

**GUISELEY
SCHOOL**

**Sixth Form Wider Reading
for
A-Level Subjects**


The benefits of wider reading:








In KS3 and KS4 you were directed to certain types of study and you didn't have non-contact time during the school day. During your time in the Sixth Form you will learn skills that will enable you to become an independent learner. If you want to stand out during your time in the Sixth Form then independent study is one of the ways that you can do it. Regardless of your future plans, the ability to research independently into your interests is an invaluable skill – this will support your university applications and/or future job applications and interviews. All universities or apprenticeships expect more than just classroom knowledge.

This booklet has been designed to help you with these skills. Each subject area has a section with suggested books and activities that will help you develop your interests in your subjects and the wider world.

Health Check - there are lots of books listed in each subject. Don't worry, you are **NOT** expected to read all of them. Pick ones that you are interested in. You may even want to read a book that is not connected to your subjects for fun!

General Resources

- **iTunes U app** – available through the apple website
 - o Free podcasts, video lectures, reading recommendations
 - o A whole range of resources from leading universities (Oxford, Yale)

iTunes U app
- **YouTube**
 - o Has its own educational channel – EDU
- **Staircase 12**
 - o <https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/applying-to-univ/staircase12/>
 - o A website put together by University College, Oxford
 - o Contains interviews and book reviews from current students
- **BBC Radio 4**
 - o Excellent range of archive material
 - o Recommended – Week in Westminster / Thinking Allowed / A History of the World / In Our Time
- **TED**
 - o Watch talks from experts from a variety of fields
- **MOOCs** – Massive Open Online Courses – These online courses provide videos, reading lists and activities – you often don't need to formally complete the course
 - o Unifrog - <https://www.unifrog.org/student/moocs/start>
 - o FutureLearn – www.futurelearn.com o EdX – www.edx.org
 - o Coursera – www.coursera.org
- **Websites of Professional organisations e.g.**
 - o www.rsc.org – Royal Society of Chemistry
 - o www.history.org.uk – The Historical Association
- **Read newspapers!**
 - o Some online versions are free
 - o Read more than one to develop your critical skills

Applied Science

- A Brief History of Nearly Everything – Bill Bryson
- The Body – Bill Bryson
- Ultra Processed People – Chris Van Tulleken
- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks – Rebecca Skloot
- Gene machine – Venki Ramakrishnan
- Chemistry world online magazine
- The Elements: A Very Short Introduction by Philip Ball
- Storm in a Teacup – The Physics of Everyday Life – Helen Czerski
- Physics World Magazine - Online

Art and Photography

In the Art and Photography classrooms we have many books that are relevant to your own art or are just great to pick up and find something new. You can borrow books from us just like you would from the library too. Just let your teacher know what you would like to borrow, and we will sign it out for you!

Most of these books listed below we have copies of in the Art Department, but the library will also have good options and you can of course source your own books.

Art

- Ways of seeing by John Berger
- Why your 5 year old could not have done that by Susie Hodge
- The short story of Art by Susie Hodge
- Women Artists in the 20th and 21st Century edited by Uta Grosenick
- Thinking About Art
- Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain
- Ways of Drawing: Artists' Perspectives and Practices
- The Story of Art
- Various copies of Art Etc, Juxtapos magazines

Photography

- Why it doesn't have to be in focus by Jackie Higgins
- The rules of Photography and when to break them by Haje Jan Kamps
- 150 Projects for Photography Students
- Photomontage by Dawn Ades
- Mastering Landscape Photography
- Art Photography Now
- The Photographer's Eye
- Various copies of Practical Photography Magazine

Biology

- The Red Queen: Sex and the evolution of Human Nature – Matt Ridley
- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks – Rebecca Skloot
- Entangled Life – Merlin Sheldrake
- Ultra Processed People – Chris Van Tulleken
- Invisible Women – Caroline Criado-Perez
- Gene machine – Venki Ramakrishnan
- Rebel Cell - Kat Arney

Economics

<https://www.scribd.com/document/504056580/Edexcel-AS-A-Level-Economics-Student-Book-Edexcel-GCE-Economics2015-Alain-Anderton-Dave-Gray-1>

[Pearson Edexcel AS & A Level Economics Student Book \(Edexcel GCE Economics 2015\): Amazon.co.uk: Anderton, Alain, Gray, Dave: 9781447990550: Books](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/9781447990550)

[D Zigzag Handouts Themes 1-4](#)

Podcasts:

- [BBC Sounds - Politically - Available Episodes](#)
- Ten Years After Brexit – Alex Forsyth
- [FT News Briefing | Financial Times](#)
- [BBC Radio 4 - The Briefing Room](#)
- [BBC Radio 4 - More or Less - Downloads](#)
- Channel 4 news at 7pm, Newsnight on BBC2 at 10.30pm
- BBC Question Time
- BBC Panorama – www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006t14n - The long running BBC current affairs programme, featuring interviews and investigative reports on a wide variety of subjects but often economics related. In the past
- there have been relevant episodes such as The Big Squeeze, How to Survive the Meltdown and The Truth about Supermarket Price Wars. These documentaries are often available for up to a year after broadcast.
- Economics related documentaries (Evan Davis and Robert Peston often present topical economics documentaries on BBC & ITV)
- Listen to economics related radio programmes (e.g. More or Less, presented by Tim Harford – weekly on BBC Radio 4, podcasts also available)

Chemistry

- Chemistry world online magazine: <https://www.chemistryworld.com/>
- The Elements: A Very Short Introduction by Philip Ball
- The Chemistry Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained by DK
- Periodic Tales: The Curious Lives of the Elements by Hugh Aldersey-Williams

Computing/Data Analytics

- Think Python: How to Think Like a Computer Scientist by Allen B. Downey (Open Source, free online). [thinkpython.pdf](#)
- Introduction to Computing by David J.Eck (Open Source, Free Online) <http://math.hws.edu/javanotes/>
- Code: The Hidden Language of Computer Hardware and Software by Charles Petzold
- Automate the Boring Stuff with Python by Al Sweigart (can buy but also open source and free to read online) [Automate the Boring Stuff with Python - Automate the Boring Stuff with Python](#)
- Deep Learning by Ian Goodfellow, Yoshua Bengio & Aaron Courville (MIT Press, Open Access PDF online) [Deep Learning](#)
- The Innovators: How a Group of Inventors, Hackers, Geniuses and Geeks Created the Digital Revolution - Walter Issacson
- Accidental Empires - Robert X Cringely
- Computer Organization and Design Fundamentals by David Tarnoff (Self-published, open licence) [Chapter-by-Chapter Download of Computer Organization and Design Fundamentals by David Tarnoff](#)

Criminology

- WJEC Level 3 Applied Certificate & Diploma Criminology by Carole Henderson
- Criminology Book One for the WJEC Level 3 Applied Certificate & Diploma by Robert Webb & Annie Townend
- Criminology Book Two for the WJEC Level 3 Applied Certificate & Diploma by Robert Webb & Annie Townend
- Folk devils and moral panics by Stanley Cohen
- My life with murderers by David Wilson
- Unnatural Causes" by Dr. Richard Shepherd
- A Bit of a Stretch: The Diaries of a Prisoner by Chris Atkins

English Language

- Dent's Modern tribes – Susie Dent
- How to talk like a local – Susie Dent
- Eats, Shoots and Leaves – Lynne Truss
- Mother tongue – Bill Bryson
- The dictionary of lost words – Pip Williams (fiction)
- How to kill a language – Sophia Smith Galer (2026)
- The English Language - David Crystal
- I don't believe a word – David Shariatmadari
- SUBSCRIBE TO THE PODCAST: Something Rhymes with Purple – Susie Dent and Gyles Brandreth
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHBS5kcmZXcqxr1X_dPp0eyGILm4SfOAg

English Literature

Obviously you will have your set texts to read, but it would be beneficial and enjoyable for you to read around these. You could read more written by the author or written in the same genre.

- 1984 – George Orwell
- A Thousand Splendid Suns – Khalid Hosseini
- Death of the Author – Roland Barthes [The Death of the Author on JSTOR](#)
- This is Shakespeare – Emma Smith
- Blake: A Biography – Peter Ackroyd
- I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings – Maya Angelou
- A Little History of Literature – John Sutherland

Geography





- Prisoners of Geography and The Power of Geography- Tim Marshall
- A Paradise Built in Hell- Rebecca Solnit
- Not too later- Rebecca Solnit
- The Big Ones- how natural disasters have shaped us- Dr Lucy Jones
- Adventures in the Anthropocene – Gaia Vince
- The Guardian 'Cities' series- a collection of articles about cities around the World, constantly updated
- No Logo- Naomi Klein
- The Climate Book- Greta Thunberg

German

There are many ways that you can enrich your German during your German A-Level. One of the best ways to do this is to immerse yourself as much as possible in the language, by listening, reading and watching it in action.

- Wort für Wort, German vocabulary for AQA A-Level (Hodder Education)
- Aktion Grammatik, German grammar for A-Level (Hodder Education)
- Kerboodle online resources from Oxford

- Emil und die Detektive, Erich Kästner
- Das fliegende Klassenzimmer, Erich Kästner
- Das kleine Gespenst, Otfried Preussler
- Tintenherz (Inkheart), Cornelia Funke
- Die Wolke, Gudrun Pausewang
- Märchen der Gebrüder Grimm, Wilhelm & Jacob Grimm
- Die Verwandlung, Franz Kafka

-  Die Welt www.welt.de
-  Die Zeit www.zeit.de
-  Stern www.stern.de
-  Der Spiegel www.spiegel.de
-  Tagesschau www.tagesschau.de

Government and Politics

There is a huge amount of reading that you could do for Politics. This is a constantly evolving subject so new books on new topics are being published all of the time.

Highly recommend course companions:

- Politics Review- Full of articles on all topics studied.
- Newspapers with subscriptions- Times, Telegraph, Guardian
- UK Government and Politics- Philip Lynch
- Who governs Britain- Antony King
- US government and Politics- Anthony J Bennet
- How America works and why it doesn't- William Cooper
- American Politics- A short introduction- Richard M Valelly
- Political Ideologies – Andrew Haywood

Health and Social Care

- Cambridge Advanced National (AAQ) in Health and Social Care Student Book by [Sian Lavers](#) (Author), [Sue Northeast](#) (Author), [Renata Paradowska](#) (Author)
- [Healthtalk.org](#): An invaluable resource for coursework and non-examined assessments (NEAs). It features a massive collection of recorded, real-life interviews with individuals sharing their experiences with chronic illnesses, dementia, mental health conditions, and bereavement.
- [Nuffield Trust: Health and Social Care Explained](#): An independent health charity providing scannable updates, evidence-based data, and briefings on the biggest issues facing the NHS and social care sectors today.
- [Community Care](#): The leading website for social care professionals in the UK. It provides students with legal updates, practice insights, and articles detailing the everyday realities of social work and community care safeguarding.
- [MindEd](#): Sponsored by UK royal colleges, this platform provides free educational content concerning young people's and children's mental health. It directly supports the mandatory AAQ unit on mental health conditions.
- [The Social Care Institute for Excellence \(SCIE\)](#): An excellent source for free downloadable reports, practice guides, and video resources outlining person-centered care and current legislative expectations

History

- History Review- Full of articles on all topics studied.
- A History of Britain- Andrew Marr
- English History 1870-1914- Robert Ensor
- England 1914-1945 AJP Taylor
- Citizens- Simon Schama
- The French Revolution a Short Introduction- William Doyle
- The Witchfinder- Malcolm Gaskel
- The European Witch Craze of the 16th and 17th Centuries- H.R. Trevor Roper.

Mathematics

- Alex's Adventures in Numberland by Alex Bellos
- Hello World by Hannah Fry
- The Humble Pi by Matt Parker
- The Love Triangle by Matt Parker
- Mathematics for the Non-Mathematician by Morris Kline
- The Hidden Mathematics of Sport by Rob Eastaway
- How to make the world add up by Tim Harford

Further Maths

- The Maths of the Simpsons by Simon Singh
- The Code Book by Simon Singh
- Fermat's Last Theorem by Simon Singh
- How to think like a mathematician by Kevin Houston
- The Music of the Primes by Marcus Sautoy

Media Studies

- Because Internet: Understanding the New Rules of Language – Gretchen McCulloch
- Flat Earth News – Nick Davies
- “The Corporation” – Joel Bakan
- “The News: A User’s Manual” – Alain de Botton
- <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2022-03-28-negative-impact-social-media-affects-girls-and-boys-different-ages-study>
- <https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2026-01-23-expert-comment-under-16-social-media-ban-right-course>

Music

- Listening Resources and Radio

Radio Stations -

ClassicFM: <https://www.classicfm.com/>

Specialising in classical repertoire – movements of works covered in the Development of the Symphony area of study will be played here

BBC Radio 3: https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live/bbc_radio_three

Specialising in classical repertoire – movements of works covered in the Development of the Symphony area of study will be played here

- Magic at the Musicals: <https://radioplayer.planetradio.co.uk/mmu>

Radio Station of Musical Theatre

- Podcasts

- Composer of the Week (BBC): <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006tnxf>

Talk Musicals To Me: available on Spotify/Apple Podcasts

Interviews with famous names in the industry including one of our named composers, Stephen Schwartz (Wicked composer)

- Audiobooks:

- Stephen Sondheim: Art Isn't Easy (Spotify)

Philosophy

- Warburton, N, Philosophy: the essential study guide, Routledge, 2004.
- Baggini, J, Fosl, PS, The philosopher’s toolkit: a compendium of philosophical concepts and methods, 2nd Edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.
- Feest, B, C How to Get an A in A Level Philosophy, independently published, 2021

Physical Education

- [The Effect of Detraining and Reduced Training on the Physiological Adaptations to Aerobic Exercise Training | Sports Medicine | Springer Nature Link](#)
- **Legacy by James Kerr**
 - Explains how the All Blacks, one of the most successful sports teams in history, suffered years of crisis and defeats and came back a better team. His book also analyzes how the culture, the team, and the players were key to the All Blacks' transformation.
- [Impact of the first year of the "This girl can" physical activity and sport mass media campaign in Australia - PubMed](#)
- [British athletics muscle injury classification: a new grading system | British Journal of Sports Medicine](#)

Physics

- Surely You're Joking Mr Feynman: Adventures of a Curious Character – Richard Feynman
- Moondust: In Search of the Men Who Fell to Earth – Andrew Smith
- Quantum Theory Cannot Hurt You: Understanding the Mind-Blowing Building Blocks of the Universe – Marcus Chown
- A Short History of Nearly Everything – Bill Bryson
- Storm in a Teacup – The Physics of Everyday Life – Helen Czerski
- Newton – Peter Ackroyd
- The Birth of a New Physics – I Bernard Cohen

Product Design

- Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things by William McDonough & Michael Braungart
- The Design of Everyday Things by Don Norman
- Drawing for Product Designers by Kevin Henry
- Making It: Manufacturing Techniques for Product Design by Chris Lefteri
- [A History of Plastics](#)
- [Meta releases first in-house AI Meta Glasses](#)
- [Portsmouth Block Mills - Graces Guide](#)
- [How do telephones work? - Explain that Stuff](#)
- [Resource efficiency & circularity | Siemens](#)

Psychology

- AQA Psychology for A Level: Year 2 Third edition by Cara Flanagan et al
- AQA Psychology for A Level: Year 1 Third edition by Cara Flanagan et al
- Psychology review periodical – full e-library available
- The Lucifer Effect: How Good People Turn Evil by Philip Zimbardo
- Genie: A Scientific Tragedy by Russ Rymer
- The Boy Who Couldn't Stop Washing by Judith Rapoport.
- The Selfish Gene by Richard Dawkins
- The Man who Mistook His Wife for a Hat by Oliver Sacks

Sociology

- The Sociological review- updated monthly with relevant up to date topics [Magazine - The Sociological Review](#)
- AQA Sociology year 1 and 2 textbooks
- Family Life- how attitudes towards family life have changed over time [bsa37_family-life.pdf](#)
- Thinking Sociologically by Zygmunt Bauman
- Learning to Labour by Paul Willis
- Chavs: The Demonization of the Working
- Living Dolls by Natasha Walter

Spanish

- A Level Spanish: Los cambios en la familia: The Evolution of Spanish Families (Complete A Level Spanish) (30 August 2022)
- A Level Spanish: Los medios de comunicación en España: The Influence of Spanish Media (Complete A Level Spanish)
- A level Spanish: El mundo laboral en España: The World of work in Spain (Complete A Level Spanish)
- A Level Spanish: La inmigración en España: Immigration in Spain (Complete A Level Spanish)
- A Level Spanish: Los festivales y las tradiciones hispanas: Hispanic Traditions and Festivals (Complete A Level Spanish)
- A Level Spanish: La música hispana: Hispanic music (Complete A Level Spanish)

- A Level Spanish: La transición a la democracia en España: Transition to Democracy in Spain (Complete A Level Spanish)
- A Level Spanish: La Dictadura Franquista: The Francoist Dictatorship (Complete A Level Spanish)
- A Level Spanish: La Guerra Civil española: The Spanish Civil War (Complete A Level Spanish)

Modern Languages Study Guides: Volver: Film Study Guide for AS/A-level Spanish (Film and literature guides)

- Maestros del cine – Pedro Almodóvar – Thomas Sotinel (9782866425869)
- Modern Languages Study Guides: La casa de Bernarda Alba: Literature Study Guide for AS/A-level Spanish (Film and literature guides)
- La casa de Bernarda Alba: by Federico García Lorca (Hispanic Texts)
- Modern Languages Study Guides: El laberinto del fauno: Film Study Guide for AS/A-level Spanish (Film and literature guides)

- A Level and AS Spanish Grammar & Translation Workbook

Internet sites to watch/read news about current events/historic events.

- www.yahoo.es – Yahoo website with up to date news.
- www.bbc.com/mundo - Hispanic news.
- <http://www.rtve.es/mediateca/videos/> - Videos and audio on up-to-the minute topics.
- <http://www.elpais.com/audios/> - Excellent short audio bites on up-to-the-minute topics, literally on the day they happen
- <http://www.elmundo.es> - Spanish newspaper online

Watch any Spanish films or TV shows you can. There are a huge number of these available now thanks to Netflix, Amazon Prime and Channel 4. This is fantastic listening practice! If necessary put the English subtitles on, but if you do, try to watch it a second time without them.

- La casa de papel (Money Heist) – An all action series - Found on Netflix
- La casa de las flores – A mexican melodrama - Found on Netflix
- Las chicas del cable – A Spanish series – Found on Netflix.
- www.rtve.es – A Spanish TV Channel
- www.telecinco.es – A Spanish TV Channel – you can watch shows ‘en directo’ (live)
- www.cuatro.com/en-directo/ - A Spanish TV Chann
- Any film by Pedro Almodóvar – we will be studying ‘Volver’ produced by this director (Some other films of his – Madres Paralelas, Julieta, Todo sobre mi madre, La piel que habito, Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios, el dolor y la gloria)
- ‘El laberinto del Fauno’ or ‘El orfenato’ by Guillermo del Toro

www.cadanadser.com – a link to access various radio stations and podcasts.

Textiles and Fashion

- Dior by Dior: The Autobiography of Christian Dior (V&A Fashion Perspectives)
- Alexander McQueen - The Life And Legacy
- Vivienne Westwood
- William Morris’s Flowers (Artists In Focus; V&A)
- Fabric for Fashion: The Complete Guide: Natural and Man-made Fibres
- Fabric for Fashion: The Complete Guide: Natural and Man-made Fibres
- Vogue: 20th Century Fashion Vogue:
- Fashion by the decades [Fashion by the Decades | Who What Wear UK](#)
- Crossing Gender Boundaries (Journal)
- Adaptive clothing for people with disabilities [Adaptive apparel for people with disabilities: A systematic literature review and future research agenda - Rana - 2024 - International Journal of Consumer Studies - Wiley Online Library](#)
-
- What happens when Fashion becomes Fast, disposable and cheap? [What Happens When Fashion Becomes Fast, Disposable And Cheap? : NPR](#)
-
- Fundamentals of Fashion Design
- Selvedge (Online Magazine/publications)

Travel and Tourism

Books

- Customer Service in Tourism and Hospitality by Simon and Louise Hudson
- Overbooked: The exploding business of Travel and Tourism by Elizabeth Becker
- Rough guides to many different destinations (see <https://www.roughguides.com/shop>)
- BTEC Level 3 National Travel and Tourism Student Book (we would recommend buying this for yourself for the course) by Gillian Dale

Films

- Eat, Pray, Love (2010, PG)
- A married woman realizes how unhappy her marriage really is, after a painful divorce she takes off on a round-the-world journey to find herself.
- The Bucket List (2007, 12A)
- Two terminally ill men escape from a cancer ward and head off on a road trip with a wish list of to-dos.
- The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2011, 12A)
- British retirees travel to India to take up residence in what they believe is a newly restored hotel.
- The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2015, PG)
- Two fresh arrivals pursue expansion of the opening of a second hotel.

TV programmes

- An Idiot Abroad (Youtube): Brit Karl Pilkington gets sent to various parts of the world to experience unfamiliar cultures.
- Gordon, Gino and Fred: Road trip (ITV): Join British superstar Gordon Ramsay, Italian stallion Gino D'Acampo and French master Maitre d'Fred Sirieix as they take a road trip.
- Travel Man: 48 hours in... (Channel 4): Richard Ayoade and a celebrity guest spend 48 hours in a popular city to discover the must see tourist attractions.
- Race Across the World (BBC): In a race across the world, travellers choose any route they like, but no flights are allowed.
- The Travel Show (BBC News Channel) - Old episodes available on the BBC website/iplayer.

You tube has many documentaries/channels on tourism issues: e.g.

- - Thailand and the fallout from mass tourism | DW Documentary

Podcasts

- Costing the Earth (BBC Radio 4): Fresh ideas from the sharpest minds working towards a cleaner, greener planet.
- Zero to travel by Jason Moore (Podcast App): Learn how to travel the world for as long as you desire while spending as little money as possible.
- The Travel Diaries by Holly Rubenstein (Podcast App): The weekly interview series where travel journalist Holly Rubenstein chats to special guests about their travel experiences.
- AmateurTravel.com by Chris Christensen (Podcast App): The Amateur Traveler is an online travel show that focuses on the best places to travel to.
- Escape (Simon Calder – journalist/broadcaster): <https://simoncalder.co.uk/podcasts>

Websites

- Travel Weekly: <https://www.travelweekly.co.uk>
- ABTA Magazine: <https://abtamag.com>

- Trip Advisor: <https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk> (Practice researching positive/negative customer reviews for hotels/attractions/travel companies etc. To find out what makes some customers satisfied or not).
- Wanderlust magazine: <https://www.wanderlust.co.uk>
- Visit Britain (Customers): <https://www.visitbritain.com/gb/en>
- Visit Britain (Trade): <https://trade.visitbritain.com>