

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 later on.

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. There are some templates you may want to use available with this pack.

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.

- [Critical thinking at University](#)
- [Preparing to learn online at University](#)

A quick note on university numbers

It has been announced (in late March) that university numbers may be capped and this may cause concern.

The number, however, will be capped at the **same** level as the past year, so this means there should be sufficient capacity for all who will qualify.

It is also very likely that there may be **spare** capacity as many overseas students may now not apply or withdraw applications. Do not be panicked into accepting an offer that is not one of your top choices just so that you get a place somewhere. If you get such an offer, contact any of your preferred choices to see if they'll match it.

You can find suggested content for the following subjects overleaf:

- Engineering
- English
- Geography
- History
- Maths
- Medical Sciences (including medicine, dentistry, veterinary and biomedical)
- Law
- Politics, Philosophy & Economics
- Sciences

For Science

<h3>Lectures to watch</h3>  <p>Gresham College has provided free lectures within the City of London for over 400 years. The lectures below are specifically designed for A level students:</p> <p>Energy and Matter at the Origin of Life</p> <p>150 Years of the Periodic Table</p> <p>Exploring Earth From Space</p> <p>Exploring the Hidden Face of our Deep Dark Ocean Planet</p> <p>Bug World: Sex, Violence, and a Cast of Billions</p> <p>Is Human Evolution Over?</p> <p>Cosmic Concepts</p> <p>Why Society Needs Astronomy and Cosmology</p> <p>The Nature of Reality</p> <p>+ many more!</p>	<h3>Listen to or watch</h3>  <p>This BBC Radio programme has a profile of the physicist Paul Dirac. (You might like to also research Richard Feynman and Carl Sagan.)</p> <p>Science in Action This is a BBC weekly programme. The one below explores The science of social distancing.</p> <p><i>BBC World Service: The Future of Space</i> may also be of interest. (4 YouTube videos)</p> <p>The podcast Stuff to blow your mind covers a brilliant array of scientific topics including the science of déjà vu, Occam's Razor, facial recognition technology and dangerous foods.</p>
<h3>Reading and research</h3>  <p>Journals such as Nature, New Scientist, Scientific American, Chemistry World and Education in Chemistry all have free content.</p> <p>Free E-Books has a free textbook on Organic Chemistry available here.</p> <p>Useful websites to visit are: Naked Scientists ARKive Zooniverse – Galaxy Zoo</p> <p>Also, check out your university's subject reading list. (TIP: you don't have to read them all!)</p>	<h3>Online courses</h3>  <p>Completing short courses is a great way to stay engaged with your subject at this time. Browse through websites such as MOOC.org and Futurelearn to find something that interests you.</p> <p>Some ideas to get you started are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Causes of Human Disease: Nutrition and Environment – University of Leeds• Understanding Biological Energy – Royal Holloway, University of London• Biochemistry: the molecules of life – University of East Anglia and the Biochemical Society• Atmospheric Chemistry: Planets and life beyond earth – University of Leeds