



Sixth Form Bridging Work

Introduction

I am delighted that you hold an offer for a place in the McAuley Sixth Form. I am sure you are excited at the prospect of sixth form life whilst being mindful of the academic challenges ahead.

The jump from GCSE to Sixth Form studies is significant as I'm sure you appreciate so, to help you in your 'Preparation for Success', we have put together a comprehensive set of bridging work tasks that you need to do – there is enough to occupy you for several hours every day if done properly! - between May and September. You will find all resources in the '**skills based bridging work**' folder and the '**subject specific bridging work**' folder.

The FAQs at the end of this document tells you how to access the Bridging Work resources, what is expected of you and who/when to hand in the work so please **read all four pages of this 'Read Me' document carefully** before getting on with your Bridging Work. If you have any questions about the 'Preparation for Success' Bridging Work, then please contact sixthform@mcauley.org.uk and a member of the Sixth Form Team will get back to you very quickly.

If you want to be a **successful learner**, then putting **good time** into your Bridging Work and doing it to your **best standard** will make a **significant difference** to your **chances of success**. It will also be an **excellent statement of intent** to **show your teachers that you 'mean business'**! As one student put it, *"I don't want to be the only person in the class who is not ready!"*

There is a **lot of work to do but a lot of time in which to do it** in the next weeks/months so you will need to **organise your time** and **spread the work** by doing **manageable chunks** over a period of time so you are: in **good learning habits**, keeping your **skills sharp** and **knowledge up to date**.

An idea may be to draw up a **daily weekday timetable** so you cover each of the elements from the 'Preparation for Success' Bridging Work every day and **build in 'healthy minds/lifestyle' activities**. The example below allows **4 hours per day of dedication** to your Bridging Work but you may vary this to suit your own circumstances.

8:00 – 9:00	wake up/breakfast routine
9:00 – 9:30	exercise/workout/fresh air
9:30 – 10:30	Skills based task – study skills
10:30 – 11:00	Break
11:00 – 12:00	Skills based task – Functional Skills
12:00 – 1:00	lunch
1:00 – 2:00	Subject specific task A (places of interest) and/or B (wider reading)
2:00 – 2:30	Break
2:30 – 3:30	Subject specific task C (Compulsory Task(s)) and/or D (Stretch)
3:30 onwards	Cook/bake? Exercise? Contact friends/family? Board game/jigsaw? Do something creative? Help with jobs round the house? Listen to music.....

I'm sure you will find the tasks enjoyable as well as useful. The Sixth Form Team is very much looking forward to working with you. Stay safe,

Mr R Shenton Head of Sixth Form

continued....



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How do I access the 'Preparation for Success' Bridging Work?

Simply go to the McAuley School website www.mcauley.org.uk and you will find the work via the 'Sixth Form' button in the bottom right of the homepage. Select 'Year 11 into 12 'Preparation for Success' bridging work' from the drop down list and you will see three folders: 'Read Me' , 'Skills Based Bridging Work' and 'Subject specific bridging work'.

Why are there two bridging work folders ('Skills based' and 'Subject specific')?

Skills based bridging work – all students are to complete all the skills based work as it comprises generic work that is essential for success in every sixth form course regardless of what you're taking.

Skills based bridging work is separated into two parts:

- 'Study Skills' such as how to take notes and developing a 'Growth Mindset'
- 'Functional' English and Maths Skills

Subject specific bridging work – only download work for the subjects you are taking in Y12. It is also a very good idea to complete bridging work in subjects that you are thinking of taking in Y12 but may not have applied for. The subject specific tasks are split into five areas:

- **Places of interest** eg Art – visit a gallery, Music – attend a concert, Sociology - visit an area of urban regeneration (link with Broken Window Theory), Physics – visit the Space Museum, Leicester etc These will include free/low cost opportunities as well as those with entry fees
- **Wider reading** – a list with at least three different types of sources eg journal, subject related book/magazine, Ted talk, Web encyclopaedia, Encyclopaedia Britannica, film, social media links etc
- **Compulsory Task(s)** – these **MUST be completed and submitted in time for your first lessons in September**
- **'Stretch'** – optional extra task(s) that are aimed to challenge you and encourage you to think about the subject in a different way
- **Y12 Headstart!** – this work will be made available from June onwards. It includes actual work that you will cover when you start the course in September. By looking at actual course content, you will have an excellent head start in your studies.

Who do I hand my bridging work to (and when)?

- Skills based bridging work should be completed and ready to submit to your Form Tutor for the start of September.
- Subject specific bridging work should be completed and ready to submit to your subject teachers for the start of September.

How much time should I spend on Bridging Work (and how often)?

Our suggestion is up to 4 hours per day during term time (see suggested daily timetable on page 1) and our most successful students found it helpful to continue this – maybe with fewer hours each day - into the holidays. However, it very much depends on individuals and their circumstances. We



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do not recommend that you spend all of your time sat in front of a screen! Many tasks involve practical work eg cooking, making a poster, practicing note taking skills, wider reading of books etc and we recommend that you print off Functional Skills papers to work on as hard copies if you have the means to do so.

I've completed all of the bridging work to my best standard, who do I contact for more work?

Yes, we do get asked this question and what a great attitude! As with all enquiries, you may contact sixthform@mcauley.org.uk if you are not already in touch with departmental teachers. A member of the Sixth Form Team will direct you to the appropriate member(s) of staff.

Can I contact my sixth form teachers to show them my work or to ask a question about a task I'm unsure about?

Yes, they would be delighted to hear from you!

How will my Bridging Work be used?

Firstly, **prizes** will be awarded for '**exceptional**' work!

Secondly, your work will give your teachers a clear idea of your **work ethic** and **motivation to study without supervision**. These are **essential skills** to develop if you are to be a **successful learner**.

Thirdly, all Skills based tasks and the compulsory tasks in your Subject specific bridging work must be submitted in time for your first lessons in September and will be graded as follows:

- 'Exceptional' – work and effort **surpasses expectations**,
- 'Pass' – work is around the expected standard or
- 'Fail' – significant improvement needed.

'Exceptional' work will be **celebrated with prizes/certificates** delivered in an assembly and teachers may use 'exceptional' work for **display**. Mentors will intervene with those with 'fail' work.

Why do we do Bridging Work?

1. Research and our experience has shown that **it works!** Students who put effort into Bridging Work have a significantly **better chance of success** in the sixth form. We want you to be really successful and what it takes to be successful in your GCSEs is different from being successful in the sixth form. Although you have fewer subjects to study, there are different skills required in post-16 education and the volume of work is greater because the depth and detail is more demanding. You also have a broad range of enrichment activities to balance.
2. Bridging Work should help you **gauge whether the subject is definitely right for you**. You can change your mind about which subjects to study at enrolment in August or in the first few weeks in September – as long as there is space on the course you wish to swap to and



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you meet the entry criteria. We would rather you studied courses that interest you and you are suitably qualified to study.

3. Most students who choose to attend Sixth Form have a **zest for learning** and want to use their summer break as usefully as possible. Students are often excited at this early opportunity to demonstrate their 'step up' into sixth form by preparing and reading around their subjects so they are **fully prepared** for the challenges ahead. You don't have to work alone – how about you **meet up with friends** who are doing the same subjects? This could be online via WhatsApp, ZOOM or other conferencing platforms during lockdown or, in accordance with government guidelines, at a safe social distance in back gardens now that restrictions have been slightly eased . When restrictions are lifted, how about meeting with friends in person as '**study buddies!**' and work together at home or at a cafe over coffee?

If I change subject choices at enrolment or in September, do I still need to complete the Bridging Work for the new course?

Yes! – completion of bridging work is **essential preparation for success** in your new subject - but you will obviously have less time to complete the work! This is why we advise that you complete bridging work in subjects that you are thinking about taking. It will help inform your decision about whether the subject is right for you whilst also ensuring that you dedicate the time needed to **produce quality work and read around the subject** in the event that you do wish to take a different subject.