

PANGBOURNE

Preparing for Sixth Form

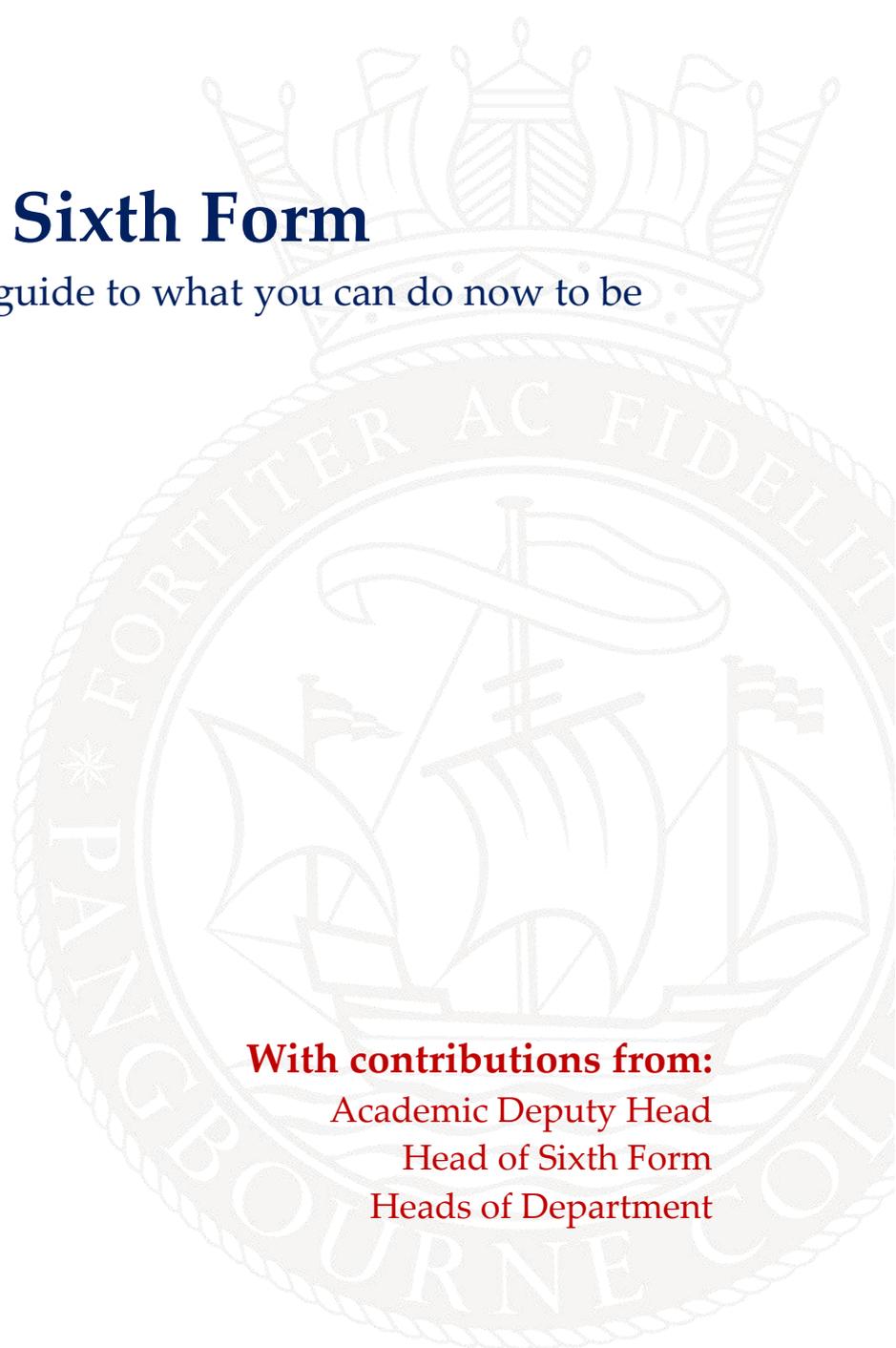
Your subject-by-subject guide to what you can do now to be ready for September

With contributions from:

Academic Deputy Head

Head of Sixth Form

Heads of Department



Sixth Form Learning: From the Deputy Head Academic

Sixth Form studies are different to previous courses. Pupils take a greater role in planning, immersing and exploring their narrower range of subjects.

Your success at BTEC or A Level will be built on your management of tasks, lessons and broader engagement with the subject. You will read around materials, reflect on topics covered and, most of all, gain a heightened sense of academic engagement that comes with maturity. In this way you are preparing yourself to become a sustainable lifelong learner.

The period between (I)GCSEs and the commencement of Sixth Form courses gives you a great opportunity to break the shackles of the strict curriculum you have been studying and to start exploring your chosen areas. The suggestions in this booklet are designed to give you a good foundation for you to enjoy getting to know your subjects, before we begin more structured learning in September.

You are encouraged to engage with the Head of Department of each of your subjects; see them as a mentor who can help guide you through the myriad resources and suggested tasks found within this booklet.

The summer before you embark on Sixth Form studies can also be a good time to accrue valuable work experience. Clearly, this summer is rather different, but it may still be worth reaching out to existing companies that offer such opportunities. Aside from parental contacts, there are portals on the internet that are set up as hubs for such opportunities, like [Student Ladder](#).

Work experience: finding it, applying for it and then doing it, is a valuable endeavour. [This website](#) is a source of advice before you embark. In addition, using LinkedIn to establish yourself and begin to build your own “brand” may be a route you are comfortable trying. There are many commercial opportunities to engage in online courses, varying from free MOOCs hosted by universities (such as [FutureLearn](#), [EdX](#) and [Coursera](#)) to costly private businesses. If gaining work experience is something that interests you, then please get in touch with [Mr De Mulder](#), the Head of Careers and Enterprise.

Good luck, and happy learning.

Will Williams
Deputy Head Academic

Sixth Form Learning: From the Head of Sixth Form

This booklet has evolved over recent years and is just as relevant to those joining us in the Sixth Form as it is to our returning Form 5. Its purpose is to ensure you are well signposted to useful, proven and interesting materials. Many students are ready for more stimulus and challenge by the time August comes, sometimes quite a long time before.

However, in this particular year, with disruption to the traditional finishing off of your GCSE courses, it is more desirable than ever that you should want to warm yourself up for the greater period of discovery ahead in the Sixth Form.

All the suggestions and tasks in this booklet are optional. You can do as many or as few as you like. Many subjects offer a comprehensive list of suggestions and links, designed for you to dip into rather than work your way through in full.

That said, we do recommend you do something with your mind to avoid the dangers of mental atrophy over the summer months. This is especially important for those picking up brand new subjects in the Sixth Form. Preparatory reading is a really useful way of you mapping out how your new subject fits together. It will introduce you to basic concepts, and give you the right vocabulary to help instil your confidence during your first term of the course. Finally, some preparatory reading also provides a good opportunity for you to ensure you have selected the right subjects!

One of the major changes to Sixth Form independent study is the need for you not to rely on your teachers to set (and mark) assignments but for you to also become your own manager, setting some of your own additional tasks. You may need to do this to discover what is not covered in lessons and to help assimilate core syllabus materials. The guided suggestions in this booklet may well also give you a chance to experiment with these new ways of learning.

In the absence of regular contact with tutor and teachers over the next weeks, I would strongly echo Mr Williams' advice for you to be messaging the Heads of Department of your future subjects. Do ask them questions for further direction, communicate your interest and foster the new collaborative partnership that is going to be key over the next two years.

James Bamforth
Head of Sixth Form

Get Ready for Sixth Form: your subject-by-subject guide

Art

Visit at least *two* major museums or galleries. Make a record of your visit with drawings from at least *four* artworks in each location. Write down the name of the artist that made each work and make a note of its title, medium, size and date. Write at least a paragraph explaining why it was produced and what the artist's intentions were. Also explain why the works chosen interest you. If permitted, document your trip with photographs.

If we are still locked down this summer, visiting actual galleries may be impossible. Fortunately, many galleries have made virtual exhibition tours available. Please use these resources to help you tackle the summer tasks if you cannot travel to see actual exhibitions.

[The Barbican](#)

[Gagosian](#)

[The Hayward Gallery](#)

[Lisson Gallery](#)

[The Metropolitan Museum \(New York\)](#)

[Modern Art Oxford](#)

[The Museum of Modern Art \(New York\)](#)

[The National Gallery](#)

[The National Portrait Gallery](#)

[The Royal Academy](#)

[The Serpentine Gallery](#)

[Tate](#)

[White Cube](#)

[Whitechapel Gallery](#)



Biology

- Have a look at the [web page](#) and the syllabus for Edexcel Biology A (Salters Nuffield) from 2015. Don't print it off, but do look through to get an idea of the topics we will study.
- Revise the topics 'Heart and Circulation' and 'Cells' from GCSE so you will be ready to start these topics at a higher level.
- Read some articles from the magazine Biological Sciences Review to get an idea of A level standard.

You can access the magazine through the library section on Firefly.

Resources, Students, library, e resources, Hodder education magazines, Biological Sciences Review Archive. (E.g Volume 29 Issue 3.)

- [Try this 'Preparation for A Level' pack](#)
There are some useful tips and maths questions to practise.



Business

BE AWARE OF THE WORLD. As we progress through the course, we will be drawing on situations which occur in the world around us. An interest in current affairs is essential to good performance in Business. You should try to catch up with the news as often as you can, ideally every day but certainly a couple of times each week. The following are good places to start:

- TV News – Sky News and Channel 4 News tend to have the best coverage of business and economic issues but the BBC is also pretty good.
- Newspapers – The Times, Independent and Guardian are the best of the standard press. The FT (Financial Times) is also good but it is quite technical at times. Be aware of ideological bias in the news and try to get a balanced view. The Economist is a very good source of information.
- The 'Business As Usual' Podcast - Created by a Business teacher, this picks apart the most current scenarios and relates them to the syllabus.

READ SOME BOOKS. A growing number of businesses and entrepreneurs are choosing to publish their stories. These can be really useful sources of information about what makes businesses successful and the challenges which need to be overcome. There are several out there and you can choose business which you find interesting. The ones listed below are companies I would imagine you have heard of (if you haven't, you probably need to rethink your choice of A Level!)

- The Everything Store (Stone)
- Grinding it Out (Kroc)
- How Google Works (Schmidt & Rosenberg)
- Megachange: The World in 2050 (The Economist)
- What you see is what you get (Sugar)
- The Upstarts: How Uber and Airbnb are changing the world (Stone)
- Business for Punks (Watt)

WATCH FILMS / DOCUMENTARIES. Some good options are:

- Inside the Factory (BBC)
- Undercover Boss (C4)
- The Social Network (Netflix)
- Fyre - The greatest party that never happened (Netflix)

Chemistry

We would strongly recommend students get hold of a copy of [this CGP transition guide](#).

This [Kindle book is pretty decent too](#), and at under £3, good value, so it is strongly recommended.

The CGP Transition Guide should be read over the summer - the content is not any deeper than GCSE, but it is the knowledge that needs to be soundly inherent as you embark on the A Level! We will be using this material as a beginning to the course, to help bridge the chasm between GCSE and A Level.

Please do not get into the mindset that “everything we learnt at GCSE is wrong”. It is not wrong, so do not “unlearn” it all! But at A Level we look at the same ideas in much more detail and with a greater level of rigour. For example, at GCSE the electron arrangement of a sodium atom is 2.8.1. This remains true at A Level, but we need to know which orbits the electrons occupy as well as the distance-from-the-nucleus shell principle.



Classical Civilisation

The first two weeks of the course are spent on the basics of the history, geography, myth, religion and culture of the Ancient World. Any basic reading or research you can do will stand you in excellent stead.

Recommended Reads

- Any books by **Peter Connolly**: *Legend of Odysseus* (republished as *World of Odysseus*) and *The Ancient City* are really informative.
- **Usborne's** *The Greeks* is also full of basic information. It may look a bit childish, but it is a great survey of what it would benefit you to know.
- **P Cartledge**: *Ancient Greece - A Very Short Introduction* is good and for those wanting a higher level introduction.
- *The World of Athens*, published by JACT
- Any "coffee-table" reading (avoid their impenetrable university text books for the moment) from **Paul Cartledge** or **Mary Beard** (e.g. *The Parthenon*) would be a really good introduction to aspects of the subject.
- Do read literally anything on Greek Myths. Best here: **Stephen Fry** *Mythos* or *Heroes*

Anything on a Classical theme will be worth you enjoying (as long as you do enjoy it!)

Recommended Viewing

- If you can get hold of **Troy, Fall of a City** (BBC/Netflix) this series was hard-hitting, inspiring, though not always true to the exact details of **Homer's** Iliad.
- Any programmes you find presented by **Bettany Hughes** or **Michael Scott** are usually fascinating and informative.
 - Michael Scott's [The Greatest Show on Earth](#) is linked here to get you started.
 - Bettany Hughes' the [Truth about Democracy](#) is here to keep you going.
- **Massolit Website - Lectures** (You need to log in from a Pangbourne Google Account)
 - [Persian Wars](#)
 - [Peloponnesian War](#)

Recommended Listening

Radio 4's **Natalie Haynes** *Stands up for the Classics* are a very good mix of stand-up comedy on a wide variety of classical themes - there are usually some available on BBC SOUNDS.

Computer Science

Download Visual Studio 2019 [Community Edition](#) from Microsoft. Note this is Windows only, but a [Mac](#) version is also available. However, this is more limited in use and you are advised to use Windows, where possible. Installing Bootcamp on a Mac will allow you to run a retail version of Windows 10 and hence the Windows version of Visual Studio. Other software packages like Parallels can also be used.

Familiarise yourself with this IDE (Integrated Developer Environment) and try to create a few simple programs. Follow the Visual Studio basic introduction [here](#).

The following websites contain a series of tutorials using either Visual Basic or C# to create some simple programs. The programs are in order of difficulty but you can increase the project's difficulty by using C#, which is more challenging **but** is a more useful programming language in the real world:

- Project 1: [Picture Viewer](#)
- Project 2: [Maths Quiz](#)
- Project 3: [Matching Game](#)



Design Technology

Become a visual magpie! Everything you interact with daily is purposefully designed and inspiration can be **drawn** from the useful, beautiful and the frustrating. Start to record these inspirations - whether through your own photography, doodling or taking screenshots and setting up a **folder on your device**.

Make use of social media. It is a highly powerful tool in the world of design, it gives you access to highly successful design agencies, as well as glimpses into the work of degree level students. Follow these people and consider setting up your own design based account.

Be aware of the world around you - economic and environmental factors play a huge role in influencing designers. New technologies and materials are constantly emerging and being explored. Be curious!

Visit online exhibitions. What does the world have to offer? What can you see visually? How have materials been manipulated to create a form or structure? Explore these online platforms and discover what interests you most, record your findings. [This site](#) allows you to visit exhibitions and artworks without leaving the safety of your home.

Magazines such as *Wired* and *Wallpaper* showcase new ideas. [Dezeen](#) and [Designspiration](#) are great online starting points for inspiration too but there are so many other resources available. Take note of the designers you find most inspiring. Be interested and interesting!

Drama and Theatre

A link to the A Level Eduqas specification is [here](#).

We study three set texts for the written exam which you will study over two years. Please feel free to get ahead of the game by ordering, reading and researching them. They are:

Accidental death of an anarchist by Dario Fo (ISBN: 978-0-4131-5610-5)

Machinal by Sophie Treadwell (ISBN: 978-1-85459-211-8)

The Curious incident of the dog in the night-time by Mark Haddon, adapted for the stage by Simon Stephens (ISBN: 978-1-4081-7335-0)

A decision on your Component 1 text is expected on Friday 8 May, so please feel free to [email the Head of Drama](#) for this information on or after this date.

YouTube is the best source of watching and critiquing Drama. Please type in 'GCSE Drama performances' and/or 'A Level Drama performances' into YouTube and a whole host of work will come up - some rubbish, some good! Settle down, watch, and make notes on what the plays are showing: how are the actors physicalising the work? How are they using their voice to communicate their message to the audience? What message is it? Does it make sense? If a style of performance comes up that you haven't heard of before, research it.

Start researching the following practitioners and Theatre Companies:

- Bertolt Brecht
- Antonin Artaud
- Steven Berkoff
- Katie Mitchell
- KneeHigh Theatre Company
- Complicite
- Frantic Assembly

Search Digital Theatre Plus for plays performed by some of the above. Be inquisitive about theatre.

Read plays! The best way to start understanding texts, is to read them. Look at how they are constructed - the stage directions, how the characters are told to move or speak, why did the playwright choose those words for their characters instead of other words?

[Digital Theatre](#)

Digital Theatre + Login info:
username: Pangbournestudent
password: pangbourne122

Digital Theatre Master Cast - this is a six-episode series which gives students an exclusive behind-the-scenes look into the process of creating a play. Hosted by former teacher and world-renowned theatre, TV and film writer Simon Stephens, the series focuses on the work of celebrated playwrights, directors, designers and actors. **Each episode will be released at 5pm BST every Wednesday from 29 April and will be freely available to watch on Digital Theatre's [Facebook page](#).**

[National Theatre](#)

The National Theatre is streaming a raft of different plays on YouTube. Click on the link to see what is coming up soon.

Economics

BE AWARE OF THE WORLD. As we progress through the course, we will be drawing on situations which occur in the world around us. An interest in current affairs is essential to good performance in Economics. Brexit and Donald Trump's economic policies are in the news all the time at the moment. You should try to catch up with the news as often as you can, ideally every day but certainly a couple of times each week. The following are good places to start:

- TV News – Sky News and Channel 4 News tend to have the best coverage of business and economic issues but the BBC is also pretty good. Look out for programs which deal with topical issues like plastic pollution.
- Newspapers – The Times, Independent and Guardian are the best of the standard press. The FT is also good but it is quite technical at times. Be aware of ideological bias in the news and try to get a balanced view. The Economist is a very good source of information.

READ SOME BOOKS. An understanding of Economics is becoming more fashionable and, as such, there is an ever-increasing amount of consumer economics books out there. Here are some you ought to try. They are arranged in approximate order of complexity so it is better to start at the top of the list:

- Freakonomics/Superfreakonomics (Levitt & Dubner)
- The Economic Naturalist (Frank)
- Fifty Things that Made the Modern Economy (Tim Harford) - a book to go alongside the podcast which looks at everything from concrete to baby formula and insurance. [The podcasts can be found here \(10 mins each\)](#)
- The Undercover Economist (Harford)
- 50 Economics Ideas You Really Need to Know (Conway)

WATCH FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES. Some good options:

- The Big Short (Netflix)
- Moneyball (Netflix)
- Inside Job (Netflix)

English Literature

Students interested in taking A Level English Literature should be reading for enjoyment. The A Level requires a huge amount of independent reading and you should be prepared to read a range of texts.

Rather than only read core texts from the A Level course, you could pick a novel from the [recommended reading list for A Level candidates](#). These are not necessarily examined texts, but, depending upon your enjoyment, you may choose to focus on one or more of them for coursework.

If you wish to start early (but remember you will have to read it again!) you could read one of the following two texts which will form part of your prose study into Crime Fiction.

Lady Audley's Secret by Mary Elizabeth Braddon

In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

Whilst we cannot currently go to the theatre, you should try to watch some film adaptations of some of Shakespeare's plays or screened versions of more modern drama. See the links below for online resources.

[Digital Theatre](#)

Digital Theatre + Login info:

username: pangbournestudent@pangbourne.com

password: pangbourne122

[National Theatre](#)

The National Theatre is streaming a raft of different plays on Youtube. Click on the link to see what is coming up soon.

You can find the Edexcel A Level English Literature specification [here](#).

EPQ (Extended Project Qualification - Level 3)

Form 5 students who are interested in challenging themselves and using this unexpected time in May, June and July to improve their research skills and prepare for their A Levels should think of doing an EPQ and starting it now. Please [email Ms Brinkman-Young](#) for more information.

An EPQ is a great option to show universities you are learning to work independently, and is also a great way to delve into a subject or topic that you want to study at University or have a future career in. If you have signed up for 4 A Levels and are thinking of dropping one, an EPQ is a good way to continue to study that subject or interest area and show universities that you have taken the initiative to balance your EPQ with other more traditional A Levels.

EPQs are not just long research papers. They can be performances, experiments and/or designs and DT/Art creations.

Learn a bit more about all you can do in an EPQ and also what universities say about taking an EPQ here:

- [EPQ Level 3](#)
- [EPQ & University](#)

[Here](#) is the EPQ specification.



Film Studies

Watch films! But also be critical of them. Make sure you are asking questions about how you, as an audience member, is expected to respond and how the filmmaker is guiding you. Spectatorship is an important topic in the study of film.

We cannot go to the cinema to see the newest releases at the moment, so search on DVD, Netflix, Amazon Prime or terrestrial TV for older, classic films.

Try to watch at least one film in a foreign language, at least one film made by an independent film company (i.e., not a big Hollywood producer), at least one black and white film and at least one film by a famous director (for example Spielberg, Tarantino, Coen brothers, Hitchcock, Scorsese). Keep a film log of what you have watched making notes about the plot, performance, locations and impact on the audience. You should aim to watch at least five films and be prepared to discuss them once you start the Film Studies A Level in September.

Browse the [WJEC website](#) and have a look at the A Level Film Studies course.



French

- Spend some time in France if possible this summer and speak as much French as possible.
- Watch French films (with subtitles if required).
- Try to watch the news, a good website to watch the news is [here](#).
- Ensure you know all your tenses by heart, including the irregular verbs (present, near future, simple future, perfect, imperfect, conditional and reflexive verbs). Use the [languages online website](#) to help with this.
- Look over the A Level [specification](#).
- Try to read one or two books in French. You can get ones which have the English translations on one side and the French on the other side. *Le petit Nicolas* is a good start. *No et moi* is another good book and is also a possible A Level set text. If you are feeling ambitious, read *L'étranger*, also an A Level set text.
- Login to kerboodle (your usual username and password and) and look over the First year of A Level course.



Geography

READ READ READ. Every day! The geography courses in the new [specification](#) is no longer a case of learning 10 case studies and regurgitating them in different formats. The exams are almost a general knowledge/ common sense test... It requires the application of the taught material to a broad range of different world contexts that students are unprepared for. Successful geography students **must** be immersed in critical analysis of the world around them through wide ranging reading and study **EVERY DAY!**

Things to look for in the news include: global issues, urban issues, trade and economic issues, NATO issues, UN governance, IMF issues, Heathrow expansion, America vs China issues, immigration issues, demographic issues, Antarctica, South China Seas.

Free sources of news (at time this guide was published):

- The Washington Post
- The Guardian (e.g., [Guardian Cities](#), [Guardian Environment](#))
- The BBC
- Huffpost

We also recommend reading before the course starts:

- [Prisoners of Geography](#) by Tim Marshall
- [I am Malala](#) by Malala Yousfzai
- [The Kite Runner](#) by Khaled Hosseini

Subscribe: The Week, The Economist, National Geographic or Geographic (Magazine of the RGS)

Ten films or series that all geographers should watch:

Black Hawk Down - an action film following the disastrous involvement of US special forces in the Somalian civil war during 1993.

Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom - following the life of Nelson Mandela and the civil rights campaign under apartheid in South Africa.

Slumdog Millionaire - a story of love and loss in Dharavi Slum, Mumbai.

Before the Flood - Academy Award winning film on climate change.

City of God - the hard lives of Rio's Favela dwellers.

Forrest Gump - a brief history of the 20th century through the eyes of Forrest Gump.

Platoon - Oliver Stone's genre defining Vietnam War film.

Planet Earth I and II - the entire box set.

Race Across the World BBC - Iplayer series 1 and 2 following couples racing across the world on a tight budget.

Long Way Round - Series following Ewan McGregor and a friend motorbiking around the world.

History

There is no need to read ahead. Having just completed your GCSE course we would like you to rediscover the joys of reading, or maybe for the first time learn to enjoy reading. What you may find helpful is to get a sense of the priorities and context of the time. You will be expected to read a lot for A Level, so developing a state of mind where you do not fear reading long passages is important.

We recommend reading historical fiction. This can help a great deal as it will give you not only information about the time but also a story you can enjoy. This will hopefully develop a good reading habit and maybe even a skill/pleasure for life. Here is a list of historical fiction, you don't have to read them all, just try picking a series (or individual book) and give them a crack.

Tudor England

- [This](#) is a historical fiction series about a hunchback lawyer/ detective living in the reign of Henry VIII. They are fun to read and get better with each book.
- [Wolf Hall series](#) is about Thomas Cromwell. It's a much harder book to read than *Shardlake*, but the detail and knowledge it contains is brilliant and fascinating. Good for the advanced reader.
- Philippa Gregory has written many different books set in and around the Tudor period. Here is an example, [this one's](#) about Henry VII.
- [Ken Follet' Kingsbridge Series](#), is **great history fiction and has some Tudor England**, (focused around Elizabeth I). These are my personal favourite of all time, the three books are called: **1- Pillars of the Earth, 2- World without End, 3- Column of Fire**. A great trilogy set over a number of centuries. Although the first two in the series do not apply directly to our courses, the third does. The books are brilliant reads, albeit big books.

Germany 1920-1945

- Again Ken Follett has written a brilliant series called the Century Trilogy. This series starts in 1900. It covers a number of families across the world, (Russia, USA, France, Germany and Britain). Their lives become entangled and their lives touch on the major events of the 20th Century, including Nazi Germany. The first book is 1900-1926 called **Fall of Giants**, the second 1933-1948 is called **Winter World** and the third 1961-1991 is called **Edge of Eternity**. You need to start with book 1 as you read about generations of the various families. [The books](#) are gripping and exciting, I cannot recommend them highly enough.
- The [Bookthief](#) is a wonderful yet moving story, made into a film recently. I don't want to say more it might ruin it for you.

Hopefully you will read one or two on this list and love them. If you can then it will make the history you learn about more fascinating for you.

Maths & Further Maths

There are some transition books available on [Amazon](#) that will help you not get too rusty with your Algebra and Number skills, something that is very important after such a long break.

Integral Website - integralmaths.org

Email Miss Conroy for a login

Complete the sections on Problem Solving, Surds and Indices, and Quadratic Functions

Do all the walkthroughs and section tests.

For those of you with access to [MyMaths](#), there are a couple of good exercises and worksheets to complete:

After logging on, on the left hand side navigate to A level -> Pure-> Algebra.

Any of the first nine worksheets are material that is bridging GCSE and A Level and very important that you practice.

Additional web resources

- The website brilliant.org contains some excellent mathematical and problem solving brain teasers that will help you when tackling the challenge of the A Level.
- The SUMAZE apps are available on Google Play and in the App Store. These are fun games with real mathematical problem solving and thinking behind them.

Any pupil looking to take maths in the Sixth Form needs to have a calculator with the minimum specification required by OFQUAL. We recommend the Casio Classwiz 991-EX calculator (white cover). Pupils should have a calculator **of this specification or higher** for when they start the course in September.

There is also a graphical calculator available, this is a more expensive option, and not required, but some pupils taking Further Maths may find it useful. The recommended version is the Casio fxCG-50.

Media Studies BTEC

The Creative Digital Media Production BTEC looks at the wide world of media. You should have an understanding of a range of media products before you start the course. You should create a simple log of what you watch/ read, making a note of the title, a summary of the contents, **how** it appeals to the audience and **why** the producer has made the decision to present the product in a certain way.

Make sure you read some **magazines**. These can be printed versions or online. Don't just look at a specialist area you are interested in, consider how magazines are constructed to appeal to a wide or 'niche' audience and how the online industry is taking over the magazine market.

Look carefully at **advertising**. This could be print, television or online advertising. See if you can look at an advertising campaign that spreads across these formats and how the adverts are adapted to appeal to different audiences who are accessing them via different media.

Watch **TV!** This is the best homework there is! Watch a variety of TV programmes including documentaries, entertainment programmes, news and special interest.

Spend some time watching **music videos**. There are lots of channels specialising in this, but you can see most things on YouTube. Don't just focus on one artist or genre, look at a number of different examples.

Look at a variety of **websites** - these could be for well known brands or blogs about a certain interest. Consider how they are appealing to their users.

Engage in **digital games**. You may not have a video game console but many games now have apps available for use on mobile devices. What have been the biggest franchises in digital games over the past five years. Do a little research into their appeal.

Bring your media log into school in September to discuss your initial explorations with your teacher.

You can find out more about the course [here](#).

Music

The A Level Music course leads directly on from the GCSE course, but has a wider range of set works, and, as might be expected, higher demands on composing and performing.

Listen

Listen to music. As much of it as you can, and in as many different styles as you can. Practice listening critically to music, just for a few minutes at a time, and think about how the composer has used the musical elements to shape the work.

Read

Music: A Very Short Introduction by Nicholas Cook

[This](#) offers a brief but thought provoking overview of the study of Music, why we study it, and how we should go about it.

Watch

Howard Goodall's *History of Music* and *Big Bangs* are both easy viewing, but give an excellent overview of the evolution of Western Music. They are all currently available through YouTube. Goodall's *How Music Works* series are also good, and again, are mostly available on YouTube.

Practice

The performance demands are high for A Level, so make sure that you are practicing your instrument or voice correctly. It is a bit early to be thinking about repertoire, but you should be ensuring that you are working on your technique and the overall musicality of your performances. Start listening carefully to famous performers on your instrument, and think about how they interpret the works that they perform.

General Knowledge

It will be helpful for you to have a secure overview of the traditional time periods of Western Music - Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th Century. It will also be helpful for you to have an overview of developments in Popular Music during the 20th Century.

Photography

Purchase a digital SLR camera. The recommended models are:

- Canon 1300D/2000D/4000D
- Nikon D3400/3500D

Earlier models of these cameras are also appropriate choices, as are more sophisticated SLRs from either of these manufacturers. Cameras without full manual control and interchangeable lenses are not appropriate.

Use the camera to make an initial portfolio of work (no editing required at this stage). The 'folio should be of at least ten images from different sources. You should be able to discuss briefly why you think each image is interesting.

Please also purchase and read *“Read this if You Want to Take Better Photographs”* by Henry Carroll. It will help you to create your portfolio and get a better start on the A Level course.

The range of locations available to you may be limited if we are still locked down this summer, but this should not stop you producing your folio. Locations either in, or near your home are perfectly acceptable. You just need to be creative in their presentation.

If you find yourself in need of inspiration, please do browse these photographic sites and familiarise yourself with current artistic practice:

Photographers, Journals and Blogs

[Eric Kim Photography](#)

[Fine Art Photography Awards](#)

[Florian Ruiz](#)

[f.d. Walker](#)

[Luminous-Lint](#)

[Famous Photographers](#)

[The Photo Argus](#)

[Widewalls](#)

[LensCulture Competition Winners](#)

[British Journal of Photography](#)

Galleries

[photography-now.com](#)

[Howard Greenberg Gallery](#)

[International Center of Photography \(ICP\)](#)

[Aperture Foundation](#)

[The Photographers' Gallery](#)

[Museum of Contemporary Photography](#)

Physics

Books

The publisher OUP has produced [a pack of resources](#) to help you bridge the gap between A Level and GCSE - it is well worth you attempting all the exercises as they are core skills you'll need next year! The pack is free and comes with the answers, you can download it from their website:

The book *Head Start for A Level Physics* will help keep your maths and physics skills up over the holiday, and teach you some new skills that'll give you the advantage next term:

- [Purchase from Amazon or the publisher directly](#) (CGP)
- Copies can be obtained before the end of term from the Physics department at cost price whilst stocks last

If English isn't your first language, or you find the language of science tricky, a book like the *Dictionary of Physics* can be helpful

- [Purchase from Amazon](#) - very little difference between versions

Online Resources

The material we'll cover builds on the GCSE work you've done, so spend a bit of time checking back over everything! If you did Combined Science, take the time to log back into [Kerboodle](#) and read the chapters you didn't cover - it'll be a big help! If you want to boost your knowledge of the maths skills, why not try some practice on [Isaac Physics](#) - log in with your Pangbourne Google account to save your progress, and click GCSE on the front page to start exploring

To get ahead, and expand on things you've not looked at at all yet, here are a few ideas:

- A tour of the Culham Fusion lab:
 - In 2D via [YouTube](#)
 - In [3D](#) (compatible device required)
- YouTube Channels
 - Several superb Physicists and institutions have curated YouTube channels that are worth exploring:
 - [The Perimeter Institute](#)
 - [Minute Physics](#)
 - [Veritasium](#)
 - [Physics Girl](#)
- [Future Learn](#)
 - Whilst you must pay for a certificate, you can study their courses for free. There are lots of courses available beyond just the Physics ones (have a look at their Engineering courses, preparing for University, Maths, Computing, Languages...)

Politics

Learn to enjoy reading

The politics course is a fascinating but content heavy course. It will be important that you are comfortable with reading. Below we have suggested possible books that have a political intrigue feel to them. They are fictional, and hopefully they will help you get used to reading and enjoy it at the same time. Your course centres around British and American Politics, so these books have elements of those two things in them.

English Politics

- An easy read is [Jeffrey Archer's *First Among Equals*](#), about becoming a UK Prime Minister. It's a real page turning, political thriller.
- For a harder read there is a trilogy, you don't have to read all three, called [The House of Cards \(Book 1\)](#), [To Play a King \(Book 2\)](#) and [The Final Cut \(Book 3\)](#) by Michael Dobbs all about the dodgy deals and intrigue of UK politics.

American Politics

- [Shall We Tell the President?](#) by Jeffrey Archer, [The Plan](#) by Kevin Chavous or [Deception](#) by Derrick Woodberry are thrillers involving Presidential politics.
- These two books: [Supreme Justice](#) by Max Allan Collins and [The Chamber](#) by John Grisham are all about court cases and the Supreme Court in the the USA.

Keep up with Current Affairs

Over the course of the new few months you should get used to reading the news. This means buying newspapers, but not the same one each time. Buy papers and compare their opposing views on key issues. For example, the Guardian will have a very different take on issues compared to the Daily Mail. Watch the news and watch Newsnight from time to time.

TV Shows for education and fun

You may recognise the name House of Cards in the book list. It was a book then a UK [TV series about English politics](#), adapted by Netflix and turned American. I would recommend the English version of this TV show.

If you want to get your fill of American political drama, the best show by far is [The West Wing](#); I can not recommend viewing this enough, even some of the text books reference this show.

For a bit of comedy, [Yes Minister](#) and [Yes, Prime Minister](#) are British classics.

Finally, to keep up with comedy and American current affairs there is [Last Week Tonight with John Oliver](#), (though I should warn you the programme can have some adult themes and humour and has a 15 certificate!)

Some practical tasks

There are some good practical tasks on [this document](#) that will prepare you well, with the exception of the course outline on this document, please ignore that.

Psychology

The best psychology students always benefit from reading around this subject and keeping up-to-date with current research and points of interest in the news. There are various platforms you can use to do this:

Podcasts

- [All In The Mind](#) (202 episodes on various topics in psychology)
- [BBC Mind Changers](#)

Documentaries/TV

- [Stacey Dooley - On the Psych Ward](#)
- Louis Theroux (many titles)
- Netflix - Three Identical Strangers
- [What makes a murderer?](#)

Reading

- [Psychology Review](#) (Includes a number of podcasts and quizzes)
- *The Lucifer Effect* - Zimbardo
- *Opening Skinner's Box* - Lauren Slater
- *The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat* - Oliver Sacks
- *Welcome to Your Brain* - Sarah Aamodt & Sam Wang
- *The Boy who Couldn't Stop Washing* - Judith Rapoport

Fiction

- *We Need to Talk About Kevin* - Lionel Schriver
- *Before I Go To Sleep* - S.J. Watson

Films

- Shutter Island - Psychopathology
- 50 First Dates - Memory
- The Experiment - Zimbardo's study
- A Beautiful Mind - Schizophrenia
- As Good as it Gets - OCD
- The Breakfast Club - Abnormality, Conformity
- Girl Interrupted - Abnormality
- The Quiet Room - Attachment

Websites

- [Research Digest](#) (Research from The British Psychological Society)
- www.simplypsychology.org
- www.getrevising.co.uk
- www.s-cool.co.uk
- TEDtalks

Physical Education A Level

- Watch, read and listen to sport in the news and media. Using the BBC Sport app is a great way of staying up to date with the latest sports related news and headlines.
- Watch some of your favourite sports people performing and ask yourself the questions: What makes them great? Consider it from psychological, physiological, and socio-cultural perspectives.
- Visit the [PE Website](#) and read the specification.
- Get to grips with remembering the major bones, muscles, and cardio-vascular system in the human body by completing this summer [work booklet](#).
- The following clips from YouTube will help you.
 - [This](#) has a helpful clip on the knee joint. It contains more detail than required but is also very useful for injuries.
 - [The](#) start of this clip has a good introduction to the elbow joint. The detail goes beyond what is required in places but is a useful overview.
 - [This](#) includes detail on the hip joint. Use the specification as a guide for content
 - [The stretch-shortening cycle](#)



Sport BTEC

- Watch, read and listen to sport in the news and media. Using the BBC Sport app is a great way of staying up to date with the latest sports related news and headlines.
- Watch some of your favourite sports people performing and ask yourself the questions: What makes them great? Consider it from psychological, physiological, and socio-cultural perspectives.
- Read through the [specification](#) - Unit 1 starts on page 19, read through this and highlight what you already have an understanding of from GCSE PE.
- Visit the [PE website](#) and read through some of the unit content.
- Get to grips with remembering the major bones, muscles, and cardio-vascular system in the human body by completing this summer [work booklet](#).



Religious Studies

Read the news, everyday. Carry out some background reading on both Christianity and Islam ([BBC religions](#) website gives a good summary). Watch documentaries and have discussions and debates with friends and family about what you learn.

Ethics

Watch the following short clips on the ethical theories we will be applying. Watch through once, then watch through again pausing to reflect and note down your response. Don't worry if you do not understand it all - even if you take one piece of new information or form a perspective on the theory then it is worthwhile:

[Utilitarianism](#)

[Virtue Ethics](#)

[Natural Moral Law](#)

Islam

Watch this clip that gives an [introduction to Islam](#).

New Testament

Get to know John's Gospel well. There are a number of set texts from chapters 1, 2, 5-6, 9-11 and 18-20. You don't need to know them from memory, but you need a good recall of what's going on in the stories. If you don't have a Bible, use [this link](#).

Read any/all of the other Gospels

Read *Jesus: A Very Short Introduction* by Richard Bauckham (Oxford University Press) - short, designed for general reading not specialists, fills in lots of the background.

Watch any of the [Bible Project videos](#) on YouTube. Start with New Testament or Biblical Themes playlists.