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**Nathan Rollinson, 19**  
**English, Maths, Art, Performing Arts**

I chose Walsall College's Deaf Base because it gives deaf students a lot of opportunities. There is a strong deaf community here and other colleges just don't have that provision.

During my time at Walsall College, I especially enjoyed meeting like minded people. I'm quite a social person and I was sometimes late for lessons because I couldn't get away from talking to my friends! The staff are also very friendly and there's a good atmosphere – I just felt like I fitted in straight away.

Since leaving Walsall College, I have gone on to become a presenter for the British Sign Language Broadcasting Trust, working on a show called Make, Shake and Jake for Cartoonito, part of the Cartoon Network and Wicked for the Community channel. It's been a real whirlwind - I am currently living in London leading a very exciting lifestyle. My CV is now 5 pages long - I have been given lots of job opportunities and have even been turning work down!

I have always wanted to do acting and presenting so I am really enjoying it. I

am also keen to do charity work that will help other deaf people achieve their dreams. I would definitely encourage people to study at Walsall College – I was here for years and have always been happy, I felt a real connection with everybody and there is plenty of support. New students will also have the opportunity to study in the new Wisemore Campus – it's a shame I won't be here to be part of it!

I had so many good experiences at Walsall College – the best one was when we went on a trip to London. It was brilliant to have a group of deaf people together, all chatting and having fun. The London trip and my experiences at College had a big impact on me. They helped to widen my experiences, improved my confidence and helped me be more open minded to try new things.

If a deaf person was unsure about starting a college course, I would say just look at me and what I have achieved. Deafness has got nothing to do with your abilities. It takes hard work but you need to be proactive and do something about it. There are plenty of opportunities for you to get qualifications and achieve.