

## Year 12 Talk on Apprenticeships

As a school, we were delighted when one of our past 6<sup>th</sup> Form students, James Grainger, agreed to come into school (on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May) to speak to all of our Year 12 students about apprenticeships, apprenticeship opportunities at RICOH and his recommendations for how to survive Year 13.



James spoke eloquently and simply spoke about his experiences of researching and applying for apprenticeships. He told our students about the idea of being yourself in interviews and being able to demonstrate that you are more than just your qualifications on a piece of paper. He spoke about the opportunity to undertake degree-apprenticeships and why he preferred that particular route as opposed to applying to university via UCAS



James outlined the different apprenticeships that RICOH had to offer and what each would entail. An apprenticeship with RICOH has provided him with the opportunity to focus in on what he would like to specialise in, in the future, as well as the chance to travel abroad. James certainly presented the Year 12 students with many positive reasons as to why they should consider applying for an apprenticeship with them.

James' message for how to survive Year 13 was clear and heart felt ...

... work hard and do not forget why you chose to put yourself through this. And if this means you need to make sacrifices to parts of your social life, then do it. You have to stay focused on where you want to be in 10 years time and use this to motivate yourself.

... quality not quantity. When you tired, stop studying and go and do something else, be it physical exercise or sleep. But do not drag yourself through study when you're not in a fit state to study.

... be yourself. Do not be distracted by others, for they may not have the same goals as you.

... put yourselves under pressure. That is, challenge yourself and test yourself. It won't exactly replicate the exam conditions but it'll help.

... read. And not just your texts for your studies. Read around the subject because you just love the subject!