

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 Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science and Biomedical Science

### Lectures to watch



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:

[12 lectures about the history of Epidemics](#) – playlist includes Chief Medical Officer Chris Whitty and Richard Evans

[Does a Good Bedside Manner Matter?](#)

[The Right Stuff: How do we Make Good Doctors?](#)

[Cancer](#) series with Chris Whitty (Chief Medical Officer for England)

[The Eradication of Infectious Diseases](#)

[Epidemics, Pandemics and How to Control Them](#)

[The Eye](#)

[Media Reporting of Medical Advances: Helpful or Misleading](#)

+ many more!

### Reading and research



The monthly **PiXL6 Medics Bulletin** is sent directly to your sixth form/college – make sure you are on the mailing list to receive this informative and up-to-date bulletin.

There is a plethora of medicine/ dentistry/ vet science/ biomedical science books available for free (five per month) on [free-ebooks.net](#).

### Websites to browse

British Dentist Association: <https://bda.org/>  
British Medical Association: [www.bma.org.uk/](http://www.bma.org.uk/)  
British Veterinary Association: [www.bva.co.uk/](http://www.bva.co.uk/)  
Institute of Biomedical Science: [www.ibms.org/](http://www.ibms.org/)

### Listen to and things to watch



**TED Talks** that you may want to look at are:

- [The Quest for the Coronavirus Vaccine](#)
- [What veterinarians know that physicians don't](#)
- [The future of medicine](#) (a playlist of 12 talks)

**Don't forget** that there are lots of medical and veterinary shows on television, for example *Embarrassing Bodies*, *24 Hours in A&E* and *Super Vet* – all on Channel 4.

Spend some time exploring different **podcasts** and find some that particularly suit you:

- [Veterinary Science podcasts](#)
- [Dentistry podcasts](#)
- [Medicine podcasts](#)

BBC radio programme [Inside Health](#) is also a great place to look, with over 228 episodes available.

### Online courses



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. Some ideas to get you started are:

- [COVID-19: Tackling the novel coronavirus](#) – London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine
- [Exploring Cancer Medicines](#) – University of Leeds
- [Discover Dentistry](#) – University of Sheffield
- [Antimicrobial Stewardship in Veterinary Practice](#) – British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy

# Year 13 Science at Highdown School

Supporting your progression to University

