



YEAR 11 APPLICANT NEWSLETTER



Welcome from Mrs Blundell-Roberts, Head of Year 12

I hope that you are managing to stay safe and well in these challenging times. We hope that this newsletter will help you to feel connected to the Sixth Form at Ripley. The aim, firstly, is to reassure you that the sixth form team will be here to help guide you through the induction and enrolment process when the time comes. Secondly, we hope to give you some ideas of things you can be doing from home to develop your skills and help prepare you for sixth form study. We hope you find it useful, and we look forward to meeting you all.

Getting ready for your courses

As you will have seen from Mr Sim's recent email, the Bridging Units for each subject are now available on our website.

The work will support you to make a successful transition from GCSE, giving you a good grounding in each subject and providing a flavour of the type of work you will be studying, allowing you to make a successful start to your sixth form courses.

You will need to bring all completed units to your first lessons.

<https://www.ripleysthomas.co.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-bridging-units>

Preparing for Sixth Form study

Sixth form study requires an excellent set of study skills to help you organise and master your own learning.

Hopefully you've all become experts at independent learning during this time of lockdown! For those of you who might like to explore the types of study skills you'll need for A Level and BTEC study, have a look at **VESPA!**

The **VESPA Mindset** is something we use in Year 12 to help our students develop the **skills, habits and behaviours** that make successful students. The five areas of **VESPA – Vision, Effort, Systems, Practice and Attitude** – will help you develop the motivation and commitment you need to achieve your potential. The **VESPA Home Study Programme**, developed to be used by students independently, will give you an excellent grounding in these fundamental skills and a 'head start' when it comes to being an effective independent learner. Enrol free for the home study programme here:

<https://www.vespamindset.co.uk/p/the-vespa-mindset-programme>

Why Ripley Sixth Form?

Although we are no longer able to welcome you all to our Induction days in the way we would have liked to, we still want to share with you some of the reasons why Ripley Sixth Form is a fantastic place to study.

We are a distinctive and close knit community, and we pride ourselves on guiding all our students to thrive academically and to grow personally.

Not only will you be taught by staff who are passionate about their subjects, but you will have access to our unique, extensive enrichment programme and our bespoke Career Planning Journey, giving you all the tools you need to secure your chosen destination after sixth form.

Please do keep your eye out for further communications around Induction in the coming weeks!

Developing Your Interests Beyond The Curriculum

Now is the perfect time to be exploring and developing your own interests in particular subject areas or career pathways.

Many of our sixth formers complete **MOOCs** (Massive Open Online Courses) during their enrichment time as a way of doing just this.

There are lots of online platforms where you can search MOOCs, but one of the best is **FutureLearn**. You can sign up for free and enrol on short online courses on everything from An Introduction to Cyber Security to A History of Royal Fashion, from Forensic Psychology to Understanding NHS Values... and everything in between!

These types of short courses are an excellent way for you to demonstrate your passion and enthusiasm for a subject area to universities and employers when you come to make applications a little further down the line.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses>

Top Tips from our Senior Students

** Get your folders ready at the start with dividers for each topic, as this will make revising easier later down the line.*

** Use your frees wisely. You don't necessarily have to study in all of them but organise yourself so that you know when you'll spend time studying and when you'll spend time with your friends.*

** Do extra reading and research into your chosen subjects. Mrs Buckland in the JCL has some great articles on different subject areas.*

** Surround yourself with friends that make you feel confident and push you to do your best.*

** Join sports clubs and get involved with enrichment. Not only will this be helpful as content for future applications, but you will meet people that don't do the same classes as you.*

** Know when to take a break. If you find yourself reading the same line out of a textbook over and over again, it's probably best to take a break and come back to it later.*

** The most important tip of all is to enjoy every moment of Sixth Form; it goes a lot quicker than you expect!*

