

THINK LIKE A LAWYER

Year 11 into year 12 transition work

Before September, we don't expect you to learn legal rules or memorise cases. Instead, we'd like you to begin developing the most important skill of all: Thinking like a lawyer.

Below are some suggestions to help you prepare over the summer. You don't need to complete everything—simply explore the areas that interest you most.



Read:

Choose from:
 Nothing but the Truth *The Secret Barrister*
 Fake Law *The Secret Barrister*
 What About Law? *Catherine Barnard*
 Is Eating People Wrong? *Allan Hutchinson*
 Letters to a Law Student *Nicholas McBride*
 How Judges Think *Richard Posner*
 In Black and White *Alexandra Wilson*
 Justice *Michael Sandel*
 The Rule of Law *Tom Bingham*

Articles and News:
 BBC News Legal Stories
 The Guardian Law Section
 UK Supreme Court News
 Law Society News
 Crown Prosecution Service



Listen:

BBC Law in Action
 The Secret Barrister Podcast
 Thinking Allowed (selected legal episodes)
 More or Less (BBC – useful for evidence and statistics)
 The Criminal Connection
 Double Jeopardy
 Justice Matters
 Today in Focus (legal and justice episodes)
 The Inquiry (BBC World Service)
 Analysis (BBC Radio 4)
 Unreliable Evidence (BBC archive)
 The Rest is Politics (selected constitutional and legal issues)
 Listen For...
 Different viewpoints
 How evidence is used
 Whether arguments are persuasive
 How experts disagree



Watch:

24 Hours in Police Custody (Channel 4)
 The Jury: Murder Trial (Channel 4)
 The Prosecutors: Real Crime and Punishment (BBC)
 Law in Action (BBC Radio programme and online recordings)
 The Secret Barrister interviews and talks (YouTube)
 The Supreme Court – Judgments and Explainers (YouTube)
 Panorama (selected legal and justice-related episodes)
 The Push: Murder on the Cliff (Channel 4 documentary)
 Stephen: The Murder that Changed a Nation (ITV)
 David Tennant: The Real Des (documentary)
 Making a Murderer (Netflix)
 When They See Us (Netflix)



Follow:

Websites Worth Exploring:
 UK Supreme Court
 Crown Prosecution Service
 The Law Society
 BBC News
 Parliament UK
 Ministry of Justice
 Judiciary UK
 Legal Cheek
 The Bar Council
 The National Archives
 Sentencing Council
 Youth Justice Board
 Challenge

Choose one legal story this summer and follow it from beginning to end.

How does it change over time?

Try discussing these questions with friends or family... There are no correct answers!

Criminal Law:

Should someone be punished if they didn't intend to cause harm?
 Should children ever receive life sentences in prison?
 Should prison always be the punishment?

Human Rights:

Should freedom of speech have limits?
 Should privacy always outweigh public interest?
 Should prisoners keep all human rights?

Tort Law:

If somebody causes an accident completely by mistake, should they always pay compensation?
 Should businesses owe greater duties than ordinary people?

Whenever you watch the news this summer, ask yourself: Is this Criminal Law? Is this Civil Law? Is this Human Rights? Who might be legally responsible? What facts are missing?

Key Vocabulary checklist

See how many of these words you recognise by September:

Defendant ☐ Claimant ☐ Liability ☐ Negligence ☐ Actus reus ☐ Mens rea ☐
 Duty of care ☐ Causation ☐ Intention ☐ Recklessness ☐ Reasonable person ☐
 Damages ☐ Burden of proof ☐ Beyond reasonable doubt ☐ Balance of probabilities ☐ Judicial precedent ☐ Statute ☐ Justice ☐

A-LEVEL
LAW