

Laurus Ryecroft's Y9 Academic Book List

Humanities		
Subject	Book	Form ✓
English	How to Stop Time – Matt Haig	
Tom Hazard has a dangerous secret. He may look like an ordinary 41-year-old, but owing to a rare condition, he's been alive for centuries. In this novel, you'll encounter Shakespeare, who you have studied in every year group, and witchcraft, which you'll study during Macbeth this year.		
Spanish	Marina – Carlos Ruiz Zafón	
Here is a novel which has long been a cult classic in Spain and is now an international bestseller. <i>Marina</i> tells the story of fifteen-year-old Oscar, a lonely boy who lives at a boarding school in Barcelona, Spain, in the late 1970's. Your Spanish department thoroughly recommend that you read this novel for its enchanting Gothic plot which will transport and guide you through the streets of Barcelona – a city masked with intriguing history, romance and love.		
Geography	Blood Brothers – Willy Russell	
The story is a contemporary nature versus nurture plot, revolving around fraternal twins Mickey and Eddie, who were separated at birth, one subsequently being raised in a wealthy family, the other in a poor family. This play links to your geography studies this year as you'll be looking at and exploring the reasons why some people live in poverty. This play is a really beneficial read – it has also been recommended for Y9 by your Performing Arts department.		
History	The Ruby in the Smoke - Philip Pullman	
In Victorian England, a young woman searches for a priceless ruby and uncovers even greater mysteries. This novel is the perfect accompaniment to History this year as you'll be covering both the 19 th century and the topic of feminism. The feisty female protagonist in this novel demonstrates math skills and the business acumen you'll need for your studies in Maths and Computing!		
Beliefs and Values	In the Sea There are Crocodiles – Fabio Geda	
The story of a ten-year-old Afghan boy who escapes from Afghanistan and makes his way through Iran, Turkey and Greece and eventually to Italy. It's a frank, revealing and clear-eyed testament of the experiences faced by a young asylum-seeker in the contemporary world. This is an incredibly story which you can use in preparation for beliefs and values' unit looking at religious conflict and questioning the idea that 'it will never happen to us.'		
STEM		
Subject	Book	Form ✓
Maths	The Number Mysteries: A Mathematical Odyssey through Everyday Life - Marcus du Sautoy	
An interesting read about how we can apply Mathematics to everyday situations. In each chapter there is a journey through a big mathematical theme, and at the end of the chapter a mathematical "mystery" is revealed.		
Computing	SLAY – Brittney Morris	
A novel that follows a fierce teen game developer as she battles a real-life troll intent on ruining the Black Panther-inspired video game she created and the safe community it represents for Black gamers. No one knows Kiera is the game developer, not her friends, her family, not even her boyfriend, Malcolm, who believes video games are partially responsible for the “downfall of the Black man.”		
Science	Lightning Mary – Anthea Simmons	
The true story of Mary Anning, a Victorian palaeontologist whose discoveries of the ichthyosaur contributed to changes in scientific thinking about the history of the earth. Simmons shows us the challenges of class, poverty and the expectations of women that Mary was subject to, but also how her passion, hard work and stubbornness helped her transcend those considerable restrictions.		
F&N	The Surprising Power of a Good Dumpling – Wai Chim	
Anna Chiu has her hands full looking after her siblings and helping out at her dad's restaurant, all while her mum stays in bed. Dad's new delivery boy, Rory, is a welcome distraction and even though she knows that things aren't right at home, she's starting to feel like she could just be a normal teen.		
Arts		
Subject	Book	Form ✓
PA	Echo After Echo - Amy Rose Capetta	
Debuting on the New York stage, Zara is unprepared—for Eli, the girl who makes the world glow; for Leopold, the director who wants perfection; and for death in the theatre. This engaging novel has an important LGBTQ+ focus which you'll have studied before in Y7 Beliefs and Values. Understanding the Greek Tragedy of Echo and Ariston – which is the main play in this novel - will expand on your reading for English this year!		
Creative Design	I Know an Artist: The inspiring connections between the world's greatest artists – Susie Hodge, Sarah Papworth	
Susie Hodge exposes the fascinating web of connections that have fostered some of the world's art masterpieces. Some are well-known, whereas others span both time and place, linking pioneers in art in fascinating and unexpected ways. Your art department has chosen this book as a perfect introduction for tentative Year 9 Art students and a source of new and surprising stories for existing art lovers.		
Music	The Children of Willesden Lane - Lee Cohen and Mona Golabek	
Mona Golabek describes the inspirational story of Jewish musical prodigy, Lisa Jura, and her escape from Nazi-controlled Austria to England on the famed Kindertransport. This novel is an especially important read for your studies this year as you'll be looking at the Kindertransport play in English and World War Two in History.		
P.E	Kicking Off! – Eve Ainsworth	
It's 1917 and Britain is at war. Shy teenager Hettie wants to help the war effort, and signs up to work in the local Dick, Kerr & Co. munitions factory. For, inside this factory are young women who are about to make sporting history.		