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) 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)

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 - available in the LRC [part of a series]:

Mythos by Stephen Fry is a witty, highly engaging retelling of classic Greek mythology. Blending ancient tales with a modern, conversational voice, it covers the creation of the universe, the rise of the Olympian gods, and their dramatic, often absurd, interactions with early mortals.

Heroes - available in the LRC [part of a series]:
In *Heroes*, Stephen Fry retells the thrilling, tragic, and timeless tales of eight legendary ancient Greek heroes. This action-packed companion to *Mythos* blends myth with Fry's signature wit, following mortals like Jason on the Argo, Atalanta, Oedipus, and Heracles as they battle monsters and outwit scheming gods.

Troy - available in the LRC [part of a series]:
The epic blends history and myth, following legendary heroes (like Achilles and Odysseus) and meddling gods through a masterclass of romance, betrayal, violence, and the ultimate deception: the wooden horse.

Odyssey - available in the LRC [part of a series]:
In Odyssey, Stephen Fry concludes his bestselling Greek myths series by tackling the epic homecoming of Odysseus after the Trojan War. Blending thrilling adventure, dark humor, and his signature witty prose, Fry chronicles the hero's perilous 10-year journey across monster-filled seas back to his clever wife, Penelope.

- The Silence of the Girls by Pat Barker - available in the LRC:
  The Silence of the Girls is a gritty, feminist retelling of Homer's *The Iliad*. Narrated by Briseis, a captured Trojan queen, it strips away the romanticized glory of the Trojan War to expose the brutal realities faced by enslaved women in the Greek camp.
- Circe by Madeline Miller - available in the LRC:
  Circe is a brilliant feminist retelling of Greek mythology. Banished by Zeus to a remote island for practicing dark witchcraft, the outcast goddess discovers her own strength, taming beasts, crossing paths with legendary heroes, and ultimately defying both gods and the Fates to forge her own destiny.
- The Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller - available in the LRC:
  It is a captivating and devastating retelling of the Trojan War. Told from the perspective of Patroclus, it traces the deep, enduring romantic bond between him and the legendary warrior Achilles, set against a backdrop of gods, kings, and tragic destiny.
- King of Ithaca by Glyn Iliffe - available in the LRC [part of a series]:
  It is the first installment in the *Adventures of Odysseus* historical fiction series. It follows Eperitus, an exiled soldier who saves Prince Odysseus of Ithaca. The pair team up to save Ithaca from rebellion and join the quest to woo Helen of Sparta, setting the stage for the Trojan War.
- Argo by Mark Knowles - available in the LRC:
  An action-filled retelling of the famous Greek myth, Jason and the Golden Fleece.
- Lore by Alexandra Bracken - available in the LRC:
  This is a Greek mythology-meets-*Hunger Games* fantasy where nine gods are made mortal every seven years and hunted by descendants of ancient bloodlines. To survive, the protagonist Lore Perseous is dragged into a deadly game of revenge and divine power struggles.
- Rome: The Emperor's Spy by MC Scott - available in the LRC [part of a series]:
  This is an action-packed historical thriller set in AD 54. It follows Sebastos Pantera—a Roman assassin and spy—who must stop a radical religious sect from fulfilling an ancient prophecy that Rome will burn, all while dealing with Emperor Nero's ruthless schemes.
- Under the Eagle by Simon Scarrow - available in the LRC [part of a series]:
  This is the thrilling first novel in the Eagles of the Empire series. Set in 42 AD, it follows the unlikely bond between battle-hardened Centurion Macro and well-educated new recruit Cato as they navigate brutal military campaigns, barbarian territories, and a deadly imperial conspiracy.
- Imperium by Robert Harris - available in the LRC [part of a series]:
  This is the first novel in the acclaimed *Cicero Trilogy*. It is a gripping historical thriller narrated by Cicero's confidential secretary, Tiro. It follows ambitious lawyer Marcus Tullius Cicero as he battles the corrupt Roman elite and attempts to attain supreme political power in the violent, treacherous world of the Roman Republic.
- Persian Fire by Tom Holland - available in the LRC:
  This is a gripping historical account of the Greco-Persian Wars. It explores how the mighty Persian Empire invaded Greece in the 5th century BC, and how the rebellious city-states of Athens and Sparta managed to hold out, shaping the trajectory of Western civilization.
- The Silver Pigs: The Falco detective series by Lindsey Davis - almost certainly in your local library:
  In Ancient Rome (AD 70), a cynical but sharp-witted private "informer" named Marcus Didius Falco rescues a young woman on the run. He is quickly dragged into a deadly conspiracy involving stolen imperial silver ingots, corrupt politicians, and an aristocratic senator's daughter.
- Ariadne by Jennifer Saint - available in the LRC:
  This is a feminist retelling of the Greek myth of Theseus and the Minotaur. It tells the classic story from the perspectives of Princess Ariadne and her sister Phaedra, exploring the heavy toll that the selfish ambitions of men and the whims of volatile gods take on the women of Crete

Watch:

- Stephen Fry reading the story of Pandora
- Extra credits: Rome: The Punic Wars - The First Punic War - Extra History - Part 1
- Extra credits: Rome: The Punic Wars - The Second Punic War Begins - Extra History - Part 2
- Extra credits: Rome: The Punic Wars - The Second Punic War Rages On - Extra History - Part 3
- Extra credits: Rome: The Punic Wars - The Conclusion of the Second Punic War - Extra History - Part 4
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- Extra credits: the History of writing
- Extra credits: The Brothers Gracchi
- Extra credits: The Brothers Gracchi - Populares - Extra History - Part 2
- Extra credits: The Brothers Gracchi - Ochlocracy - Extra History - Part 3
- Extra credits: The Brothers Gracchi - Enter Gaius - Extra History - Part 4
- Extra credits: The Brothers Gracchi - The Final Fall - Extra History - Part 5
- Extra credits: The Brothers Gracchi - Gracchus the Elder - Prequel: In His Footsteps - Extra History - Part 6 - YouTube
- Extra credits: The Battle of Thermopylae - The Hellenic Alliance - Part 1 - Extra History
- Extra credits: The Battle of Thermopylae - East vs. West - Part 2 - Extra History
- 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.bebras.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.bebras.uk/

Drama

- Stanislavski intro
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ai_ooqqtsiI
- 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_h2f9AmfhARI5ThI4BST_hc-XIU5VpjhiklzvXdQ?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+
- Year 9: Contemporary Drama
- Theme: Identity and Society
- DNA by Dennis Kelly
- Noughts & Crosses by Malorie Blackman (stage adaptation by Sabrina Mahfouz)
- Teechers by John Godber
- Bouncers by John Godber and Jane Thornton
- Challenge Read
- The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Simon Stephens
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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

Watch a classic theatre show from the National

- Theatre Click here for link

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

- Geographical
  From home, choose login with library card and use card number: 84981

Watch:

- The Village Thats Falling into the Sea - HQ documentary - YouTube
- https://youtu.be/51iKl0YD5nk - 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/UCbxb2fqe9oNgglAoYqsYOtQ: 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 IndiaThe 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)
- 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

- (43) PSHE4you- Episode 10-Healthy Relationships - YouTube
- Heartstopper: Volume 1 by Alice Oseman
- Read about important social issues that impact all of us using Issues Online and Complete Issues Online

  Issues Online
  https://www.issuesonline.co.uk/subscription/login
  Username: reading **Password:** 5491

  Complete Issues Online
  https://www.completeissues.co.uk/
  Username: readingschool
  Password: readingschool

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 Insitute 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.

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.