



April 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to you as your son / daughter applied to join Roding Valley High School Sixth Form in September 2020. As a school we recognise the uncertainty year 11 students currently feel and wish to support them in the coming months to provide them with some purpose and direction as they transition from GCSE to A level study.

Timeline

Below is a timeline which shows the steps we will be taking over the coming months to support and communicate with your son / daughter:

April 2020	Transition resources shared with students. Year 11 applicants are able to join google classrooms and start work on transition tasks to prepare for sixth form study.
Early May 2020	Conditional offer letters will be sent to students.
3rd July 2020	Year 11 - 12 Transition Day - Applicants are invited to attend a day as a sixth former. <i>Subject to national lockdown guidance at this time.</i>
20th August 2020	GCSE results day and formal sixth form enrolment. Students will return to Roding Valley to receive their GCSE results and then will enrol for sixth form with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
3rd September 2020	First day at Roding Valley Sixth Form

Preparing for Sixth Form

We are asking applicants to do two things to help them prepare for sixth form study:

1. Join google classrooms for subjects they are interested in studying. The codes for these are available here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/182s3u_kv_0LEFLJ9cjbMPWWC74VFskrASEza1dJA40/edit?usp=sharing



Within the google classrooms teachers will be posting enrichment tasks students could complete and engaging with student questions.

We understand that many applicants will have had a change of heart about the subjects they wish to study or they are perhaps unsure about what grades they will achieve in a particular subject. I would encourage applicants to join all classrooms they are interested in, whilst understanding that they will need to meet the entry requirements for individual subjects in order to be able to study them in the future.

2. Complete the transition booklets for the subjects they are interested in studying. Please find workbooks for all subjects which are run by Roding Valley High School Sixth Form here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1aSUQMfNoTiPc2ctXganitOnRmb4Y98L9?usp=sharing>

These booklets have been designed by subject leads to be completed over a number of months. We hope that applicants find them engaging and give them an invaluable insight into what their sixth form studies will be like.

Applicants are welcome to complete work for any subjects they are interested in studying. On their first day of sixth form, they will need to hand in work for the subjects they have enrolled to study. If an applicant is unsure about if they will meet the grades to study a particular subject, they could complete the work for their other subjects first and wait until results day to complete any other work.

If an applicant has any questions about any of the work they are asked to complete, they should contact the lead teacher for that subject who will be happy to help and support them.

Subject Enrichment

In addition to their formal studies, applicants could also make a start on preparing for one of our optional enrichment offers.

EPQ - Extended Project Qualification

This qualification is worth half an A level and is completed in addition to an applicant's three other choices. The EPQ teaches students research, data collection, extended reading and writing skills. Students pick a topic of their choice and then learn the processes required to complete a dissertation style piece of writing. This qualification is viewed very favourably by universities and teaches students invaluable skills that are transferable to many A level subjects. Please see our prospectus for more information. If an applicant is interested in this, they should join the google classroom for EPQ and make a start on completing the transition booklet. This qualification can be chosen with any combination of subjects.

Core Maths

This qualification is also worth half an A level. It is completed in addition to an applicant's three other choices. The purpose of this qualification is to allow students to build upon the skills which they learnt at GCSE Maths which will be useful for supporting A level subjects which have a Maths element. This means it is a useful qualification to take if a student achieves a 6 or less at Maths GCSE and intends to study Economics, Business Studies, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Geography or Psychology.

Both of these qualifications are optional as they do require significant independent learning and drive from the student. It is not recommended that sixth form students try to complete both EPQ and core maths as the work load would be excessive. Both qualifications carry UCAS points and are therefore looked upon favourably by higher education providers.

Timetabling

Please see below a timetable structure for the year ahead. This allows applicants to understand the subject combinations we can accommodate. Each subject a student wishes to study must appear in a different column.

Please follow this link to see a video from Mr Mammen, Deputy Headteacher, explaining how the timetabling will work and how to select subject choices:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1su9tCl4EFJAbCZJbuNhFFDzv9-GCP9V-/view?usp=sharing>

Year 12	Biology BTEC IT Economics English Literature French Photography	BTEC Business Chemistry Computer Science Geography History Sociology	Gov and Pol Maths Media Psychology	CTEC PE Further Maths Psychology Spanish Biology French PE *	Art Business Drama English Literature Maths CTEC PE (Double) Physics Philosophy and Ethics
	Chelsea 3rd Subject (for some) / training	Chelsea - football training		Chelsea 1st Subject	Chelsea 2nd Subject

* Taught at DPHS

In addition to the curriculum offer which we advertised to you at open evening and detailed in our prospectus, we are also now able to offer BTEC Business, which is equivalent to one A level. If students are interested in studying this subject or wish to see how it compares to A level Business Studies I would encourage them to look at the workbooks for both subjects.

Support going forward

We recognise that many applicants missed out on the opportunity to talk to a member of the leadership team about their applications and the appropriateness of their subject choices due to cancelled interviews. If any applicants have questions they can request a call or email to answer their questions using this google form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8ce-nG1rbiz4DhY6fW8m-w5S1QbpdjHDDkuSavKG3h6uaTQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

If students have specific questions about future careers, our Head of Careers, Donna Mason, would be happy to help via email - dmason@rodingvalley.net.

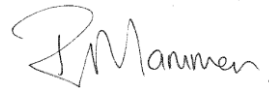
I hope that the resources contained within this letter provide applicants with some much needed direction and focus over the coming weeks. Here is a step by step guide for applicants, sharing with them what they need to do next: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HI-q_8weg0YjTBHI2RZsQQnyA_3Vc3Nd/view?usp=sharing

I look forward to sending out conditional offer letters to them in due course and working with applicants over the coming months.

Yours faithfully



Ms A Wheaton
Assistant Headteacher: Director of Sixth Form



Mr R Mammen
Deputy Headteacher