

## SOME READING SUGGESTIONS FOR SIXTH FORM STUDENTS

The reading list is designed to give students a rich and varied choice of novels and authors from the nineteenth century to the present day which, it is hoped, will stimulate their interest outside their area of curriculum study and hence broaden their education in the widest sense.

Literacy is important and students need to develop comprehension skills. This is not simply an English text list as it supports Maths, Science, Economics, Business, Media, History, Politics, Philosophy, Psychology, PE and Drama.

Most of the books listed are available in the public libraries and many of them are available in inexpensive paperback editions. Some are also available, on loan, from the Sixth Form Office and the LRC.

### FICTION from 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries:

Achebe Chinua	<i>Things fall Apart</i>
Angelou, Maya	<i>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</i>
Austen, Jane	<i>Pride and Prejudice; Emma</i>
Attwood, Margaret	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>
Bronte, Charlotte	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
Bronte, Emily	<i>Wuthering Heights</i>
Capote, Alexander	<i>Breakfast at Tiffany's</i>
Dickens, Charles	<i>David Copperfield</i>
Du Maurier, Daphne	<i>Rebecca</i>
Forster, E M	<i>A Passage to India; Howard's End</i>
Gaiman, Neil	<i>Stardust</i>
Goldman, William	<i>The Princess Bride</i>
Golding, William	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>
Hardy, Thomas	<i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Return of the Native</i>
Heller, Joseph	<i>Catch 22</i>
King, Stephen	<i>The Stand</i>
Lee, Harper	<i>To Kill a Mocking Bird</i>
Orwell, George	<i>1984</i>
Hardy, Thomas	<i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Return of the Native</i>
Huxley, Aldous	<i>Brave New World</i>
Salinger, JD	<i>Catcher in the Rye</i>
Sartre, Jean-Paul	<i>The Age of Reason</i>
Shelley, Mary	<i>Frankenstein</i>
Solzhenitsyn, Alexander	<i>A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch</i>
Steinbeck, John	<i>Of Mice and Men</i>
Stoker, Bram	<i>Dracula</i>
Tartt, Donna	<i>The Secret History</i>
Vonnegut, Kurt	<i>Slaughterhouse Five</i>

## MODERN FICTION:

### BROOKMYRE, CHRISTOPHER – *Pandaemonium*

Warning: this book contains demons, a top secret military installation, a ruthless Vatican official, quantum physics, students on a bonding weekend, rock music, ray guns and a lot of blood.

### COE, JONATHAN - *The Rotters' Club*

Following the fortunes of a group of grammar school boys and their families in the 1970's, this best-selling book is by turns tragic and comic, thoughtful and rowdy. Set during a turbulent period in recent British history, it features a terrorist attack, punk rock, first love, Blue Nun, detention, industrial unrest and divine intervention in the form of a pair of swimming trunks.

### MANTEL, HILARY - *Wolf Hall*

In the first volume of her outstanding fictionalized life of Thomas Cromwell, Hilary Mantel brings vividly to life the politics, intrigues, alliances and betrayals of Henry VIII's court. At the same time she explores the personal psychology and motivation of one of the most significant figures of the period.

*Continued in **Bring up the Bodies***

### MURRAY, PAUL - *Skippy Dies*

At the exclusive Seabrook College for Boys, Daniel "Skippy" Juster and his friends pursue their many interests - eating doughnuts, searching for extra-terrestrial life, discussing girls – in a spirit of camaraderie. So why does Skippy die, in the middle of a doughnut eating contest with his best friend Ruprecht? This is a fast-moving, no holds-barred picture of modern school life, which was shortlisted for the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for Comic Fiction and for the Costa Novel Award.

### SHRIVER, LIONEL - *We Need to Talk about Kevin*

The story unfolds in a series of letters from Kevin's mother to his father, in which she looks back at Kevin's life from birth until his detention in a secure teenage unit. We soon learn what acts have brought about his imprisonment, but the book's interest comes from the exploration of possible causes for Kevin's dysfunction: is it nature or nurture?

## NON-FICTION:

### ANDERSON, BENEDICT - *Imagined Communities*

First published in 1983, but now substantially revised, this book explores a key question: what makes people live and die, hate and kill, in the name of a nation? It looks at the concept of nationality, and its global development through time.

### ARIELY, DAN - *Predictably Irrational: the Hidden Forces that Shape Our Decisions*

How rational are the choices we make every day? What prompts us to choose one

product, service or action over others? Are we in control of the decisions we make? Based on original research into behavioural economics, this fascinating book explains the influences on our decision-making and how to change to more logical thought patterns.

**BRANSON, RICHARD - *Losing My Virginity: The Autobiography***

In this autobiography of the iconic entrepreneur discover how he is committed to building a better world through responsible, holistic business practices and ventures such as the Virgin Health Bank, Virgin Fuels and Virgin Unite. You'll also learn about plans for the new era of commercial space travel with Virgin Galactic.

**BUERK, MICHAEL - *The Road Taken***

In the course of his long journalistic career, Michael Buerk has reported on famine, conflict and political upheaval from around the world. He has won many awards and is probably most famous for his report on the Ethiopian famine in 1984, a film which inspired the organizers of Live Aid. In this autobiography, he talks about his professional and private life with great honesty

**HARFORD, TIM – *The Undercover Economist***

Who makes most money from the demand for cappuccinos early in the morning at Waterloo Station? Why is it impossible to get a foot on the property ladder? How does the Mafia make money from laundries when street gangs pushing drugs don't? Who really benefits from immigration? How can China, in just fifty years, go from the world's worst famine to one of the greatest economic revolutions of all time, lifting a million people out of poverty a month? Tim Harford reveals the games of signals and negotiations, contests of strength and battles of wit that drive not only the economy at large but the everyday choices we make.

**HOLMES, KELLY - *Black, White & Gold - My Autobiography***

Kelly Holmes made history when she brought home double gold in the 2004 Olympics, becoming a national hero. She won Sports Personality of the Year, was given a Damehood, fully backed London's successful 2012 Olympic bid and became a superstar on the red carpet as well as a much acclaimed and consulted professional in the sporting world

**HOY, CHRIS - *Chris Hoy : The Autobiography***

As the first Briton to win three Olympic golds at the same Games since 1908, Scotland's Chris Hoy has become a beacon for British sporting achievement. His book charts his life from seven-year-old BMX fanatic, supported by a devoted dad and local cycling club, through paralysing self-doubt and a major career overhaul, to the sport's Holy Grail

**KEENAN, BRIAN - *An Evil Cradling***

In 1986 Brian Keenan was kidnapped in Beirut and held prisoner for four and a half years. His honest and emotional autobiography gives a vivid insight into the psychological effects of being a hostage, and an uplifting portrait of the deep and supportive friendship between him and John McCarthy.

MACCHIAVELLI, NICCOLO - ***The Prince***

Written 500 years ago, Machiavelli's study of politics and statecraft still resonates today. His name, of course, has passed into our language as a synonym for a political schemer, but his philosophy goes far deeper than that

MEZRICH, BEN - ***21: Bringing Down the House: How Six Students Took Vegas for Millions***

Real-life all too rarely offers stories that are quite as satisfying as fiction. *Bringing Down the House* is one of the exceptions. Cheating in casinos is illegal; card-counting - making a record of what cards have so far been dealt to enable the player to make some prediction of what cards remain in the deck - is not. But casinos understandably dislike the practice and make every effort to keep card-counters out of their premises.

*Bringing Down the House* tells the true story of the most successful scam ever, in which teams of brilliant young mathematicians and physicists won millions of dollars from the casinos of Las Vegas, being drawn in the process into the high-life of drugs, high-spending and sex. *Bringing Down the House* is as readable and as fascinating as *Liar's Poker* or *Barbarians At the Gate*, an insight into a closed, excessive and utterly corrupt world.

SANDEL, MICHAEL J - ***Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?***

Is killing sometimes morally required? Is discrimination ever justified? Should we atone for the wrongdoing of our ancestors? Professor Michael Sandel explores the work of moral philosophers through the ages, and how we can use it to guide our thinking about today's dilemmas. It's more than just a book; there is an accompanying website which has lectures, discussions and further readings, together making up an entire online course. Read, listen, think and learn to make sense of some big questions.

STEWART, IAN - ***Mathematics of Life: Unlocking the Secrets of Existence***

Professor Ian Stewart's latest book explores the interaction between Biology and Mathematics, and the ways in which mathematicians and biologists are increasingly working together to solve all manner of scientific problems – including the nature and origin of life itself.