
4. List some extracurricular activities available?
5. Do they have any impressive facilities?
6. How much does it cost to go there?
7. What subjects do you need to study any course?

Don’t just stop with these questions, what else might the group want to know about the college?

Each group will have to present at the next session so make sure you practice once you have all your information.

**Research Tips:**

Most of the information you need will be on the college websites (listed below). Make sure to visit them. Try using google for any information you cannot find.

* Trinity College Dublin ([www.tcd.ie](http://www.tcd.ie))
* NUI Maynooth ([www.maynoothuniversity.ie](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie))
* Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) ([www.dit.ie](http://www.dit.ie))
* University College Cork (UCC) ([www.ucc.ie](http://www.ucc.ie))
* Dublin University College (DCU) ([www.dcu.ie](http://www.dcu.ie))
* NUI Galway ([www.nuigalway.ie](http://www.nuigalway.ie))
* University College Dublin (UCD) ([www.ucd.ie](http://www.ucd.ie))
* National College of Art and Design ([www.ncad.ie](http://www.ncad.ie))
* University of Limerick ([www.ul.ie](http://www.ul.ie))