

Reading List for Year 11 students

For students: What an opportunity! A week to lose yourself in a book, watch a documentary with your family on the sofa or pop a podcast in your ears while you go for a walk. Don't worry - the aim is not for you to read all of these! The aim is to enjoy a wide range of resources from a wide range of subjects, so don't limit yourself to your 'favourite' subjects or those in which you are strongest – reading should take you beyond your experience. See where the subjects can take you.

For parents: We want to promote intellectual curiosity and scholarship through independent reading, so please play your part in encouraging your child to read for pleasure. Departments have given you a wide range of resource formats, thus preventing the need to buy anything new (unless your child wants 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!](#) Instructions on how to access our fantastic resources from the LRC are also included at the end.

Art

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

- *Drawing the Head and Hands* by Andrew Loomis – available [here](#) (PDF)
- *Drawing Futures: Speculations in Contemporary Drawing for Art and Architecture* edited by Allen and Pearson – available [here](#) (PDF)
- Any *Heterotopias* issue – available [here](#) (PDF)
- *Anatomy For The Artist* – available [here](#) (PDF)
- *The Lonely Palette* podcast – available [here](#)
- *You Will be Able to Draw Faces by the End of This Book* by Jake Spicer

Biology

Stretch	Support
<p>Article:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catalyst Magazine - Archive (catalyst-magazine.org) issue 39 • <i>Catalyst is an exciting science journal for young people aged 14-19. Covering scientific research and industrial developments, real life STEM stories, career journeys, STEM expeditions and adventure.</i> • Catalyst Magazine - Issue 39 (catalyst-magazine.org) • Evolution in the twenty first century Dr Rebecca Nesbit • Evolution in the twenty-first century - Hodder Education Magazines <p>Books:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genome, Matt Ridley. <i>23 human chromosomes in 23 chapters.</i> • The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, Rebecca Skloot. <i>How one woman's cancer cells changed the medical world forever.</i> <p>Video:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade: Exam tips <p>Hodder online magazine, Biological sciences Review</p> <p>Vol 27 2014-15 p30-33</p> <p>Exam tips - Hodder Education Magazines</p>

- 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

- [Periodic Tales | University of Oxford Podcasts](#)
- [Recent advances in biofuel production - Hodder Education Magazines](#)
- Alternative to the Haber process: <https://catalyst-magazine.org/articles/de-carbonising-ammonia-alternatives-to-the-haber-bosch-process/>
- Tomorrow's Lithium Ion Batteries: <https://catalyst-magazine.org/articles/how-will-tomorrows-lithium-ion-batteries-be-better-than-todays/>

Classical Civilisations & Ancient History

Listen:

- Podcast:
- Natalie Haynes Stands up for the Classics: [The Iliad](#)

Read:

- Stephen Fry: Mythos, Troy, Heroes
- Mary Beard: SPQR
- Tom Holland: Persian Fire
- Simon Scarrow: The Eagle Series

Watch:

- Stephen Fry reading the story of [Pandora](#)
- Extra credits: [the History of writing](#)
- Extra credits: [The Brothers Gracchi](#)
- Exam specific for Ancient History: [Stupid Ancient History](#)

Computer Science

Learn Programming

- The LRC has a variety of books on programming. At GCSE level we recommend focusing on Python programming although other languages such as Javascript or web development in HTML are also appropriate. Keen students may find extensions on Python such as the ability to make games in Pygame particularly interesting or value the opportunity to learn other more complex languages like C#.
- Students interested in reviewing their Python programming knowledge can also refer to this video: [Python Full Course for Beginners \[2025\]](#)

Videos

- [Crash Course Computer Science - YouTube](#) - A fantastic and engaging series on the fundamental aspects of the entire subject, covering the breadth of topics we study at GCSE and more!
- [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

- **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

Upcoming Competitions:

- November – **UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge**
Year 11s participate in this challenge at the **Seniors** 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
- January – **Perse Coding Team Challenge**
Students will be able to enter in pairs to write code to solve a series of increasingly challenging problems with Python code. There are plenty of past challenges to practise with on the competition website: <https://pctc.cuttle.org/>
- 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 11, students will usually enter the **Pathfinders** challenge which requires a good grasp of GCSE level Python programming. For very confident coders, the **Trailblazer** challenge can be explored.
- The practice challenges are also available at <https://www.bebbras.uk/>

Drama

- Keith Johnstone – Impro (The bible of improvisation)
- Cicely Berry – Voice and the Actor (RSC voice teacher for 2 generations seminal work)
- 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

Current affairs: read reputable news websites, such as BBC News.

- Recent items include: [How much money does the UK government borrow, and does it matter? - BBC News](#)

- [UK inflation: What is the rate and why are prices still rising? - BBC News](#)

Books:

- **Freakonomics** by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
- **The Undercover Economist** by Tim Harford (or anything by Tim Harford)
- **Edible Economics** by Ha-Joon Chang
- **Economics: A very short introduction** by Partha Dasgupta
- 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, Keynes; Behavioural Economics; Game Theory. Examples for Politics: Fascism, Anarchism, Communism, Socialism; for Philosophy Ethics, Utilitarianism
- **Economic Review:** Hodder Magazine (suitable for advanced GCSE and for A-level) - login via LRC

Stretch:

- Worldly Philosophers by Robert Heilbroner

Videos:

- Look at **CNBC explains**; for example, [How inflation works | CNBC Explains \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Crash Course Economics](#) (various topics to explore)

Electronics

Stretch	Support
Book online: https://openlibrary.org/works/OL5137926W/Success_in_electronics?edition=ia%3Asuccessinelectro0000dunc_x4d6 Guidance on approaching coursework: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIAcMYsm2QI	GCSE Electronics mock exam revision 2020 Component 1 (four videos in playlist): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgumeAqjKbo&list=PLJNF9dsTnBxloyigcJ1FSBea-XyibEI_J

English

- “Following The Martian Invasion” BBC Radio 4 quick documentary series about the locations used by HG Wells, available [here](#)
- “Word Of Mouth: Metaphors” BBC Radio 4 programme on how imagery works, available [here](#)
- “The Wind Singer” (series): William Nicholson
- “The Rain” (series): Virginia Bergin
- “Exodus” Julie Bertagna
- “The Knife Of Never Letting Go” (series); “More Than This”: Patrick Ness
- “Wool” (series): Hugh Howey
- “The Maze Runner” (series): James Dashner
- “The Hunger Games” (series): Suzanne Collins
- “Divergent” (series): Veronica Roth
- “The Giver” (series): Lois Lowry
- “Breathe” (series): Sarah Crossan
- “The One Hundred” (series): Kass Morgan
- “The Dark Wild” (series): Piers Torday
- “The Loop” (series): Ben Oliver
- “Shadow And Bone” (series): Leigh Bardugo
- “The Fifth Wave” (series): Rick Yancey
- “Mortal Engines” (series): Philip Reeve

- “The Outlaws Scarlett and Browne”: Jonathan Stroud
- “The Supreme Lie”: Geraldine McCaughrean
- “1984”: George Orwell
- “Brave New World”: Aldous Huxley
- “A Clockwork Orange”: Anthony Burgess
- “The Handmaid’s Tale”: Margaret Atwood
- “Noughts and Crosses”: Malorie Blackman
- “Fahrenheit 451”: Ray Bradbury
- “The Guardians”: John Christopher
- “The Day Of The Triffids”: John Wyndham
- “V For Vendetta”: Alan Moore and David Lloyd
- “Logan’s Run”: William F Nolan
- “The Circle”: David Eggers
- “Klara And The Sun”: Kazuo Ishiguro

French

Books

- Pick any book from the “French KS4” section in the LRC
- Pick a French comic book in French (Astérix, Tintin, Seuls...)
- *Le Petit Prince* by Antoine de Saint Exupéry
- *Arsene Lupin* by Maurice Leblanc
- [Article](#) on the popularity of Tiktok
- [Articles](#) about environmental issues

Music

- [French pop 2025 playlist](#)
- [French rap 2025 playlist](#)

Films

- [Two is a family](#) (comedy, drama)
- [Intouchables](#) (with French subtitles this year!)

Content on Netflix

- [Lupin](#)
- [Anatomy of a fall](#)
- Any [French show](#) on Netflix

Vidéos et podcasts

- [Visit of Saint Malo](#)
- [Learn some French slang](#)
- [Videos](#) on environmental issues (scroll down)

Geography

Stretch

[What China Is Really Up To In Africa \(forbes.com\)](#)

Support

Support: [NIGERIA CASE STUDY - NEE Example - SUNDAY](#)

Geography Review: Vol 35 Issue 4 Stretch Human capital and migration
<https://www.hoddereducationmagazines.com/magazine/geography-review/35/4/human-capital-and-migration/>

- This article focuses on the link between higher educational attainment and migration — the so-called ‘brain drain’

Geography Review: Vol 34 Issue 3: Is Russia still a superpower?
<https://www.hoddereducationmagazines.com/magazine/geography-review/34/3/is-russia-still-a-superpower/>

- The countries that have superpower status change over time. After the break-up of the Soviet Union Russia became less powerful. What role does it now play on the global stage and how does it oppose the USA?

[MORNING COFFEE - AQA GCSE 9-1 Geography 2022 - YouTube](#)

Support: Head start for UK [The Changing UK Economy - SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE - AQA GCSE 9-1 Geography 2022 - YouTube](#)

[Wideworld - Hodder Education Magazines](#)

German

- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbxb2fge9oNggiAoYqsYOtQ>: People are being interviewed on the street. You will get German and English subtitles so you can understand everything that is said.
- <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.
- Go on: [Reading School Videos - Documents - MFL - Videos](#) and enjoy a German film

History

Stretch	Support
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read – While Hitler is gaining power in Europe, this is happening in Asia Sino-Japanese War Philip Ziegler.pdf • Watch – Prepare for our final topic by watching this Elizabeth Episode 2 - The Virgin Queen.wmv - Planet eStream 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read – Overview of the Abyssinian Crisis. The World Between the Wars by Philip Ziegler.pdf • Listen - History Extra podcast: The Great Depression: everything you wanted to know on Apple Podcasts

Mandarin

西游记

Journey to the West

- https://www.amazon.co.uk/Journey-West-Books-Simplified-Vocabulary/dp/1733165045/ref=sr_1_3?crd=3BU37YQP8SZMD&keywords=journey+to+the+west&qid=1650966399&s=books&srefix=journey+to+the+west%2Cstripbooks%2C67&sr=1-3
- Chinese edition (highly recommended for senior language learners-Year 9 to Year 11)

上下五千年

Five Thousand years of Chinese Nation

- https://www.amazon.co.uk/Five-thousand-color-Collectors-Chinese/dp/7208123020/ref=sr_1_1?crd=13E6U0N4TDKXG&keywords=%E4%B8%8A%E4%B8%8B%E4%

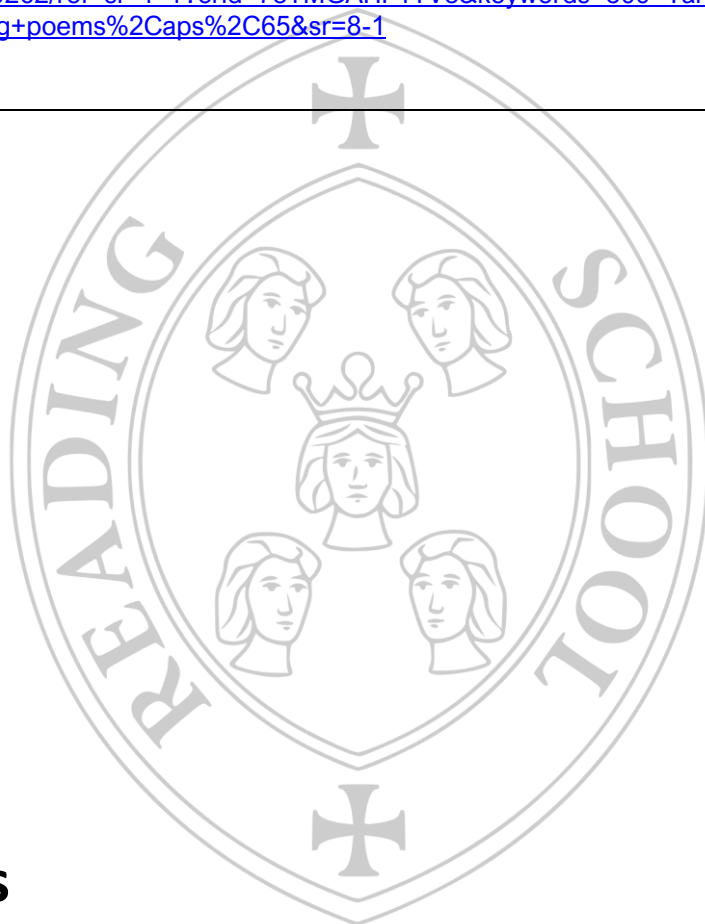
[BA%94%E5%8D%83%E5%B9%B4&qid=1650964983&srefix=%E4%B8%8A%E4%B8%8B%E4%BA%94%E5%8D%83%E5%B9%B4%2Caps%2C75&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Five-Thousand-Years-Chinese-Nation/dp/7119046365/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2H04FHABYIAZ8&keywords=five+thousand+years+of+chinese+nation&qid=1650964983&srefix=%E4%B8%8A%E4%B8%8B%E4%BA%94%E5%8D%83%E5%B9%B4%2Caps%2C75&sr=8-1)

- Chinese edition
- https://www.amazon.co.uk/Five-Thousand-Years-Chinese-Nation/dp/7119046365/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2H04FHABYIAZ8&keywords=five+thousand+years+of+chinese+nation&qid=1650965050&srefix=five+thousand+years+of+chinese+nation%2Caps%2C59&sr=8-1
- English edition

唐诗三百首

300 Tang Poems

- https://www.amazon.co.uk/300-Tang-Poems-Chinese-Yuanchong/dp/7500164416/ref=sr_1_15?crid=22FSRB7QN1D4X&keywords=%E5%94%90%E8%AF%97%E4%B8%89%E7%99%BE%E9%A6%96&qid=1650965233&srefix=%E5%94%90%E8%AF%97%E4%B8%89%E7%99%BE%E9%A6%96%2Caps%2C76&sr=8-15
- Chinese edition
- https://www.amazon.co.uk/300-Tang-Poems-Jerome-Seaton/dp/1935210262/ref=sr_1_1?crid=78TMGAHF1TV8&keywords=300+Tang+Poems&qid=1650965362&srefix=300+tang+poems%2Caps%2C65&sr=8-1
- English edition



Mathematics

Stretch	Support
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Finding algebraic relationships between geometrical objects: Pick's Theorem (maths.org)2. Raising a quadratic equation to the power of another quadratic equation and the interesting results from this Mega Quadratic Equations (maths.org)3. The riddle that seems impossible, even if you know the answer The Riddle That Seems Impossible Even If You Know The Answer - YouTube	<p>It is suggested that you use Mymaths to address areas of the GCSE course you have found most challenging. You can also use the online Collins textbook to work through sections of the course, such as trigonometry, solving quadratic equations and ratio and</p>

<p>4. Impossible puzzle? Why this puzzle is impossible - YouTube</p> <p>5. The essence of calculus The essence of calculus - YouTube</p> <p>6. What are Imaginary Numbers?? What Are Imaginary Numbers? HowStuffWorks</p>	<p>proportion that students typically find most challenging.</p>
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Music

- <https://blackwells.co.uk/bookshop/product/This-Is-Your-Brain-on-Music-by-Daniel-J-Levitin/9780241987353>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00040ch>
- [Rick Beato - YouTube](#); audio engineering, producing and mixing, music theory, jazz improvisation and ear training

Physical Education

- [PE Review Archives - Hodder Education Magazines](#)
- Legacy: James Kerr
- When We Were Kings- Amazon Video

Physics

Stretch	Support
Bad Science - Ben Goldacre	50 physics ideas you really need to know - Joanne Baker (2014) - LRC - 50 Physics Ideas You Really Need to Know - Joanne Baker.pdf

PSHE

- Mind Your Head, Juno Dawson, Dr. Olivia Hewitt, Gemma Correll
- More Money, Please: The Financial Secrets You Never Learned in School, Scott Gamm
- [\(43\) PSHE4you- Episode 5- Sleep - YouTube](#)
- Split by Muhammad Khan (Macmillan)

Spanish

- Podcast**
- [GERARD PIQUÉ: "El BARÇA tiene un PROBLEMA y nadie quiere verlo" | #1 - Bajo Los Palos by Flexicar](#)
- Grammar**
- [Browse Activities || Conjuguemos](#)

Interactive activities

- [Crónica premios Grammy 2023 - ProfedeELE](#)
- [TQG - Karol G & Shakira - ProfedeELE](#)
- [Pódcast 1: Hoteles extraños - ProfedeELE](#)

Documentaries to understand Hispanic culture

- [BBC iPlayer - Simon Reeves South America](#)
- [BBC iPlayer - Colombia with Simon Reeve](#)
- [BBC iPlayer - Equator - 3. Latin America](#)

Documentales Netflix:

- *Street food Latin America*

Theology & Philosophy

1. [Davies Brian An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion 2nd edition 1993.pdf \(monoskop.org\)](#) p: 212-234
2. [John Hick - Do People Have Souls? - YouTube](#)
3. [Augustine – The Confessions](#)

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.

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.

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%2011%22%5D%7D%5D&useListInput=false&isReloadFacets=true&isFromMainSearchBox=false&isFederated=false&searchField=KEYWORD&searchTerm=&origin=readingLists>

