

## ***Year 12: The Next Few Weeks ...***

The summer term is a busy term in Year 12. You would now be preparing for the end-of-year exams, starting to work on coursework in some subjects, and you would also start thinking about your UCAS application by researching universities and courses, booking visits. Pretty much the same as you should be doing now:

### **1. End-of-Year Exams:**

These will now take place in the week beginning 8th June. Although you will have exams in early September too, which will be used for final UCAS prediction purposes, you should be able to take a good break for most of the normal summer holidays, assuming you revise well now for the end of year exams. Added bonus, you will have feedback from these June exams and will be able to perfect your knowledge and technique for September.

- Revise the AS material as you would for any exam
- Know the scope of the courses you study: specification, topics, mark-schemes
- Draw up a detailed revision plan, including downtime, exercise and family time!!
- Studying in shorter sessions with regular breaks, and revising different subjects in different ways, often works best. This will keep your brain stimulated and you will be more effective.
- Look at past papers: know what the structure of the exams is and how the questions are marked
- Practise doing exam-style questions and past papers: once you've done revision, apply your knowledge; learn from marking your work

### **2. Coursework:**

- If you have coursework, allocate slots to it in your schedule
- Research your topic widely
- Take detailed notes on your research findings
- Look at the mark-scheme

### **3. Start thinking about your UCAS application:**

- Look at universities and alternatives
- Schedule in some time to research courses and universities, apprenticeships
- Look at the different modules in the subjects/courses you are interested in
- Look at the entry grade requirements
- Look at facilities, accommodation, extra-curricular provision, student satisfaction,
- Is there a year in industry or the opportunity to study abroad for a year
- When are the open days, virtual tours?

## *How to Stay Motivated While Remote Learning*

### 1. Have a Routine:

- Follow a timetable / schedule (even when the lessons are not 'live')
- Divide up your day into work slots with short breaks and other activities
- Get ready for work in the mornings as if you were going out to school, shower, breakfast, get dressed, etc.
- Even if you don't have a 'live' lesson: do the work the day your lesson would be to keep on top of things and so it feels more like a school day – if you work during the "school day", you also have "after school time" – This is really refreshing emotionally
- When you finish work, tidy it away, so you can take a proper break from it all – it's important to have a distinction between work and "home time"
- Schedule in things you enjoy doing or that are good to do: interesting articles, podcasts, YouTube talks, films, social media, etc.

### 2. Get organised:

- Don't be distracted by your phone while working – have it off until your break
- Take detailed notes on the work as you would at school
- Do any reading suggested before the next lesson – don't put it off, it will build up!
- Download files and presentations sent to you, organise them into folders, so you have an overview of the different subjects and all the work completed
- Save marked work into your folders, reflect on any feedback, individual or class, set targets for things to remember to improve on future pieces of work

### 3. Disconnect:

- Make sure you have some time away from the screen to give your eyes a rest – listen to music, chill
- Have regular breaks, like you would between lessons at school
- Try to avoid following the news more than usually
- Build exercise into your daily schedule – there are lots of fun home workout videos you can use and the School PE Twitter and YouTube channels have some fun ideas too
- Try to go for a quick walk or jog each day to get out of the house and clear your head

### 4. Connect:

- Keep social contact with friends and others doing the same subjects – talk things over, share concerns and support each other
- At the end of each day, take stock of what you have done, what went well, what you enjoyed – look for the positives!
- If you feel anxious or overwhelmed, make sure you contact your tutor or any of your subject teachers you enjoy talking to
- Spend time with members of your family: chat, cook, walk, watch a film together

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## Here are our Tips and Tricks for Effective Revision

### 1. Have a revision plan with manageable goals:

- A detailed **schedule** guarantees you cover everything you need to know. Rejig if needed as you go along to be more productive
- Break everything down into more **manageable chunks** – much less daunting! Breaking things down means you regularly achieve short term goals, this feels good!
- A plan with smaller chunks means you'll know exactly where you stand in terms of how long you need and how much you've done
- Be **smart with your time** – no distractions - and earn **your rewards** – breaks and downtime, things that help you relax

### 2. Avoid just reading:

- Make **notes** to summarise what you are reading. This helps you remember. But don't copy full sentences – too time consuming and passive. Detail is great, but keep it to notes and draw links between ideas
- **Mind-maps or brainstorms** are also a good study technique as they encourage you to link ideas and structure your thinking
- Using coloured **highlighting** is a great way to draw attention to key words, it separates the key ideas from the additional detail
- However, make sure you **draw links** between information, not isolating it. Links, joining different areas together helps recall. Plus, drawing **comparisons** is a key exam skill when looking for top marks
- Shrink your notes for reminders of key points, but when **recalling detail**: expand in concentric circles as you recall more and more details and links

### 3. Stick to short but focused revision sessions to stay effective

- Have your **phone OFF** while revising
- take regular **breaks** (you will enjoy checking your phone much more now!)

### 4. Approach different subjects differently

- Have a varied approach, as certain study methods will suit some subjects better than others
- **Switch up** what and how you study to maintain concentration

### 5. Exam technique as well as content

- Know the content, but you also need to know how to answer questions in a way that meets the **exam criteria**
- The best way to do this is to **practise past papers** once you have learned the content. By marking yourself against an actual mark scheme, you can see the kind of thing examiners will be looking for. In essay-based subjects just practising how to plan essays is a good revision technique, quicker than writing a whole essay
- Trawl through the mark scheme and ensure you understand everything there. This gives you a better idea of how to think through an exam question and work it out
- Look at examiners' notes/comments too: know what those who mark the exams are looking for

### 6. Study buddies

- Discuss the work with friends at the end of a day, share ideas, ask questions
- Explaining to someone is a great way to check that you know and understand it yourself. "Teach" a family member