

# Year 13 English Department at Highdown School

Supporting your progression to university to study English



Now that the A levels appear to have been abandoned, you are free to do some entirely self-indulgent reading and research around a subject you enjoy. (Hopefully you'll enjoy it, as you have chosen to study it at university!)

This document will provide you with some tips for getting started and for making the most out of the time you have now before the start of the year. This first page has some general tips and advice, and then you will find more subject-specific content on the second page, these are not compulsory – they are simply ideas you may wish to use.

## Some general tips

- Use this time to read, research, listen to and watch lots of different things relating to your subject – you have an unprecedented opportunity to explore the areas of your subject that interest you most.
- Take a look online at what the first year of your proposed course covers and put together a basic database as background.
- All of this should give you a bit of a head start on your studies and probably also give you some ideas of which modules or subject areas you may want to specialise in at a later date.
- You will get out of practice at writing quickly, so – particularly if you are undertaking an essay-based subject – make sure you keep writing. Even short pieces of writing responding to your research will help keep you ticking over until Autumn.
- We recommend that you focus on taking effective notes whenever you are reading or accessing content online – play around with different styles of notetaking and find out what works best for you. Cornell notes are a good place to start.

There are two very good MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) that are well worth you looking at to help you prepare for university. Click on the links below to access them.

- <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/critical-thinking-at-university>
- <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/preparing-to-learn-online-at-university>

### Other ideas:

**Open University courses** (free) <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>

**Myths, Legends and Bible Stories** – Why are they important?

<https://dualcreditathome.com/2014/01/bible-important-literature-study/>

Can you research some and try to link them to texts that you have read?

**Gresham College has a plethora of free lectures** – enjoy browsing through and listen to three! <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/watch/>

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## Things to watch



Globe Player has free content of plays performed at the Globe Theatre in London.

Marquee TV gives you a free 30-day trial to watch a lot of theatre productions (but remember to cancel, if you don't want to subscribe).

The British Library (<https://www.bl.uk/>) has a free 'Discovering 20<sup>th</sup> Literature' site with articles and introductions to all sorts of 20<sup>th</sup> century literature and plays.

The recent TV adaptation of Malorie Blackman's *Noughts + Crosses* is well worth a watch and it is available on BBC iPlayer.

For language scholars, consider browsing the *Walter Presents* collection on <https://www.channel4.com/> which has lots of foreign language dramas.

## Listen to



BBC iPlayer will lead you to BBC Sounds and here you can find a huge archive of programmes on various authors and their work.

*In Our Time* has discussion programmes on all aspects of literature e.g.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01hjm2s>

Narrated books are also available such as Dostoevsky's 'The Idiot':

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b00sr4hr>

Or try 'The Mill on the Floss' by George Eliot:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000h81j>

The Norton Anthology is a great standard text to start with – you can listen to some of the texts here:

<https://poetryarchive.org/collections/norton-anthology-collection/>

## Read!



The key advice is to read, read and read!

Tutors regularly complain that students don't seem to have had much exposure to poetry, so that's something you can put right.

Try John Donne and Andrew Marvell from the earlier period, the Romantic and Lake poets from later on; Ted Hughes, Sylvia Plath, Wilfred Owen, Auden, T.S. Elliot, D.H. Lawrence, Dylan Thomas from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and contemporaries such as Andrew Motion, Carol Ann Duffy, Simon Armitage and Benjamin Zephaniah.

## Online courses



Completing short courses is a great way to stay engaged with your subject at this time. Browse through websites such as <https://www.mooc.org/> and <https://www.futurelearn.com/> to find something that interests you.

Some ideas to get you started are:

- <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/english-academic-study> – Coventry University
- <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/jane-austen> – University of Southampton