

Reading List for Year 9 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

- *Architecture and Cityscapes: Tips and Techniques for Drawing on Location* by Gabriel Campanario – available [here](#) (PDF)
- *You Will be Able to Draw Faces by the End of This Book* by Jake Spicer
- Any of the *Draw 50* series by Lee J Ames – available [here](#) (PDF)
- *Read This If You Want To Take Great Photographs.* by Henry Carroll
- *Isms... Understanding Art* by Stephen Little

Biology

- [Catalyst Magazine - Archive \(catalyst-magazine.org\)](http://catalyst-magazine.org) issue 31 and 39
- *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.*
- [catalyst-magazine-issue31.pdf](#)
- [Catalyst Magazine - Issue 39 \(catalyst-magazine.org\)](http://catalyst-magazine.org)

Chemistry

- Bill Bryson-A Short History of Nearly Everything
- [Periodic Tales | University of Oxford Podcasts](#)
- [Nanomaterials - Hodder Education Magazines](#)
- [Supercritical fluids - Hodder Education Magazines](#)
- [Catalyst27 1 the bizarre world of high pressure chemistry.pdf \(stem.org.uk\)](#)

Classics: Ancient History and Latin

Listen:

- Podcast: The Leaders of Rome by Ian Daly
- Natalie Haynes Stands up for the Classics: [The Iliad](#)

Read:

- Stephen Fry: Mythos, Troy, Heroes
- Mary Beard: SPQR

- Tom Holland: Persian Fire
- Lindsey Davis: The Falco detective 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 9s participate in this challenge at the **Inters** level. Students should prepare for this imminent challenge by practising the past challenges (listed as **UK Bebras Challenge**) available on their website <https://www.bebas.uk/>
- 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 9, most students will enter the **Navigators** challenge which requires foundational knowledge in Python programming. For more confident coders, the **Pathfinders** challenge may be or **Trailblazer** difficulties can be explored.

The practice challenges are also available at <https://www.bebbras.uk/>

Drama

- Stanislavski intro
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ai_oogqtsil
- Le Coq – 7 levels of Tension
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVFQ2ZuLNq0>
- The Crucible Resource pack – Arthur Miller's great work broken down and examined from a performance and analysis angle.
- https://readingschoolco.sharepoint.com/:b/g/EUBXfE_h2f9AmfhARI5Th4BST_hc-XIU5VpjhiklvXdQ?e=MgYvfm
- 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](#)

Book recommendation for Y9:

- [Can't We Just Print More Money?: Economics in Ten Simple Questions eBook : The Bank Of England: Amazon.co.uk: Kindle Store](#)
- **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

Videos:

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

Electronics

A simple guide to electronics components: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Maq5IyHSuc>

Book: Make Electronics, Platt - From SharePoint

English

- “Opening Worlds” short stories from other cultures, available [here](#)
- “After (Nineteen Stories Of Apocalypse and Dystopia)”: Ellen Datlow
- “My Bondage and my Freedom” and “Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass”: Frederick Douglass, available [here](#) and [here](#)
- “The Time Machine”: H.G Wells, available [here](#)
- “Diary of a Young Naturalist”: Dara McAnulty
- “My Family and other Animals”: Gerald Durrell
- “Boy”: Roald Dahl
- “Becoming”: Michelle Obama
- “Fever Pitch”: Nick Hornby
- “I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings”: Maya Angelou
- “Testament Of Youth”: Vera Brittain
- “The Long Walk To Freedom”: Nelson Mandela
- “Playing It My Way”: Sachin Tendulkar
- “Chronicles”: Bob Dylan
- “The Life and Rhymes of Benjamin Zephaniah”
- “People Like Us”: Hashi Mohamed
- “Educated” by Tara Westover
- “Manifesto”: Bernadine Evaristo
- “My Name is Why”: Lemn Sissay

French

Books

- Pick any book from the “French KS3” or if you feel super ambitious “French KS4” section in the LRC
- Pick a French comic book in French (Astérix, Tintin, Seuls...)
- *Le Petit Prince* by Antoine de Saint Exupéry

Music

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

Films

- [Neuilly sa mere](#) (comedy)
- [Sarah's key](#) (WW2, very sad)
- [Tomboy](#) (gender identity, life)

Vidéos et podcasts

- [Interview de Mbappé](#) (with subtitles)
- [Easy podcast on football](#)

Geography

- [Wideworld - Hodder Education Magazines](#)

Watch:

- [The Village Thats Falling into the Sea - HQ documentary - YouTube](#)
- <https://youtu.be/51iKI0YD5nk> - Living on the Edge: Coastal Communities in Cornwall
- [BBC One - Panorama, The Green Energy Scandal Exposed](#)

Read

- [The big city that is also pleasant to live in | The Economist](#)
- [Britain's next nuclear plant will be identical to one under construction | The Economist](#)
- Notes From A Small Island: Journey Through Britain by Bill Bryson (available through LRC's E-Books)

Listen:

- <https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-qr7n9-12a9350> - Are natural disasters really that natural, or are they the fault of humans?
- <https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-iff6e-fd3268> - Caribbean communities in the UK
- <https://www.podbean.com/ew/pb-vphpb-d5f721> - Food Security and sustainability

German

- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbxb2f9e9oNgglAoYqsYOtQ>: 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

- Read – More detail on Anglo-Saxon and Viking England [Making peace: Scandinavian migrants and King Alfred's 'fyrd' / Our Migration Story](#)
- Look at the experience of Jewish people in Medieval Britain [Poems of protest: Meir ben Elijah and the Jewish people of early Britain / Our Migration Story](#)
- Watch – Look at the development of the East India Company which stretched British control over India [The Birth of Empire - Original Series Episode 1 - The East India Company - Planet eStream](#)

Mandarin

西游记

- Journey to the West
- [Link](#) Chinese edition (highly recommended for senior language learners-Year 9 to Year 11)

上下五千年

- Five Thousand years of Chinese Nation
- [Link](#) Chinese edition
- [Link](#) English edition

唐诗三百首

- 300 Tang Poems
- [Link](#) Chinese edition
- [Link](#) English edition

Mathematics

- [Ding Dong Bell \(maths.org\)](http://DingDongBell.maths.org)

- [5 Trailblazing Female Mathematicians | HowStuffWorks](#)
- [divide-and-conquer.pdf \(undergroundmathematics.org\)](#)
- [Classic Problem - Tower of Hanoi \(maths.org\)](#)
- [Generating Triples \(maths.org\)](#)
- [The Myth of 'I'm Bad at Math' - The Atlantic](#)
- The Maths Book – Matt Parker
- The Code Book – Simon Singh

Music

- <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Five-Straight-Lines-History-Music/dp/1781257779>
- <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/rolling-stone-music-now/id1078431985>
- <https://www.youtube.com/c/AdamNeely>

Physical Education

- Moneyball: Michael Lewis
- Free solo - Disney+

Physics

- 50 physics ideas you really need to know - Joanne Baker (2014) - LRC - [50 Physics Ideas You Really Need to Know - Joanne Baker.pdf](#)
- For the Love of Physics: From the End of the Rainbow to the Edge of Time - A Journey Through the Wonders of Physics - Walter Lewin.

PSHE

- Fighting Invisible Tigers: Stress Management for Teens, Earl Hipp
- How to Turn \$100 Into \$1,000,000: Earn! Save! Invest!, James McKenna
- [\(43\) PSHE4you- Episode 10-Healthy Relationships - YouTube](#)
- Heartstopper: Volume 1 by Alice Oseman

Spanish

Presente

- [Vocabulario de las vacaciones de verano - ProfedeELE](#)

Pasado

- [Me fui de vacaciones - Bad Bunny - ProfedeELE](#)
- [CBS To Go 2.04 | ¿Qué hiciste ayer? - What did you do yesterday? - Coffee Break Languages](#)

Podcasts

- [Episode 108: Costumbres - La once in Chile - Duolingo](#)
- [Episode 105: Costumbres - Asadoras in Argentina - Duolingo](#)

Documentales Netflix:

- [Street Food Latin America](#)
- *Boca Juniors Confidential* – Argentine football documental – Sport, Argentine culture.

Theology & Philosophy

1. [The Republic](#) - Plato
2. [Evolution: Origins of Life](#) - The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion

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.

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%209%22%5D%7D%5D&useListInput=false&isReloadFacets=true&isFromMainSearchBox=false&isFederated=false&searchField=KEYWORD&searchTerm=&origin=readingLists

