

Read, Research, Enjoy!

On Wednesday 30th November, Year 11 & 12 students were privileged to listen to an inspiring talk by guest speaker Peter Rawling. Peter retired as deputy head of The Windsor Boys' School in 2011 and currently works for PiXL 6, advising schools on sixth form matters and specialising on entry to universities.

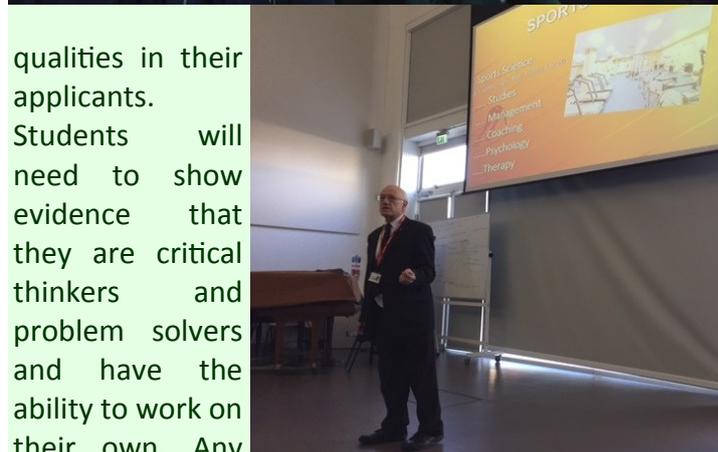
He stressed to students the importance of working hard and focussing in Year 12, a year group which predominately across the country has a high level of under achievers. Low grades at the end of Year 12 can mar students' chances of doing university courses which they may wish to do, as predicted grades will be lower.

He advised students to do their research well. Decide what their interests are now and what they enjoy and ensure that the courses they choose are compatible. They will need to want to study and look forward to it so don't choose courses with areas that they don't enjoy. Peter also stressed the importance that the course students choose really has to be their choice. It is their life and their choice. For example, they shouldn't feel that they have to study medicine because maybe their parents want them to be a doctor. They need to study something that they want to do.

He covered options of where they might like to study and again reminded them that they needed to do their research carefully. Do they want to be near home or further away? Look at the courses that all universities offer and the difference between them. He advised students to also check out their competition and see how many places are available for their choice of course and how many people apply.

Peter then briefly talked about the Russell Group Universities. These are a group of 24 universities that *may* contain some of the best universities in the country. There are however, top universities that do not appear in this group so he advised students that they shouldn't just apply to the ones on the list thinking they are the only ones that are good.

The top universities will be looking for certain



qualities in their applicants.

Students will need to show evidence that they are critical thinkers and problem solvers and have the ability to work on their own. Any

form of work experience that they could do in advance to put on their application form would be of great benefit. Peter also recommended getting in touch with first year students who are doing the same courses and find out what they are working on. There are also short courses that can be done in preparation for application called MOOCs.

He finished his informative talk by stressing that they should READ, RESEARCH and ENJOY. There are no glass ceilings, no limits and they should be aiming for as high as they wish to go.

Peter's presentation can be found on the Sixth Form home page of the website—[please click here](#).

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