



Year 10 Academic Book List 2025/26



CORE	
Subject	Book
English	One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus
Pay close attention and you might solve this. On Monday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention. Bronwyn, Addy, Nate, Cooper, and Simon. Before the end of detention, Simon's dead. And according to investigators, his death wasn't an accident. We have picked this book as a good example of the 'Whodunnit' mystery, a genre which is excellently subverted by Priestley in 'An Inspector Calls' - the very play you will be studying in Year 10 English.	
Science	The Disappearing Spoon by Sam Kean
The periodic table is a crowning scientific achievement, but it's also a treasure trove of adventure, greed, betrayal, and obsession. The fascinating tales in The Disappearing Spoon follow elements on the table as they play out their parts in human history, finance, mythology, conflict, the arts, medicine, and the lives of the scientists who discovered them. We chose this book as it is an essential read for any student with a passion for science, in particular chemistry and physics.	
Maths	The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets by Simon Singh
You may have watched hundreds of episodes of <i>The Simpsons</i> (and its sister show <i>Futurama</i>) without ever realising that they contain enough maths to form an entire university course. In <i>The Simpsons and Their Mathematical Secrets</i> , Simon Singh explains how the brilliant writers, some of the mathematicians, have smuggled in mathematical jokes throughout the cartoon's twenty-five year history, exploring everything from to Mersenne primes, from Euler's equation to the unsolved riddle of P vs. NP, from perfect numbers to narcissistic numbers, and much more.	
OPTIONS	
Art & Design	50 Artists You Should Know: From Giotto to Warhol by Thomas Koster
This vibrant reference guide profiles 50 major artists alongside their representative works. Arranged chronologically, the selection of artists includes every major artistic movement and development since the Gothic period, giving readers a clear understanding of the evolution of the visual arts. Perfect for casual reading or easy reference, this accessible overview is a fun and practical art history lesson that everyone can enjoy.	
Business	Side Hustle in Progress: A Practical Guide to Kickstarting Your Business by Elizabeth Ogabi
It's time to make your ideas a reality. Because if not now, when? Packed full of inspiration, no-nonsense advice, and fresh ideas to help you feel empowered and excited about your future business idea. It also includes case studies from female founders across a range of industries who have built their own businesses and thrived, including Emma Gannon, Fisayo Longe, Jamie Schmidt, Tania Boler and Victoria Prew.	
Computing	Every Line of You by Naomi Gibson
In the face of overwhelming grief and bullying, tech-savvy Lydia pours all of herself into creating the perfect AI, the perfect boyfriend-but will Henry turn out to be perfect, or a creation of her cruellest self? This twisty, dystopian AI thriller explores love, grief, and relationship power games as one girl's lonely project becomes so much more.	
Drama	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime (The Play) by Mark Haddon adapted for stage by Simon Stephens
Fifteen-year-old math whiz Christopher Boone lives with his divorced dad in Swinton, a working-class town west of London. After being falsely accused of killing a neighbor's dog, Christopher—who is brilliant but has difficulty dealing with the sounds and stresses of everyday life—decides to investigate the crime.	
Spanish / French	With the Fire on High by Elizabeth Acevedo / The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick
With her daughter to care for and her abuela to help support, high school senior Emoni Santiago has to make the tough decisions, and do what must be done. The one place she can let her responsibilities go is in the kitchen, where she adds a little something magical to everything she cooks, turning her food into straight-up goodness. / Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric, bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy. A cryptic drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man, and a hidden message from Hugo's dead father form the backbone of this intricate, tender, and spellbinding mystery.	
Geography	How To Change Everything by Naomi Klein
The first book for younger readers by internationally bestselling social activist Naomi Klein: the most authoritative and inspiring book on climate change for young people yet. <i>Warning seas. Superstorms. Fires in the Amazon. The effects of climate change are all around us. Reforestation. School-strikes for climate change. Young people are saving the world and you can join them because you deserve better. Are you ready to change everything?</i>	
History	All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
Deftly interweaving the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner, Doerr illuminates the ways, against all odds, people try to be good to one another. We chose this book as it's a fantastic tale of two vastly different children whose lives are uprooted because of Hitler's desire to conquer Europe and are set on a collision course. It's an incredibly beautiful story and hard to not get attached to the characters as they navigate the harsh realities of Nazi rule. Through this book you will learn how and why the Hitler Youth became so desirable for young boys and the propaganda used to manipulate their thoughts and actions.	
Music	House of Music: Raising the Kanneh-Masons by Kadiatu Kanneh
This book is a beautiful and heartrending memoir of the power of determination, camaraderie, and a lot of hard work. It is a real-life story based on the amazing life of a mum who raises 7 classical musicians. Her second child is the famous cellist Shaku, who recently claimed fame in 2018 playing at the wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Sussex. This is a great read that tells the truth about the commitments, hard work, and emotion that goes into learning how to play an instrument both for the musician and the rest of the family.	
Media	The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
One night, Starr and her childhood friend Khalil get pulled over by police. They end up shooting and killing Khalil after mistaking the boy's hairbrush for a gun. Starr is the only witness and must decide whether to use her voice to try and fight for justice. In showing how the media reacts to Khalil's death, T.H.U.G. teaches a valuable lesson on bias and stereotyping in modern journalism. This book has been chosen as it provides meaningful insight into racial discrimination within the media industry. It also highlights prominent issues of representation, such as dangerous stereotypes.	
P.E	After the Shot Drops by Randy Ribay
This dual POV story tells a story of race, privilege, and class issues. When Nasir's best friend Bunny accepts an athletic scholarship across town, Nasir feels betrayed, and even worse - confused, at why Bunny's blossoming basketball career garners more community support than the issue of his cousin Wallace's impending conviction. Nasir struggles to figure out how to help while Bunny tries to fit in with his new, privileged peers. While sports betting is what got Wallace in the hole, it's also what he thinks will get him out. So, he makes a bet against Bunny. And Nasir is faced with an impossible decision—maybe even a dangerous one.	
Beliefs & Values	A Snake Falls to Earth by Darcie Little Badger
Darcie Little Badger draws on traditional Lipan Apache storytelling structure to weave another unforgettable tale of monsters, magic, and family. It is not to be missed. Nina is a Lipan girl in our world. She's always felt there was something more out there. She still believes in the old stories. Oli is a cottonmouth kid, from the land of spirits and monsters. Like all cottonmouths, he's been cast from home. He's found a new one on the banks of the bottomless lake. Nina and Oli have no idea the other exists. But a catastrophic event on Earth, and a strange sickness that befalls Oli's best friend, will drive their worlds together in ways they haven't been in centuries. And there are some who will kill to keep them apart.	
Religious Studies	A little history of Religion by Richard Holloway
A rich and inclusive history of belief, from humanity's earliest days to our own times. Religion is distinctly human. We can't help wondering about where we come from and why we are here. Did some all-powerful being make the universe? When we die, is there anything else to come? And what will it be like? Questions like these have occupied human minds across the ages. In our search for answers, we have come up with different stories.	
Health and Social Care	The Sad Ghost Club Volume 1 by Lize Meddings
Ever felt anxious or alone? Like you don't belong anywhere? Like you're almost... invisible? Find your kindred spirits at The Sad Ghost Club. This is the story of one of those days - a day so bad you can barely get out of bed, when it's a struggle to leave the house, and when you do, you wish you hadn't. But even the worst of days can surprise you. When one sad ghost, lost and alone at a crowded party, spies another sad ghost across the room, they decide to leave together. What happens next changes everything. Because that night they start the Sad Ghost Club - a secret society for the anxious and alone, a club for people who think they don't belong.	
Design & Technology	Airframe by Michael Crichton
The plot follows Casey Singleton, a quality assurance vice president at the fictional aerospace manufacturer Norton Aircraft, as she investigates an in-flight accident aboard a Norton-manufactured airliner that leaves three passengers dead and 56 injured.	
Engineering	The Time Machine by H. G. Wells
A post-apocalyptic science fiction novella published in 1895. The work is credited with the popularization of the concept of time travel by using a vehicle or device to travel purposely and selectively forward or backward through time. The term "time machine", coined by Wells, is now universally used to refer to such a vehicle or device.	
Hospitality & Catering	The Complete Guide to Practical Self-Sufficiency by Richard Strawbridge
Introducing Practical Self-Sufficiency, your new go-to survival guide offering step-by-step instructions on all things' environment-friendly, jam-packed with tips and tricks for off-grid living to anyone looking to embrace a life of sustainability. So, what are you waiting for?	