

Reading List for Year 12 students

In the Sixth Form, reading is a vital part of a student's educational journey. This is, of course, the case in lessons and in understanding texts provided by teachers, but for Sixth Formers it should be much more than that.

Wider reading is an integral part of scholarship and embedding this practice in preparation for higher education, apprenticeships or employment is something we feel is important for developing lifelong learning habits in our students. As a result, this year's Reading Week has been designed to stretch and challenge our students to explore areas of interest in their subject areas beyond what the curriculum offers.

This may be through recommended reads that cover aspects of the curriculum, but go into greater depth than can be covered in class, giving students a deeper understanding than we would have time to engender through standard teaching. Or this could be through articles or texts that explore entirely new areas of a subject that staff feel are interesting and could spark interest in their subject outside of the limitations of the exam specification.

All Sixth Formers should value wider reading and scholarship and it should be something they are doing as a matter of course, but this week in particular provides an excellent opportunity to devote dedicated time to this pursuit. For Year 12, this is a chance to make significant progress on their UCAS preparation, as the ability to demonstrate that they have a true interest in their chosen subject beyond the curriculum forms a key part of their personal statement. While for Year 13, this Reading Week will mirror what many of them will experience at university and will give them an opportunity to practice making the most of this opportunity to learn independently.

The difference between A* and A grades at A Level, and the success rates for applicants to the most competitive universities may very well depend on the extent and effectiveness of their own reading around, and beyond, their academic subjects.

We hope all students enjoy the additional time devoted simply to reading and they all grasp the chance to take time away from the rhythms and routines of school to undertake this learning opportunity and stretch themselves beyond the curriculum. We hope it inspires them to make habitual reading a part of their normal routine and sets them up for a lifetime of learning.

Please do also refer to the Year 12 Summer Bridging Work list for consolidation and support: <https://www.reading-school.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=3386&type=pdf>

Departments have given you a wide range of resource formats, thus preventing the need to buy anything new (unless you want it as a special birthday gift!) – we highly recommend using your local library (you can order books in advance to collect for Reading Week): [Find me a Library!](#)

Art

Explore the department's virtual Art Library at: rdgart.dropmark.com/768899

- *How To Be An Artist* by Jerry Saltz – available [here](#) (EPUB)
- Chapter 7, *Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?* (p145) from *Women, Art, and Power, and Other Essays* by Linda Nochlin – available [here](#) (PDF)
- *The Whole Picture: The colonial story of the art in our museums and why we need to talk about it* by Alice Procter – available [here](#) (PDF)
- *The Lonely Palette* podcast – available [here](#)
- A chapter from *Ways Of Seeing* by John Berger – available [here](#) (PDF)
- Any of the *Metropolitan Museum* publications – available [here](#) – filter by format (Download pdf)

Biology

Articles:

- Bacterial resistance wars
 - Hodder online magazine Biological Sciences Review Vol 25 2012-13 p27-29
- Stem cells in research
 - Hodder online magazine Biological Sciences Review Vol 33 2020-21 p30-34

Books:

- The Selfish gene, Richard Dawkins, 2006 OUP. *A book about evolution.*
- The Incredible Unlikelihood of Being, Alice Roberts. *A combination of embryology, genetics, anatomy, evolution and zoology to tell the incredible story of the human body*
- The Epigenetics Revolution, Nessa Carey. *A fascinating introduction to epigenetics. If you enjoy this, follow up with Seed to Seed (see below).*
- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, Rebecca Skloot. *How one woman's cancer cells changed the medical world forever.*
- The Botany of Desire, Michael Pollan. *A very different approach to science writing, Michael Pollan turns our normal perspective on its head to consider how plants manipulate humans.*
- Almost Like a Whale, Steve Jones. *Using contemporary science to update Charles Darwin's "The Origin of the Species".*
- Blood Work: A Tale of Medicine and Murder in the Scientific Revolution, Holly Tucker. *The dramatic history of blood transfusions, from 17th century France onwards.*
- Seed to Seed, Nicholas Harberd. *A research scientist tells the story of ten years of discovery in his own laboratory. A very valuable insight into contemporary genetics and epigenetics research, and what it means to be a scientist.*
- Life Ascending, Nick Lane. *Where does DNA come from? How did the eye evolve? A reconstruction of evolutionary history through ten of its greatest landmarks.*
- Genome, Matt Ridley. *23 human chromosomes in 23 chapters.*
- The Energy of Life, Guy Brown. *Introduction to the cutting-edge science of Bioenergetics*

Video:

- A world without Down's - *BBC documentary discusses the ethics and real-life implications of genetic screening* <https://readingschool.planetestream.com/View.aspx?id=2589~4y~AlgtJXFk>

Chemistry

- [Electrophilic addition reactions - Hodder Education Magazines](#)
- [The versatility of alcohols - Hodder Education Magazines](#)
- Introduction to Inorganic Chemistry (Wiki Book): [https://chem.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Inorganic_Chemistry/Book%3A_Introduction_to_Inorganic_Chemistry_\(Wikibook\)](https://chem.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Inorganic_Chemistry/Book%3A_Introduction_to_Inorganic_Chemistry_(Wikibook))
- Organic Chemistry (Wiki Book): https://chem.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Organic_Chemistry
- Analytical Chemistry (Wiki Book): https://chem.libretexts.org/Bookshelves/Analytical_Chemistry

Classical Civilisation and Latin

Read:

- Homer: The Iliad
- Ovid: Metamorphoses
- Aeschylus: Oresteia
- Euripides: Medea, Trojan Women, The Bacchae

Watch/ Listen:

- Michael Scott [The greatest show on earth – Democracy](#)

- The 2022 Classical Association Presidential Interview - [Stephen Fry in conversation with Michael Scott](#)
- Prof Dame Mary Beard [Tyranny and Democracy](#)
- Prof Dame Mary Beard [Whiteness](#)
- Natalie Haynes Stands up for the Classics: [The Odyssey](#)
- Natalie Haynes Stands up for the Classics [Penelope](#)
- Natalie Haynes Stands up for the Classics [Virgil](#)

Computer Science

Learn Programming

- The LRC has a variety of books on programming in different languages. For A-level, we recommend that students prioritise familiarising themselves with C# programming using the **C# Player's Guide** book that students should have purchased before starting the course. Some copies are available in the LRC.
- We would also recommend exploring different paradigms of programming such as the functional language Haskell which we use in year 13 to teach Functional Programming. The excellent book **Learn You a Haskell for Great Good!** is available for free both online [Learn You a Haskell for Great Good!](#) and as a pdf: [learnyouahaskell.pdf](#)

Upcoming Competitions:

- November – **UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge**
Year 12s participate in this challenge at the **Elites** level. Students should prepare for this imminent challenge by practising the past challenges (listed as **UK Bebras Challenge**) available on their website <https://www.bebbras.uk/>
- December/January – **British Informatics Olympiad**
Students who are particularly keen will be able to sign up to participate in the **very challenging** BIO, the most prestigious computer science competition in the country. There are plenty of past challenges to practise with on the competition website: [The British Informatics Olympiad](#)
- April – **Bebras Coding Challenge**
Students can also get ahead and practice for the Coding Challenge at an appropriate difficulty level. Students should familiarise themselves with the different difficulty levels so they can select the right one for them at the time of the challenge.
- At Year 12, students will usually enter the **Pathfinders** or **Trailblazer** challenge, depending on their skill level, which both require a firm grasp of programming.
- The practice challenges are also available at <https://www.bebbras.uk/>

Online Courses

- The following two courses are freely available from MIT university. The OpenCourseWare service has many other courses available and would be worth looking at for those interested in developing further.
- [Introduction to Algorithms](#)
- [Introduction to Computer Science and Programming](#)

Videos

- [Computerphile - YouTube](#) - Computerphile is a UK based leading producer of academic Computer Science content on Youtube. Many of these topics support and build on concepts we discuss at A-level.
- [CS50 - YouTube](#) - Harvard University's famous CS50 lectures
- **Crash Course** create engaging and accessible educational content on a whole range of different topics. Here is a selection of some of their more relevant series:
- [Crash Course Computer Science - YouTube](#) - A fantastic and engaging series on the fundamental aspects of the entire subject with large overlap with the A-level course.
- [Crash Course Artificial Intelligence - YouTube](#) - A fun and informative series on AI and machine learning for curious students including "Labs" along the way that have built in programming activities.
- [Crash Course Navigating Digital Information - YouTube](#) - Want to know who and what to trust while browsing online? This video series walks you through all of the important aspects of being an informed digital citizen.
- [Crash Course Games - YouTube](#) - A less academic recommendation but a related and valuable addition to general knowledge on games and video games.

Books

- **Chip War: The Fight for the World's Most Critical Technology** by Chris Miller

- **Where Wizards Stay Up Late: The Origins of the Internet** by Katie Hafner, Matthew Lyon
- **Hackers** by Steven Levy
- **Computer Organization and Design Fundamentals** by David Tarnoff - an excellent explanation of many aspects of computer system architecture that extends beyond the areas covered in A Level
- **The Elements of Computing Systems: Building a Modern Computer from First Principles** by Noam Nisan and Shimon Schocken - a fantastic book that walks through the process of designing and building a computer, its operating system and programs that it will run starting with nothing but logic gates!
- **Learning Computer Architecture with Raspberry Pi** by Eben Upton - A great explanation of many aspects of computer systems, including CPU architecture, storage, networking, etc., by going in-depth with the design and function of the Raspberry Pi computer.
- **Hello World : How to be human in the age of the machine** by Hannah Fry - You are accused of a crime. Who would you rather determined your fate – a human or an algorithm? Hannah Fry takes us on a tour of the good, the bad and the downright ugly of the algorithms that surround us.
- **Algorithms to Live By: The Computer Science of Human Decisions** by Brian Christian, Tom Griffiths - an exploration of the use of computer science in addressing life's problems
- **iWoz** by Steve Wozniak - an inspiring autobiography of Apple co-founder, Steve Wozniak. An electronics engineering genius!
- **The Innovators: How a Group of Hackers, Geniuses, and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution** by Walter Isaacson - Inspiring stories of the development of modern computing
- **You look like a thing and I love you** by Janelle Shane - an amusing look at the uses and limitations of AI and machine learning algorithms

Drama

- An Actor Prepares – Stanislavski (The Godfather of naturalistic acting approach)
- The Empty Space – Peter Brook (The finest treatise on performance space and the performer's relationship with space)
- Augusto Boal – Theatre of the Oppressed
- Artaud Podcast - <https://whiteroom-pod.com/twr29-visions-of-artaud/> (Theatre of Cruelty inventor)
- A selection of National Theatre productions, tuck in!
- <https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/series/national-theatre-collection-iid-190464>
- Username: 4Bk.7Bu'
- Password: 1Hw'7Me+

Economics

Read for interest:

- Financial Times, The Economist, Economic Review and JSTOR as e-resources through the LRC section of SharePoint.

Reading beyond simple news analysis for specific topics:

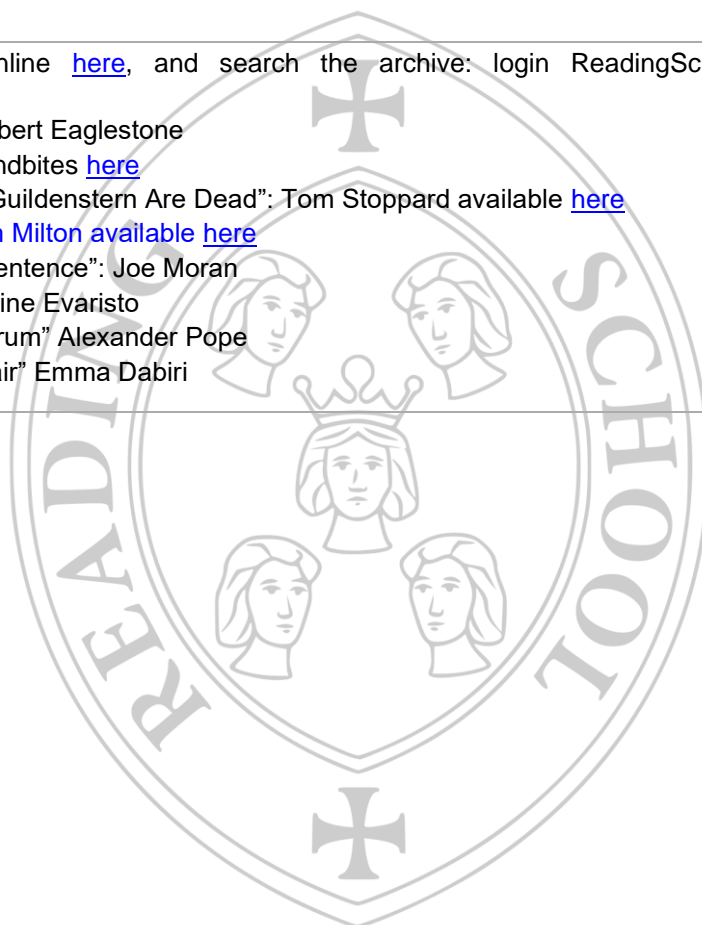
- BBC News in Depth [BBC InDepth - In depth and expert analysis from BBC News](#)
- FT The Big Read [The Big Read \(ft.com\)](#)
- The Economist Schools Brief [Schools brief | The Economist](#)
- **A-level magazine:** Economic Review (Hodder Magazine : login through LRC e-resources)
- An excellent place to start exploring any topic that might interest you is the **Very Short Introduction Series** from Oxford University Press. Some but not all are in the LRC but they are relatively cheap to buy.
- Examples for Economics: Economics, Development, Neo-liberalism; Keynes; Behavioural Economics; Game Theory and for Management: Management, Organisations ,Work.

- Examples for Politics: Fascism, Anarchism, Communism, Socialism; for Philosophy Ethics, Utilitarianism
- **Narrative Economics** by Robert Shiller
- **The Magic Money Tree** by Lorenzo Forni
- **Thinking, Fast and Slow** by Daniel Kahneman and Amos Tversky
- **Misbehaving** by Richard Thaler
- **Why Nations Fail** by D Acemoglu and J Robinson
- For those who may be planning to apply for Economics/PPE/Finance related courses at university it will be worth acquiring a suitable book to explore an area of interest.
- Further recommendations: [Recommended Reading for A Level Economists | Blog | Economics | tutor2u](#)

English

- Visit E Magazine online [here](#), and search the archive: login ReadingSchoolALevel password: FittestImpOfFraud
- “Doing English”: Robert Eaglestone
- Year 13 critical soundbites [here](#)
- “Rosencrantz And Guildenstern Are Dead”: Tom Stoppard available [here](#)
- “Areopagitica”: John Milton available [here](#)
- “First you Write a Sentence”: Joe Moran
- “Manifesto”: Bernadine Evaristo
- “The Dunciad Variorum” Alexander Pope
- “Don’t Touch my Hair” Emma Dabiri

French



Books

- Pick any book from the “French KS5” section in the LRC
- *Le Petit Prince* by Antoine de Saint Exupéry
- *Arsene Lupin* by Maurice Leblanc
- Read back some “infos de la semaine” on the francophonie channel
- Start thinking about a topic you are interested in (linked to the francophone world) and read up on it in French (change your settings to avoid English results)

Music

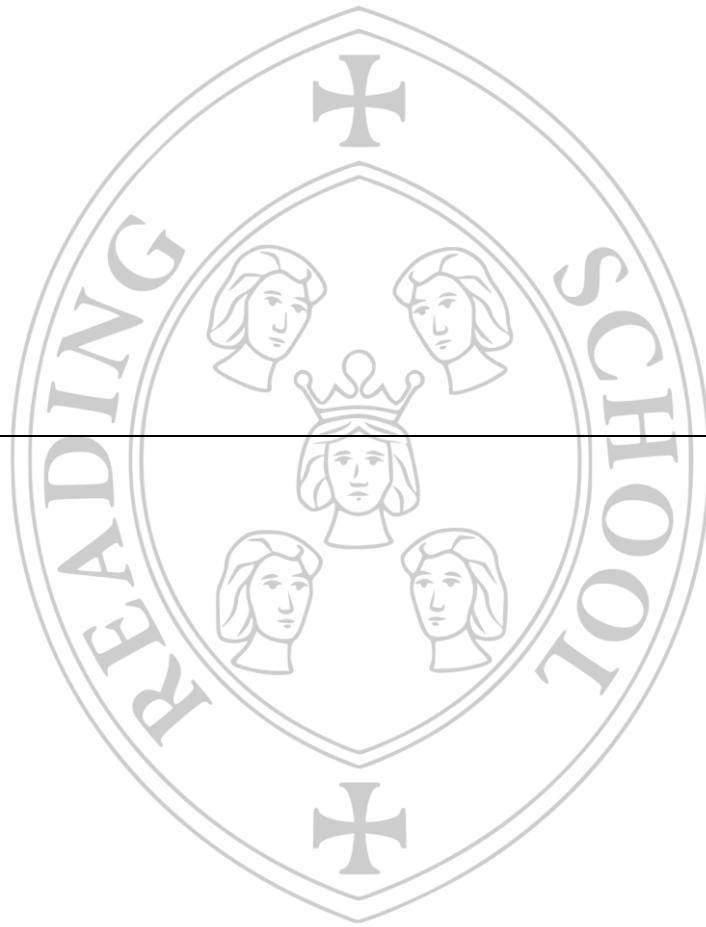
- Create a collaborative French music playlist with the rest of the class

Films that are related to the themes of *La Haine*

- [Les Misérables](#)
- [Bande de filles](#)
- [Divines](#) (on Netflix)

Vidéos et podcasts

- [Infos du jour](#) on Youtube by Hugo Décrypte (or on [Spotify](#))
- [News in slow French](#)



Geography

Human

Physical

- **Invisible China:** How the Urban-Rural Divide Threatens China's Rise, Scott Rozelle and Natalie Hell
- [Invisible China: How the Urban-Rural Divide Threatens China's Rise | Scott Rozelle and Qin Gao - YouTube](#)
- This is London: Life and Death in the World City (Ben Judah)
- The Silk Roads: A New History of the World by Peter Frankopan
- [Techno music, Detroit and social change: a critical geographical exploration through the lens of race and class – Routes \(routesjournal.org\)](#)
- [Exploring the enhanced spatial marginalisation of women and LGBTQ+ people as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK – Routes \(routesjournal.org\)](#)
- [Two competing goals: can sustainability and development ever be compatible? – Routes \(routesjournal.org\)](#)
- <https://youtu.be/3VbCVANkpS0> - Culinary connections, globalisation and changing places – Professor Philip Crang
- <https://youtu.be/motnkyj6spg> - Great power competition and the contested governance of the High North - Professor Klaus Dodds
- [How this border transformed a subcontinent | India & Pakistan - YouTube](#)
- [Geography Review - Hodder Education Magazines](#)
- Ilan Kelman - **Disaster by Choice: How our actions turn natural hazards into catastrophes** - Available in the LRC
- Oliver Morton - **The Planet Remade: How Geoengineering Could Change the World** - Available in the LRC
- David Wallace-Wells - **The Uninhabitable Earth: A Story of the Future** - Available in the LRC
- Richard Lloyd Parry - **Ghosts of the Tsunami**
- Robert Muir-Wood - **The Cure for Catastrophe: How We Can Stop Manufacturing Natural Disasters**
- **Hodder Geography Review Magazine** - Available through the LRC online
- Suggested articles from recent editions:
 - Monitoring Tectonic Processes from Space
 - Marine protected Areas on the high seas
 - California's wildfires and debris flow
 - Coastal sand dunes: storms and (over-)stabilisation
- **The Economist** - All articles available the LRC online
- Suggested articles:
 - 2019 - Climate change is a remorseless threat to the world's coasts
 - 2022 - The challenge of coastal erosion in Britain
 - 2022 - Miami's submarine future
 - 2017 - Weather-related disasters are increasing

German

- <https://www.newsinslowgerman.com/>: News with transcript which will give you the English translations for difficult words. This is a good way to improve your German.
- <https://slowgerman.com/>: This site provides podcasts about different topics. It includes a transcript.
- <https://www.tagesschau.de/100sekunden/>: News in 100 seconds is a step up from the slow news. It will be difficult to start with- so don't give up. You will see a rapid improvement of your listening skills.
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/MrWissen2go>: It offers different topics to choose from. You can slow down the speaker if necessary and not just improve your German but also your general knowledge.
- [\(249\) Galileo - YouTube](#) - search for a video of your interest
- Go on: [Reading School Videos - Documents - MFL - Videos](#) and enjoy a German film

History

- *Read* – Digging for Richard III: How Archaeology found the King by Mike Pitts
- The Global Cold War by Odd Arne Westad [Odd Arne Westad Chapter 0 .pdf](#)
- Two views on the Marshall Plan [Two views on Marshall Plan.docx](#)
- *Listen* - [Not Just the Tudors on Apple Podcasts](#)
- *Watch* - [England's Reformation: Three Books That Changed a Nation - Planet eStream](#)

Mathematics

- Logic puzzle video. As part of showing the solution to the puzzle, goes through mathematical problem solving techniques
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hVPNONm7xw&ab_channel=GoingNull
- History of calculus video
[This Is the Calculus They Won't Teach You - YouTube](#)
- Interactive article about whether the reader can generate numbers randomly
- [CalmCode Blog: An Inverse Turing Test](#)
- [How do you prove a prime is infinitely fragile? - YouTube](#)
- [All about Infinity \(maths.org\)](#)
- Fermat's Last Theorem – Simon Singh

Music

- https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/9780393668155?qC=5a105e8b&gclid=Cj0KCQjw-fmZBhDtARIsAH6H8qhAMtW-nDwpwMn7pQc9bwPqKAMbR7mG6xF4tiXaJ0DNdZflzLkL5p0aAogtEALw_wcB
- <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-jazz-podcast/id1199948722>
- [Music Matters - YouTube](#); Introduction to Bach Chorales

Physical Education

- [PE Review Archives - Hodder Education Magazines](#)
- Peak Performance: Elevate your game, avoid burnout and thrive with the new science of success
- Brad Stulberg
- The Playbook, A Coach's Rules for Life (15) Netflix

Physics

- Theory of Relativity:
<https://readingschoolco.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/Shared%20Documents/LRC/Reading%20Week%202022/Theory%20of%20Relativity.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=SPXVta>
- Relativity, a very short introduction:
<https://readingschoolco.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/Shared%20Documents/LRC/Reading%20Week%202022/Relativity-A-Very-Short-Introduction.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=ca8zn7>
- We have no Idea: a guide to the unknown universe - Jorge Cham
- The Matter of Everything: Twelve Experiments that Changed Our World - Suzie Sheehy
- A History of the Universe in 21 Stars: (and 3 imposters) - Giles Sparrow

Spanish

News, films and documentaries to understand Hispanic culture and increase vocabulary.

Noticias en español

[América Latina - BBC News Mundo](#)

Recomendaciones de Netflix

- Cultura Argentina:

The two Popes (How Benedict become the Pope? How was his life back in Argentina? What influence had the Argentinian dictatorship made in Benedict's life?) – La influencia de la iglesia católica

- Cultura española:

¡Ay, mi madre! (comedia) – Los valores tradicionales y modernos

My grandama´s a lesbian - Mi abuela es lesbiana (comedia) – Los valores tradicionales y modernos

Bomb scared – Fe de etarras – (comedia satírica) – ETA Independencia Vasca

Ahí te encargo (comedia) – La igualdad de los sexos

- Documentales:

La Defensa, por la libertad – Guerra Civil Española

Two Catalonias – Independencia de Cataluña

Recomendaciones de BBC

- Conociendo Sudamérica – BBC One – Simon Reeves Series

[BBC iPlayer - Simon Reeves South America](#)

[BBC iPlayer - Colombia with Simon Reeve](#)

[BBC iPlayer - Equator - 3. Latin America](#)

[Anglicismos y palabras equivalentes en español - ProfedeELE](#)

Theology & Philosophy

1. [Plato, Meno, 380 BC](#)
2. [Descartes, R, Meditations on first philosophy, 1641](#)
3. [Gilbert Ryle: The Concept of Mind - Chpt. 1 \(response to Descartes\)](#)
4. [Russell, B, The problems of philosophy, 1912](#)

Accessing resources from the LRC

Using the LRC Before Reading Week

- By the start of October half-term, all year 7, year 9 and year 12 pupils will have been invited to the LRC to discover the range of resources available to them both within school and from home.
- New students should have received a Guide to Using the LRC.
- All pupils can borrow books from the LRC for Reading Week.

E-Resources Available From Home 24/7 The LRC subscribes to a range of high quality e-resources that can be accessed from home. An alphabetical list, complete with links and login details can be found on here <https://readingschoolco.sharepoint.com/SitePages/LRC%20E-Resources.aspx> This includes two **ebook** platforms. Both platforms can be accessed using pupil Office 365 logins:

VLeBooks is a small ebook library and provides access to both fiction and non-fiction ebooks. Books can be read online. You can access VLeBooks via this link www.vlebooks.com. This includes 6th form wider reader titles. You can also preview books we do not own. To request a book we do not own, please email kesteven@reading-school.co.uk.

ePlatform by Wheeler's is our new ebook and audiobook platform found here: <https://readingschool.eplatform.co>

The ePlatform library catalogue is full of bestselling, popular fiction titles. Students can have 2 books out on loan at any one time, and they will automatically return after 2 weeks, or students can return them early in order to loan a new book. The eBooks can be read on a computer, laptop, or through the free App on your tablets or smartphones. [Reading through your web browser on a laptop or computer](#)

Students can browse the collection or search for a specific book title, author or publisher and loan the book they choose. It is then assigned to them for the 2-week period.

[Reading through the App](#)

To download the App, search "ePlatform" in the App store and download. Click on the app and you will then need to search for the library which will be **Reading School**. Once you start typing, it will bring up the school on the list. Click the 3 little lines in the top left corner and select sign in. Using the App, the books will be temporarily downloaded to the device so students will not need internet connections once the book has been loaned to read, great for travelling!

To access these resources, visit the LRC (Learning Resources) area of SharePoint and navigate to the eResources section. You can also click this [link](#).

Some of these resources require passwords, which are available from the LRC eResources page on SharePoint.

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| British Medical Journal | Online version of the weekly medical journal |
| The Economist Online | Provides insight and opinion on international news, politics, business, finance, science and technology. |
| Hachett/Hodder Magazine Online Archive (Review Magazines) | Written by board examiners, so is great for A-Level students. Ten titles accessible online, including Economic Review. |
| Issues Online | Excellent source of information, including statistics, on a wide range of social issues. |
| Complete Issues | Useful for articles on a wide range of current social issues. |
| JSTOR | JSTOR is an online archive of core scholarly journals in a wide variety of disciplines. |

<https://reading-school.oliverasp.co.uk/library/home/search?search=%5B%5D&facets=%5B%7B%22field%22%3A%22topiclist%22%2C%22terms%22%3A%5B%22Reading%20Week%20Year%2012%22%5D%7D%5D&useListInput=false&isReloadFacets=true&isFromMainSearchBox=false&isFederated=false&searchField=KEYWORD&searchTerm=&origin=readingLists>