

CHHS Academic Reading List: KS4

The books on this list have been recommended by departments to complement the curriculum offer in each subject. They're a mixture of fiction and non-fiction, reference and stories. All of these texts are designed to inspire and enthuse, and support you in broadening your reading horizons.

Core	
Subject	Book
English Literature	One of us is lying - Karen McManus
Five students go to detention. Only four leave alive. 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'll be studying in Year 10 English Literature.	
English Language	My Sister, the Serial Killer - Oyinkan Braithwaite
When Korede receives a call from her sister Ayoola she knows what to do. The same thing as the previous two times. She collects her cleaning things, drives to meet her and proceeds to get rid of the body of her sister's boyfriend, who Ayoola has just dispatched in 'self-defence'. A sharply written, vibrant debut novel.	
Maths	The Code Book - Simon Singh
Codes have influenced events throughout history, both in the stories of those who make them and those who break them. The betrayal of Mary Queen of Scots and the cracking of the Enigma code that helped the Allies in World War II are major episodes in a continuing history of cryptography. Learn the code behind the unravelling of genes and the rediscovery of ancient languages and most tantalisingly, the Beale ciphers, an unbroken code that could hold the key to a \$20 million treasure.	
Biology	Biology: the whole story- Lyndsey Turnball
From the origins of life to the structure of modern ecosystems, this beautifully illustrated and full-colour book follows the story of life on Earth, stopping along the way to relate how key developments have influenced events in history. It is indispensable both for students of biology and anyone curious about how life works.	
Chemistry	Disappearing Spoon – Sam Kean
This book features fascinating tales which follow the elements on the table as they play out their parts in human history, finance, mythology, conflict, the arts, medicine, and the lives of the (frequently) mad scientists who discovered them. It's an essential read for any student with a passion for chemistry.	
Physics	How to Teach Quantum Physics to Your Dog – Chad Orzel
Emmy is no ordinary dog. When adopted from the shelter by a physics professor, she becomes immediately fascinated by his work. Could she use quantum tunnelling to get through the neighbour's fence? How about diffracting round a tree to chase squirrels? Taking Emmy's anarchic behaviour as a starting point, the book explains key theories of quantum physics. From quarks and gluons to Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, this is a uniquely entertaining way to unlock the secrets of the universe.	
Options	
Subject	Book
Geography	Prisoners of Geography - Tim Marshall
All leaders are constrained by geography. Their choices are limited by mountains, rivers, seas and concrete. In order to follow world events, you need to understand people, ideas and movements - but if you don't know geography, you'll never have the full picture. If you enjoy reading this book, Marshall's follow up 'The Power of Geography' explores 10 regions that are set to shape global politics in the future.	
History	The Book Thief - Markus Zusak
HERE IS A SMALL FACT - YOU ARE GOING TO DIE 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier. Liesel, a nine-year-old girl, is living with a foster family on Himmel Street. Her parents have been taken away to a concentration camp. Liesel steals books. This is her story and the story of the inhabitants of her street when the bombs begin to fall.	
RE/B+V	Don't Touch My Hair - Emma Dabiri
This book is about why black hair matters and how it can be viewed as a blueprint for decolonisation. Over a series of wry, informed essays, Emma Dabiri takes us from pre-colonial Africa, through the Harlem Renaissance, Black Power and on to today's Natural Hair Movement, the Cultural Appropriation Wars and beyond.	
French	Le Petit Nicolas - René Goscinny

Originally a comic strip, published in the 1950s, the story of these naughty school boys has charmed readers ever since. Irreverent and funny, these books are available in translation but you should read them in French to enjoy the richness and humour of the language.	
Spanish	La Sombra del Viento - Carlos Ruiz Zafon
Hidden in the heart of the old city of Barcelona is the 'Cemetery of Lost Books', a labyrinthine library of obscure and forgotten titles that have long gone out of print. To this library, a man brings his 10-year-old son Daniel one cold morning in 1945. Daniel is allowed to choose one book from the shelves and pulls out 'The Shadow of the Wind' by Julian Carax. Hugely popular in translation, read in Spanish to challenge and enrich yourself.	
German	Die Unendliche Geschichte – Michael Ende
Better known as a whimsical 80s movie with one of the most heart-breaking scenes in cinema (Atreyu!), the story of Bastian was originally a novel written in German. You could watch the film, you could read it in English but try it in German and visit Phantásien, dem Reich der Phantasie to experience a fairy tale that will never leave you.	
Computing	Outnumbered: From Facebook and Google to fake news and filter-bubbles – the algorithms that control our lives - David Sumpter
Our increasing reliance on technology and the internet has opened a window for mathematicians and data researchers to gaze through into our lives. Using the data they are constantly collecting about where we travel, where we shop, what we buy and what interests us, they can begin to predict our daily habits. But how reliable is this data? Without understanding what mathematics can and can't do, it is impossible to get a handle on how it is changing our lives.	
Technology	Invention: A life - James Dyson
Designer, innovator, businessman, artist. Dyson reveals how he came to set up his own company and led it to become one of the most inventive technology companies in the world. Dyson has always looked to the future, even setting up his own university to help provide the next generation of engineers and designers and in the process revolutionised the humble hair-dryer.	
Media	Kissing Emma - Shappi Khorsandi
Emma and her mother are down on their luck. They're taking turns sleeping on the sofa in her nan's tiny flat - and desperately trying to come up with an escape plan. Emma is struggling with her family, struggling at school where the girls are bitchy towards her and the boys only seem to want one thing, and struggling with never having enough money for anything. A modern story inspired by the real life of Emma Hamilton, Lord Nelson's mistress. For further reading, explore <i>Influential - Amara Sage</i>	
Health and Social Care	Elizabeth is Missing – Emma Healey
Exploring the sadness and beauty of caring about and caring for someone with dementia. This book is hugely important for anyone with elderly relatives to help gain understanding and empathy for this cruel disease. If you haven't already, you would also benefit from reading <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time – Mark Haddon</i>	
Art and Photography	Playing to the gallery: Helping contemporary Art in its struggle to be Understood - Grayson Perry
Now Grayson Perry is a fully paid-up member of the art establishment, he wants to show that any of us can appreciate art. Based on his hugely popular BBC Radio 4 shows, this funny, personal journey through the art world answers the basic questions that might occur to us in an art gallery but seem too embarrassing to ask.	
Drama	Chaos - Laura Lomas
A girl is locked in a room. A boy brings another boy flowers. A girl worries about impending catastrophe. A woman jumps in front of a train. A butterfly has a broken wing. This modern play, Chaos, is a symphony of dislocated and interconnected scenes. A series of characters search for meaning in a complicated and unstable world. Bouncing through physics, the cosmos, love and violence, they find order in the disorder of each other.	
Music	50 Rappers Who Changed the World - Candace McDuffie
The contents pages for this book would make the greatest rap compilation in the world. Whilst rap is pretty mainstream today, it was born centuries ago in West Africa, telling stories of the past over the beat of a drum. But it wasn't until the 1970s in New York when rap as we recognise it today began to flourish.	
PE	You are A Champion - Marcus Rashford
This inspirational book offers really down to earth advice and encouragement for young people and includes stories from his own life, guidance and top tips for achieving your full potential.	
Social Sciences	
Subject	Book

Economics	Poor Economics: The Surprising Truth about Life on Less Than \$1 a Day - Abhijit V. Banerjee and Esther Duflo
Looking at some of the most paradoxical aspects of life below the poverty line - why the poor need to borrow in order to save or why incentives that seem effective to us may not be for them- Banerjee and Duflo offer a new understanding of the surprising way the world really works.	
Law	Law for Beginners - Hall Rose
An entertaining and thought-provoking guide to what laws are, who makes them and how people enforce them. It covers crime and punishment as well as social and citizenship issues such as politics and international law.	
Psychology	Nature via Nurture: Genes, Experience and What Makes Us Human
The book discusses extraordinary new discoveries about our genes to discuss the roots of human behaviour - are we governed by nature or nurture?	