

Student's advice for Y12's

If you don't get something – ask!

Don't leave it too late. Teachers are happy to help you. If you leave it to late you'll just have more work to do to try and understand it when it comes to revising.

Don't be scared to ask in lessons, particularly questions such as 'How would I answer that in an exam?'

Try and know the entire syllabus around a week before the exam.

It is one thing to know the syllabus but another to know how you would answer relevant questions in the exam.

In the last few days leading up to the exam just do past papers and mark them yourself. Look carefully at what the mark scheme is asking for. Quite often the same sort of questions come up so learn how to answer them to get full marks. Look at the key words that are used on the mark scheme and make sure you include them in your answers.

Oliver

Year 12 information evening speech

Coming from not only a different school but also a different county, moving to Netherthorpe was very daunting for me. Although I didn't know anybody, I found it easy to settle in and make new friends. Everybody here was really friendly and offered to show me around, and luckily for me, I ended up living within walking distance of two of my now close friends.

One thing that really helped me settle in was the variety of clubs and societies that there are to join. For example, the debating society is great for getting to know people from both years of the sixth form, building up your confidence and feeling comfortable in the little community that is created, and having formal yet fun topical debates based on current affairs in the news and in school, such as immigration and body shaming.

While there are plenty of fun things to get involved in, sixth form is no easy ride. One thing I wished I knew at the start of year 12 was that it really is worth doing little bits of revision all year as it helps massively come exam season. By all means, it is definitely possible to have a social life, a part time job, get involved in school and still commit enough time to your studies; I myself, among many others that I know, did just that last year. I managed my time by using free periods at school to do homework, making sure I completed extra work at home before going out with friends, and working no more than 12 hours a week. It may sound tedious but I think it's best to spend two years dedicating yourself to getting the best grades you can so you can celebrate the rewards for it later.

The thing I found most challenging was taking four subjects at AS Level. Despite still managing to achieve good grades, I found it very difficult to spread my study time equally

between all four subjects, and at times I'd focus more on the most difficult subject and this could slightly affect my grades in other subjects. This is something to think about at the start of year 12, as the work load can easily pile up.

I feel that the reason I was successful in the exams was because I started revising as early as January/ February time, including little bits of revision throughout the year at the end of each topic. This means that when you come to exam season you already have good revision notes to build upon rather than starting from scratch. Also, organisation is key as it helps you to revise when all your notes are in separate folders for each subject, split up into topics/ units, with a revision checklist to keep on top of things. Finally, I think that one of the best ways to revise is by doing past papers for practise, as the subject I did best in was the one I did every single past paper for!

Josie