

HGHS Y8 Academic Book List

Humanities		
Subject	Book	Fc
English	The Boy at the Back of the Class - Onjali Q. Raúf	
This is the story about how one ordinary nine-year-old child and three classmates are full of empathy for Ahmet, a boy that comes to their school as a refugee from Syria. It's an especially important story to hear before you look at the experiences of refugees in the English poetry scheme at the end of the year.		
Spanish	Cemetery Boys - Aiden Thomas	
When his traditional Latinx family has problems accepting his gender, Yadriel becomes determined to prove himself a real brujo. With the help of his cousin and best friend Maritza, he performs the ritual himself, and then sets out to find the ghost of his murdered cousin and set it free. This novel is written in English but unapologetically and authentically uses Spanish, too.		
Geography	Where the World Turns Wild – Nicola Penfold	
Juniper Greene lives in a walled city, a sterile existence in a city cut off from the natural world. While most people seem content to live in their cage, she and her little brother Bear have always known about their resistance to the disease and dream of escaping into the wild. This thriller and thought-provoking ecological adventure will also engage your thinking about the science curriculum through its topics of pathogens and disease.		
History	A Skinful of Shadows - Frances Hardinge	
Please note that this is a more challenging read. A young girl at the time of the English civil war - a period of significant social change which we cover in History this year - fears possession by a ghost or death. Discovering that her relatives keep her alive purely as a spare vessel for their spirits, she flees to Oxford and becomes entangled in the conflict of the war herself.		
B&V	The Night Bus Hero – Onjali Q. Raúf	
In this lively, entertaining read, an unsettling encounter with a homeless man sets school bully Hector on the trail of robbers. The major themes of this book include the importance of friendship and kindness, with a celebration of the fact people can change. We have chosen this book for its great lessons on behaviour and relative morality, ideas which will be useful for you to have explored in preparation for Summer term B&V.		
STEM		
Subject	Book	Fc
Maths	Counting by 7s – Holly Goldberg Sloan	
Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7. This is a great cross-curricular read as Willow's perceptions of people, her interaction and her routines, are driven by her extreme intelligence and enthusiasms for particular things, like maths, food, hygiene and the environment. It sets her apart and she likes it that way. Our librarian thinks this is an especially great read for fans of <i>Wonder</i> by R. J. Palacio.		
Computing	I, Ada – Julia Gray	
This is the story of Ada Lovelace - the world's first computer programmer - as she grows up with a strict mother and an absent but famous father. This story is steeped in history and has great links to the Feminism scheme of work which you'll look at in History next year, in year 9. We especially love Ada's characteristics and voice – it's a wonderfully witty and poignant portrayal of her young life.		
Science	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 physics this year.		
Food and Nutrition	Toast – Nigel Slater	
One of Britain's most well-known cooks describes his personal culinary odyssey in this novel, which suggests that what people have eaten and cooked is in many ways an autobiography. From toast to pickled walnuts, this novel will definitely have you feeling creatively charged in the kitchen!		
Arts		
Subject	Book	Fc
Performing Arts	Hag-Seed – Margaret Atwood	
Hag-Seed tells the story of Felix, a theatre director who begins teaching Shakespeare at a prison and plots his revenge against the men who betrayed him while staging a production of <i>The Tempest</i> . We've chosen this book as it is the most engaging contemporary retelling of the Shakespeare play you'll explore in English this year.		
Creative Design	The Art of Heikala: Works and Thoughts - Heikala	

Finnish artist Heikala's artwork combines traditional watercolour painting and inks with a fresh, enchanting approach. This book features a useful information on Heikala's thought processes and advice on how to build a successful career as an artist.

Music	The Kingdom of Back - Marie Lu	
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The historical fantasy novel tells the lesser-known story of Maria Anna (Nannerl) Mozart, the older sister of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. In a thrilling read, you'll discover to what dangerous lengths Nannerl will go to to make history remember her - a girl who can't even compose.

P.E	The Crossover - Kwame Alexander	
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As you'll play basketball this year, we recommend that you read this novel. The main characters, Josh and JB, are basketball legends at the school. They also happen to be identical twins (but it's easy to tell them apart if you know how to look). As the boys build up to one of the important matches of their lives, tensions grow between them and things at home and at school also add to the pressure. The only time they truly themselves is on the court. Although it reads like a novel, the twins' story is told through poetry in many different forms from musical haiku and free verse.

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