



ALL SAINTS 6TH FORM TEACHING AND LEARNING STUDENT NEWSLETTER

September 2021

Getting into A* study habits



One of the secrets to high achievement is getting into great study habits early on

But how do the best students do this?

We've got tips from a teacher, all backed up with suggestions from top TSR members who've been there, done it and got the great grades to prove it.

Lessons have begun, teachers are setting homework and maybe there's even the odd test looming on the horizon. Yes, the new academic year is here.

Suddenly there are demands on your time and on your brain – lots of them. It's a complex juggling act to keep track of homework, manage the balance between studying and the rest of your life, keep your focus in lessons, get all your homework done and hit those deadlines. But anyone can do it.

At the same time you want to create a really good impression with new teachers – after all they mark your work and predict your grades!

Teachers like nothing more than a well-organised and highly motivated student, so what are the insider tips on getting into A* study habits right from the start?

1. Get into a note-making routine that works for you

Yes, you do need notes. They're your personal record of what you need to know, written in your own words just for you.

Different styles of notes suit different people so experiment with different approaches and work out what works for you. Always remember their purpose – why are you making them?

Most students use them for reviewing their knowledge and for revision. Make sure you set them out in a way that suits their purpose.

The best notes have clear headings and sub-headings so you can see how the information is organised. This makes them easier to understand and to act as the basis for flashcards and mind-maps for when it comes to revision.

Notes don't have to be written in full sentences but they do need to be legible. Maybe shorten words to make them quicker to write – 'phtsy' instead of photosynthesis, for example.

Once you've made some notes don't waste them – make sure they are dated and put in the right order in your file.

Some Student opinions

I didn't make notes last year and while I didn't do badly I didn't do amazingly either.

This year I've been making diligent notes and I've found everything to be a lot easier. If you copy word for word from the textbook it doesn't really help but if you process the notes into your own words I find it really helps in getting you to remember them.

It takes a bit of time but I find it's worth it come revision time when you have everything written in a way that makes sense to you.

snikatsmullac

I would make notes in class. Your teacher will pretty much tell you what you should note down, or you'll know because it's obvious.

Do it lesson by lesson and organise them per topic. Personally, I scribble down notes on a piece of paper, put it in my folder and save it for study periods.

Sometimes I bring my voice recorder for debates or oral work. During revision/study periods, I go through my notes and add any extra details, do any extra reading and go over things that confuse me.

Then store them away as revision material, or turn them into flashcards/mindmaps/quizzes so that they're ready for exam season.

iggy azalea



2. Get your work organised and keep it organised!

Just before an exam a student told me that they didn't understand one topic. I asked them to bring their notes in and we went through them together. I found them all in the wrong order.

Teachers try to teach in a logical order, building up students' knowledge as their teaching progresses. Get notes out of order and they are virtually impossible to make sense of. We reordered his notes and suddenly it all made sense to him.

The message of this story is that notes need to be looked after. They need to be dated, put away in a folder or file in the right order and stored carefully with subjects and topics clearly separated.

What a great opportunity to buy some quality stationery!

Advice form students:

Keep subjects separate – have work at home and current work to take in. Date everything. I found that the best way to organise my college work was to keep it in folders with dividers separating each subject.

As part of my revision, I also spent time typing up my notes in Word documents, so that all my notes for each subject were all together instead of spread in various folders.

I'm planning to get smaller folders to take into sixth form and keep all the work from the current module in that, then leave bigger folders for each subject at home. Then at the end of each module, I can file all of the work into place in the bigger folder.

Means my day-to-day bag will be far lighter as I will only have to take smaller folders in.

NJiamh Gibson

At the start of Year 12 I had A4 lever-arch folders for each subject. I took these to school each day to make sure I had everything. This was useful but after a while it became tedious to carry them everywhere, and more often than not I didn't need previous work each lesson.

So what I started to do (and continued to do until the end of sixth form), was take in plastic wallets for each subject with the necessary homework in as well as anything the teacher asked for (sometimes they'll remind you to bring something from a previous lesson if you're going over it again/revising).

Then at the end of the lesson I put everything into the wallet and when I got home I'd sort things out into my huge folders, making sure that everything was arranged by topic.

As long as you do this at the end of each day and don't let the work build up in plastic wallets in your bag, it can be quite useful, particularly if you also have loads of textbooks to bring each day (which aren't fun to carry around anyway, so with huge folders it's even worse and better to keep the folders at home!)

Dougie Owner

3. Review the material you learn regularly

Most students think of revision as something that happens in a panic over the last few weeks (or days!) before an exam. While this final committing to memory is really important it's made much easier if you have reviewed the course content regularly.

This technique of regular reviewing is known as 'spaced repetition' and is generally accepted as a really effective method of learning.

You can use the 'spaced repetition' approach by making up tests or quizzes, creating flashcards and/or making regular summaries of your notes.

If you create revision resources while you're reviewing what you know you get double value for your work. That's got to be worth thinking about. You can make [flashcards](#) and [quizzes](#) right here on TSR.



If you continuously revise the stuff you're learning now, it should remain pretty firm in your mind and you won't have to panic when it comes to May and you can't remember any of the first few things you learnt in your lessons.

Inexorably

4. Use free periods

If you're studying A-levels it's likely that you'll have some 'free periods' during the week. These free periods might be a new experience for you after being told what to do pretty much all day long up until Year 11 – so what should you do with this 'free' time?

It's incredibly easy to watch time pass by as you chat, text and wander about. Of course you need a break but actually free periods are a great opportunity to get ahead in your courses and to buy yourself a bit more free time in the evenings and at the weekend.

Why not head for somewhere quiet and get homework and any extra work done? You could start reviewing the work you've completed in lessons – maybe writing summaries or creating flashcards or quizzes. This is the sort of study habit that will get you ahead of the game and closer to those high grades.

5. Take advantage of any help available

OK, some teachers may appear a bit scary but they do really want to help you. Most of them like to be asked questions and to give up a bit of time to help you improve your work – after all, their pay may depend on your grade!

Many schools and colleges have time set aside where teachers can give extra help to individuals or small groups – take advantage of this. Asking for help is a strength and shows confidence, not

weakness.

If you do have a one-to-one with a teacher, make the most of it. Work out beforehand what you want from the meeting and make sure you get it. Try to avoid general requests like 'I don't understand any of this'. This makes it very difficult for the teacher to help. Instead, try to ask something specific: 'Could you explain integration by parts again, please,' for example.

Student advice:

One thing I wished I'd done was take more advantage of the subject workshops available. The only workshops I attended were in geography (the subject I found hardest), near the end of Year 13, and they were very helpful – I regret not starting attending them sooner! I'd highly recommend attending workshops if you're struggling with anything.

11 things A-level students need to know



Hindsight is a wonderful thing...

Lots of people get to the end of A-levels and think: "If I'd really known how big a step-up this would be from GCSE, I would have done a lot better."

We're guessing you don't want that to be you. We're presuming you'd rather reach A-level results day and think: "Yep, I did really well, and I deserve it."

Which is why we asked the former A-level students in the TSR community to share their advice on getting through sixth form. What do they wish they'd been told when they were studying their A-levels? Here's what they told us.

Use the past papers

Utilise all the [past papers](#), answer schemes and examiners reports available. They're an incredibly useful resource that you don't get anywhere near when you're at university.

I know my little sister didn't even know about them until I told her. They're especially useful for written subjects where you get an essay question, but aren't sure what the examiner is looking for – really helps you plan out model answers.

Greg.

Make lots of notes

Make revision notes as you go through topics – although you may think it's a lot of work it will help immensely as you will make your notes with the work fresh in your head and then when it comes to exam time you'll be really well prepared and won't have to panic.

Laura1996

Get into the habit of going over your notes from the start and start revising early, that way you have more opportunities to fill gaps in understanding/perfect essay writing and you won't feel as overwhelmed around exam season.

Be prepared to work at home

Do not assume your class work will be enough. Your teachers will tell you this and I urge you to listen to them, if you plan on getting anything above an E/D you need, need, NEED to be doing work at home, take notes from your textbooks or even just look over your class notes just do something right from September.

I didn't at first and the highest I got in my January exams was a C. I did this after and in the summer I got AAC results so it's worth doing, especially as you don't have early exams to learn from.

Get organised

Take notes in class, put these notes into poly pockets and [file them in a lever arch file](#). Use dividers to separate each unit. Have a lever arch file for each of your subjects. If you have trouble remembering content rewrite your notes into little notebooks. If you have trouble connecting topics, create mind maps for each of your units using bright colours.

Use folders, file dividers, punched pockets, whatever works for you. You don't want to get to revising at Easter and find a huge pile of loose paper in the corner of your bedroom/under your bed which you then have to sort through to find the relevant notes, only to find that half of it has been swallowed up into the black hole that is your bedroom/eaten by the dog or whatever.

Treat it like a job

Treat college like a job. You wouldn't call in sick everyday and not turn up for fear of losing your job. Well although colleges are lenient you pay the price ultimately, you will miss important content and while you're catching up with the work you missed more work will be piled on top and you start an endless spiral of catching up leading to stress and possibly dropping out.

Respect your deadlines

If you have to do coursework, make damn sure to do it early. Pretend to yourself that the deadline is a month ahead of where it actually is. If you don't have coursework, start doing past papers in dribs and drabs very early on.

You should aim to have finished all the past papers by the time of the exam. There aren't actually very many different questions they can ask, so it's good to get them all done.

Stay on top of your work deadlines and always try to finish essays or larger pieces of work as early as possible because it is so easy for everything to build up and become a mountain by the weekend!

Make sure you understand each topic

Start making a conscious effort to understand concepts. The quicker you do this the better off you will be. You know that you actually understand a concept if you can explain it in simple terms to another person, preferably younger than you.

Don't panic!

This is a big step up from GCSE, so don't panic! Everybody finds it a struggle at first, and if anyone says that they don't, then they're lying. Within a matter of weeks you will have settled in and working at a higher level will be much more routine.

Some subjects take longer to accustom to than others, so don't panic if there is one subject that you take longer to get to grips with.

Remember though, hard work = good grades at A-level. While you may have been able to blag your way through your GCSEs, it is not that easy at A-level, so you must be prepared to put in the work in order to reap the rewards.

Don't forget to have some fun

These are the years from 16 to 18 years old and of course fun, friendship and having a good time must be a part of life. I'd advise setting aside one full day at the weekend and one evening in the week which you should have completely free of school work.

Go out with your friends, go to parties, just have fun; but when it comes time to buckle down make sure you do that and get your work done!

Work hard, stay organised but make sure you give yourself a break from revising from time to time. Also enjoy making new friends if you start at a new college to take your A-levels.

Don't waste your free periods

Your frees should be 'study periods'. They were labelled this at my school and admittedly many (including myself) ignored the new name for 'frees' and continued to spend this time playing Flappy Bird, watching YouTube videos and just chatting with mates.

This doesn't help your studies and when exam time approaches you will suddenly realise how important study periods were - so use them properly from the start.

Find a good balance with everything. It's great to join clubs and do extra curriculars, but make sure they don't overwhelm you and impact your work. You can't do everything after all.

Equally, do work and use your frees, but don't work every free, every breaktime, every lunchtime and every hour after school. Find a good balance that works.

Get some sleep

Make sure you get enough sleep each night! It's no use staying up really late to finish homework if you are going to be so tired that you don't understand anything in lessons the next day.

If you get to the stage where you have to do homework late at night because you have too much on or too much due in on one day, speak to your teachers!

Apologise, tell them that you just didn't have time to do it because you were so busy! Usually they will understand and cut you a bit of slack, provided you don't do it often!

Click the link to this video on Unifrog ...interesting advice to get into Oxbridge

[How I got in: Alexandra's story : Unifrog Blog](#)



Topic ESCP Business School Virtual Open Day

Description Join us at our next virtual Open Day to learn all about the Bachelor in Management (BSc) programme at ESCP Business School. Ranked #1 by Le Parisien, the 3-year undergraduate degree will prepare you for a global career as tomorrow's business leader!



No matter where you are in the world, simply connect to our virtual campus event to meet professors, current students, recruitment and admissions officers, and student services.

Agenda:

Welcome Address from the Dean

Programme Presentation with BSc Academic Director

Masterclass from the Faculty

Breakout Sessions - Meet us on REMO after the Live presentation to speak with our Careers, Clubs & Societies, Visa, Programme Office, Admissions departments, Student Ambassadors and campus representatives!

See you there!

Bachelor in Management (BSc) Team
ESCP Business School

Time Oct 16, 2021 01:00 PM in [London](#)

Register on the link below

https://escp-eu.zoom.us/webinar/register/9616317188138/WN_vrfUiWWKS5aSvBbUUKj9dw

Study skills audit

Name

Rate yourself at the following study skills. Tick the scores that you think apply to you:

| | Poor 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Excellent 5 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|---|---|---|----------------|
| Listening to teachers and presentations | | | | | |
| Working out problems | | | | | |
| Revising for tests and exams | | | | | |
| Making my own notes | | | | | |
| Long pieces of writing such as essays | | | | | |
| Organising my time | | | | | |
| Concentrating in lessons | | | | | |
| Discussing ideas | | | | | |
| Presenting to others | | | | | |
| Doing my own research | | | | | |
| Doing homework | | | | | |
| Using computers | | | | | |

Choose one of these skills to improve.....

By when?

Action: What will I do to meet my target?

Evidence: How will I know that I have met my target?

Have a go at completing this and setting yourself some realistic targets

Example

Here are examples of how the boxes on the audit might be used:

Action: What will I do to meet my target?

Work through some of the practice exercises in my booklet
Work through the examples on the Maths website
Attend homework club next Tuesday to go through my answers with a teacher

Evidence: How will I know that I have met my target?

I will understand percentages better
I will get a better mark in my next test

Useful apps and study websites

[Study Rocket — free Exam-Specific A-level & GCSE Revision Content](#)

[A-Level Revision - StudyWise](#)

[Useful websites | S-cool, the revision website](#)

[SnapRevise: The Ultimate A-level & GCSE Resource](#)

Apps You Must download to your phone

Outlook --- you must check this everyday as you will get messages from the sixth form team through this method.

Google classroom and Satchel one --- to enable you to stay informed about assignments and deadlines.

Seneca Learning – a very easy tool to access via your phone so you can revise anywhere!!

Google calendar – this means you can add important dates or deadlines to your calendar and set reminders for key dates.

Persuasive Writing Competition



Enter your students in a creative writing competition for the chance to win an official *No Time To Die* merchandise bundle

To complement our **Careers Behind the Camera** resource we're running a creative writing competition to offer ten lucky winners a selection of official *No Time To Die* merchandise, comprising wireless headphones, a power bank, an umbrella, weekend bag, and an Aston Martin key chain.

To enter, students need to write a letter imagining they're applying to a Universal film production. Addressing the producer, pupils need to explain which behind-the-scenes department they'd like to work in and why. They'll need to pitch persuasively, making sure to mention the skills they'd bring to the role. The winners for this competition will be selected by Into Film, Universal and EON.

For more information, download our creative writing competition entry form to share with your class.

Closing date for entries is **5 November 2021**. [Terms and conditions apply.](#)

School & College Leaver, Tax, London, 2022

[Apply for job](#)

Job description

We help our clients stay ahead of the changes that impact their business. Equipped with the scale of a seamlessly connected global network, we're where they need us - delivering deep tax technical expertise, while providing the critical context to help make informed and compliant decisions that drive their operations forward. At a global and local level, we design best-in-class integrated tax and legal strategies that empower clients to move from complexity to execution.

Our expertise covers every conceivable area of taxation. Our tax experts proactively engage in the tax policy debate and are focused on leading views and new ideas. Your knowledge will help high-profile organisations, entrepreneurs and family businesses, understand complex rules and make informed decisions with significant impacts. Our people need to be flexible and ready to build strong relationships, networks and leadership skills.

Click this link for further information on this apprenticeship:

<https://www.careerschools.pwc.co.uk/ShowJob/Id/919203/School%20%20College%20Leaver,%20Tax,%20London,%202022>

S _ C I A L M O B I L I T Y F _ U N D A T I O N ®

Aspiring Professionals Programme (APP)

The APP supports **high achieving** Year 12 or S5 students from **low income backgrounds** across the UK to access top universities and careers. We offer support through our four pillars:

1. Mentoring by a professional
2. Tailored skills sessions and career workshops
3. University application support and guidance
4. Internships with top employers

How students receive our four pillars of support is dependent on where they live. Please see below for further details of the programmes we offer.

Hybrid support

Our 2022 programmes will be delivered through a blend of in person and virtual activity, depending on activity, student location and government guidance.

Students must apply by 12 noon, Friday 10th December 2021 by completing our application form [here](#).



APP City

Students who live within an hour of an **APP City** (Birmingham, Cardiff*, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, London Manchester and Newcastle*) are offered the above support in their APP city. They will also receive a mentor from their chosen profession. *1.5 hours from Cardiff or Newcastle

We offer support on APP City to young people interested in:
Accountancy, Architecture, Banking & Finance, Biology & Chemistry, Business, Digital, Engineering & Physics, Law, Media & Communications, Medicine, Politics, No Preference

Click here for further information:

<https://www.socialmobility.org.uk/programmes/app-city/>

How to Guides ---Lots of Questions answered here about UCAS application process and apprenticeships

<https://www.ucas.com/connect/videos/ucas>

Take the careers quiz

Find your ideal job matched to your personality. Sign in or register to take our careers quiz.

Sign in to start

Click this link

<https://www.ucas.com/explore/career-compass>

Hub live sessions

From *Deciding your career path* to *The world of apprenticeships*, our Hub live sessions see us speak to different the experts covering the big questions people have when considering their options. Live every Wednesday at 14:00, these sessions are the perfect place to listen in, ask questions, and get practical advice.

[See what's
on](#)

Click this link: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/ucas-hub-live>

Hub live sessions

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 15 October deadline workshop | The 15 October deadline is in sight. Got some last-minute questions? Our panel of UCAS experts have you covered. | 13 Oct 21 |
| World of apprenticeships | Thinking about apprenticeships? From Construction to Law, there is something for everybody. Speak to those in the know to see why over 700,000 people studied an apprenticeship last year! | 20 Oct 21 |
| Deciding your career path | No matter what you want to do our expert panel will share their top tips to get you on the right path for your future. | 3 Nov 21 |
| Geography Awareness week | Looking at Geography degrees? Hear from current students and industry experts who will answer your questions about where a career in Geography can take you! | 17 Nov 21 |

Useful Webinars to attend to build up your UCAS personal statements

30/09/21 Different roles in the Insurance sector with Markel 16:00-17:30

The insurance sector is hugely varied with a great range of roles to suit a variety of interests and skill sets. In this session you will learn about these roles and the skills needed to succeed within them.

08/10/21 Working in the City with Guy Carpenter 16:00-17:30

Online workshop aimed at introducing careers in insurance featuring a live Q&A session with volunteers from Guy Carpenter.

14/10/21 Working in the City with Canopus 16:00-17:30

Online workshop aimed at introducing careers in insurance featuring a live Q&A session with volunteers from Canopus.

20/10/21 Careers in Law Insight Day with Reed Smith 16:30-17:30

In this session, students will have the opportunity to learn more about different careers within the legal sector with global law firm, Reed Smith.

Year 12 Mentoring Programme

We're delighted that this year we will continue to have opportunities for registered Brokerage candidates to be mentored by volunteers from a variety of amazing companies including Peel Hunt and Facebook. The

first online mentoring cycle for Year 12 students will begin in November and will be held online. To access these incredible opportunities, students will need to register as a Brokerage candidate and then apply online.

Use this link to register for any of the above webinars

<https://thebrokerage.secure.force.com/Opportunities/ProgrammeBooking?type=SCH&id=001D000000mwelB>

Student webinars for Project success ---if you want to develop research skills/critical thinking skills/doing EPQ watch the link below!!



<https://www.pearson.com/uk/web/future-ready/project-learning/student-webinars.html>



The University of Manchester

<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/webinars/subjects/>

Check out subject webinars to give you an insight to courses you may be interested in studying

opendays.com

university and college open days

Find out when Open Days are taking place on the link below. Some are still happening virtually or you can watch pre-recorded sessions.

<https://www.opendays.com/>



What is K+?

K+ is a two-year widening participation programme run by King's College London. It is designed for year 12 and 13 students in London and some parts of Essex who have the potential to go to the best universities in the country but need support to get there.

Apply here

What happens on K+

We provide support and opportunities for students in different ways throughout the programme, click below for what this looks like

Academic support

Careers support

Application support

Summer school

Uni transition

Apply here: <https://kplus.london/>

Who are the Russell Group Universities?

Today, there are 24 universities in the group. Here is a list of the Russell Group universities:

- University of Birmingham
- University of Bristol
- University of Cambridge
- Cardiff University
- Durham University
- University of Edinburgh
- University of Exeter
- University of Glasgow
- Imperial College London
- King's College London
- University of Leeds
- University of Liverpool
- LSE (London School of Economics & Political Science)
- University of Manchester
- Newcastle University
- University of Nottingham
- University of Oxford
- Queen Mary University of London
- Queen's University Belfast
- University of Sheffield
- University of Southampton
- UCL (University College London)
- University of Warwick
- University of York

What's so great about studying at a Russell Group university?

Russell Group universities have outstanding teaching, research and student facilities. On average, they also have more teaching staff available per student than other universities, and their graduates have a great reputation for bagging high-paying jobs.

One in three students receive bursaries or scholarships to help with their studies.

Can you spot where they are on the map below?

