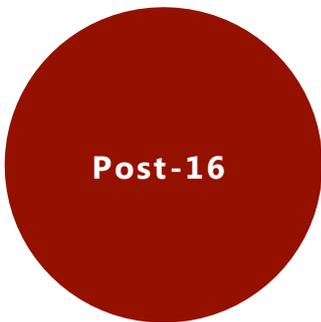
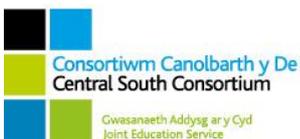


Tutorial 1

Preparing for Year 12



Consortia Gwella Ysgolion Rhanbarthol
Regional School Improvement Consortia



Tutorial 1: Preparing for Year 12

Task 1

Before you embark on your continued studies, we want you to spend a few moments to reflect on your reasons for choosing where to study in year 12. Think about what you hope to achieve in the next two years, what you are looking forward to and the knowledge/skills you hope to develop. Now try answering the questions below.

1. Why did you choose to continue your studies in year 12?

I chose my year 12 studies because...



2. What subjects have you decided to study and what were your reasons for choosing them?

3. Do you have any worries or concerns about starting year 12? If so, what are they?

4. What extra-curricular activities are you hoping to get involved in during your time in year 12?

5. What do you hope to achieve?



Task 2: Making the Right Choices

Choosing the right subjects and courses is key to being successful in your continued studies. This can feel tough, but if you take your time, ask lots of questions and have a methodical approach, you will find the combination of subjects and courses which is right for you. Below are some key tips for picking the right course and subject options. Read through each of them and then answer the questions on page 3.

Tip 1

Speak to your subject teachers to discuss your strengths and weaknesses and whether these make your chosen subjects a good fit for you.

Tip 2

Discuss your option choices with your Head of Year or Careers Advisor to check they are suitable for any career plans you might already have.

Tip 3

Choose subjects you enjoy. You'll be attending hundreds of hours of lessons as well as spending a similar amount of time completing homework and revising. It's vital you enjoy the experience.

Tip 4

Research the course content for each of the subjects you have chosen, so there are no surprises and you know what to expect.

Tip 5

Make sure you understand how each of your courses is assessed. If you are someone who prefers/does better in coursework rather than exams, this may influence your choices.

Tip 6

Carry out some research into possible courses/career using websites such as [ucas.com](https://www.ucas.com) to understand their subject and grade requirements.

Tip 7

Undertake a personality profile test such as the [UCAS Buzz Quiz](#) or the [SPARTAN test](#) to help you explore possible career pathways which may suit you.

Tip 8

Check out some of the excellent online guides that have been produced to support students with making option choices from organisations such as the [Russell Group](#).

Tip 9

Picking a combination of subjects that have a balance of coursework and examination-based assessment can be a useful way to help students manage the increased workload.



1. Which of these tips do you personally feel are the most useful for you and why?

2. The tips offer action points that students can undertake to help them make the right choices.

(a) Which of these have you already undertaken?

(b) Explain how these have helped to shape your option choices.

3. Choose at least one of the action points, you have not previously undertaken and carry it/them out during the next few days. Record below what you find out, whether you feel it has been a useful exercise and whether you need to consider any option changes.



Task 3

Making the jump from year 11 to year 12 is not always easy. A successful transition to year 12 will require you to develop both existing and new skills. Listed below are a number of these which you will need to work on to successfully make the jump from GCSE to sixth form / college. Read through the list and decide which of these skills you will need to focus on to achieve your goals.

Time Management

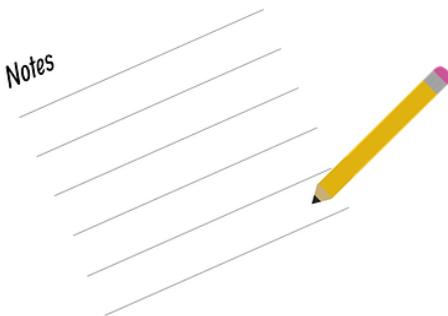


Developing good time management skills is crucial in year 12 as you will have to manage your workload to meet lots of different deadlines. You will get study periods / free time and it is important to plan how to use these effectively.

Good time managers develop effective systems for keeping on top of their workload.

- They will often use timetables and are able to stick to them.
- They are good at keeping track of any deadlines and will often record work systematically using a diary or App.
- They also understand how, where and when they work most effectively.

Note-taking



Effective notetaking is another important skill you will need to develop. Note-taking can help you to remember information and aid your understanding of that information. Note-taking can take different formats and it's important that you find out what works best for you. Some students will find breaking down information into smaller chunks useful when they come to make notes and revise, whilst others may find mind maps and flash cards more useful.



Independent Learning



A big difference between year 12 and GCSE is the amount of independent study that needs to be completed to be successful. It is recommended that students spend at least 5-6 hours per week studying independently for each course they follow. Some of this work will include homework but students must also ensure they are completing their own independent work to be successful. This could be:

- preparing for future lessons by finding out what topics will be covered and then reading ahead,
- consolidating material covered in previous lessons to ensure understanding and to enable a smooth transition to the next parts of the course,
- making revision notes,
- practicing exam questions,
- undertaking wider reading to deepen your understanding of the subject.

Organisation



Being organised is crucial if you are going to manage your academic studies alongside extra-curricular activities, part time work, hobbies, and other commitments. You will be covering a large volume of work each week in all your subjects, so it is vital you have systems in place to help you organise your learning.

These systems may include:

- having a day to day working folder for recent classwork and homework with labelled dividers for different teachers and subjects,
- organising the rest of the work for each subject in clearly labelled folders,
- making sure each folder is divided into topics and contains a printout of the syllabus, past paper questions and mark schemes,
- planning which subjects you intend to work on during study periods in advance to make sure you make the most of this time and don't waste it. Remember using study periods effectively gives you more leisure and relaxation time when you go home.



Essay Writing



Essay writing is an essential skill needed in several year 12 courses. Developing your essay writing abilities will have benefits for not only current studies but also university and beyond.

Effective essays are well planned and will have:

- a clear introduction which gives a concise summary of what the essay will be about and what can be expected from the forthcoming content,
- a main body of your essay, which explains and develop arguments, providing detailed analysis to support each point accurately and appropriately.
- a well-supported conclusion which summarises and evaluates the arguments described throughout the body of your essay.

On reflection, which three skills do you think you will need to focus on the most and why?

