



4 May 2020

Dear Year 11 Students,

Re: Transition work/ Bridging Units that prepare you for level 3 sixth form courses

We are writing because we have some work for you to do.

We are posting subject work on our website so you can access it there. Click on the Sixth Form tab at the top of the home page or in the menu. Click on 'Year 11 to Sixth Form Transition Work/Bridging Units' (<https://www.ralphallenschool.com/1682/year-11-to-sixth-form-transition-work-bridging-units>). We want you to complete the Transition/Bridging units and there is a piece of assessment for each course. If this is a difficulty for you then please let me know. We have included a contact email address for each subject as well. We hope you enjoy it. If you have difficulties or want advice then please ask. We also have the course information and further website and information on the KS5 curriculum here (<https://www.ralphallenschool.com/1607/ks5-course-information>).

Post 16 education should be such a brilliant stage in education if you get it right. So part of my job is to help you to do exactly that. There are lots of decisions ahead but these decisions are all okay to make if you don't panic. Think carefully about what you could enjoy and do well at. It can be easy to take subjects and courses that you think you should take: to choose A levels in Science when you want to study Languages or vice versa, to choose facilitating subjects at A level when you know you would cope better with BTEC or more vocational courses, to worry about getting a particular job later when it's building up an overall skills portfolio that might make a bigger difference.

I know that an induction programme is important and keeping options open as long as we can, making sure you start on courses that seem sensible for you and teaching you to be enthusiastic, self-motivated independent learners. It is difficult to precisely predict the future and we all want to be adaptable and able to learn new things when we need to, to know how to ask for help and where we might find help, and how to motivate ourselves.

We don't know exactly what grades you will all get but even after exams you can feel like that; we do know that you have expressed an interest in further study at Ralph Allen. This is phase 1 of transition to higher level courses. The subject leaders have suggested tasks for you can to study over the next 4-6 weeks that will prepare you for further study. It's not all past exam papers and tests! You need to review the skills you have learnt at GCSE and to remind yourselves of how you learn. You might find a timetable helpful, you might do the tasks in bursts- it can fit around your current circumstances. We would like you all to return a piece of work at the end as mentioned in each subject's transition unit.

We are planning to also run induction, as usual or in some form, later on this year so you can see what lessons might be like in each subject and to gain more information of the course contents. We often then give additional work to complete over the summer holidays to keep your subject skills fine-tuned. The best bit is that you are choosing which subject work to complete – you only need to complete work for the subjects you are thinking about studying in the sixth form.

We know you might have applied to more than one post 16 centre; that is fine and sometimes really sensible. You may have work from the other centres as well so keep an eye on that too. If you read through all the information you get from all the centres you are then best placed to make sensible choices about the work you can complete and still be prepared for all your options. If you attend Ralph Allen School currently and need help with those decisions then Melanie Whaley, our careers adviser, might be able to help (m.whalley@ralphallenschool.com) or **your tutor** or, if for you have applied from another school, one of my team might help (sixthform@ralphallenschool.com) so again ask rather than worry about it.

Don't ignore this work as it is part of being ready for sixth form. We appreciate that if you have a complicated situation at home then you might need some help prioritising- we hope you are all well and safe but if you find it hard to complete then simply let us know. We also know that some students are finding they can work faster with no distraction so if you want more ideas for extending your learning then you can ask us to help here too. Please keep an eye on this bit of our school website and your emails for further information.

I look forward to seeing you all again when we can. It will be so interesting to hear about what you did during this time. Hopefully there will be lots of different stories that we can share with each other when we meet up again. Results day has been confirmed now and will be on the planned date, **Thursday 20 August 2020.**

You are all amazing young people with some many brilliant skills some of which you won't have discovered you even have yet. Remember, as Mr Greenhough would say, you need to: "Be awesome, Be amazing, Be you". In September many of you will enrol for our sixth form and some of you will do new things elsewhere, the key thing is you are ready for that next step because you know it's a new opportunity to commit to and step up for. What's your personal best, under your current circumstances, going to be? Take a look at these subject guides on our website and get learning again.

Stay safe and well. Be kind to each other and stay connected.

Yours sincerely,



Ms J Haggett

Head of Sixth Form

Assistant Headteacher