

Top Ten Reads by Department at Holmer Green Senior School

Art

Story of Art - Ernst Gombrich
Old Mistresses - Griselda Pollock
On Painting - Leon Battista Alberti
On Photography - Susan Sontag
A life of Picasso (three volumes) - John Richardson
Concerning the spiritual in art - Wassily Kandinsky
Interviews with Francis Bacon - David Sylvester
Lives of the Artists: Volume One and Lives of the Artists: Volume Two - Giorgio Vasari
Shock of the New - Robert Hughes
Matisse On Art - Henri Matisse

Biology

The Selfish Gene - Richard Dawkins
Why Elephants have Big Ears - Chris Lavers
The Man who Mistook his Wife for a Hat - Oliver Sacks
The Double Helix - James Watson
Mutants - Amand Marie Leroi
Darwin's Ghost - Steve Jones
Brave New World - Aldous Huxley
Phantoms in the Brain - V. S. Ramachandran
The Ancestor's Tale - Richard Dawkins
The Blind Watchmaker - Richard Dawkins

Chemistry

A short history of nearly everything - Bill Bryson
Bad science - Ben Goldacre
A Devil's chaplain - Richard Dawkins
The Ten Most Beautiful Experiments - George Johnson
Atkins' molecules - Peter Atkins
Galileo's finger: the ten great ideas of science - Peter Atkins
Molecules at an exhibition: portraits of intriguing materials in everyday life - John Emsley
The Periodic Kingdom: a journey into the land of the chemical elements - Peter Atkins
Mendeleyev's dream: the quest for the elements - Paul Strathern
Uncle Tungsten: memories of a chemical boyhood - Oliver Sacks

Classics

The Naked Olympics – Tony Perrottet
Plato's Podcasts – Mark Vernon
Imperium (and trilogy) – Robert Harris
Pompeii - the Life of a Roman Town (and others) – Mary Beard
Last of the Wine – Mary Renault
Persian Fire (or Rubicon) – Tom Holland
Song of Achilles (and Circe) – Madeline Miller
The Mighty Dead – Adam Nicolson
The Spartans – Paul Cartledge
Twelve Caesars by Suetonius (Translated by Robert Graves)
And all Classical Literature in translation!

Journals:

Omnibus magazine
Mary Beard (in the Times/TLS)

Peter Jones (in the Spectator)

Creative Writing

Writing down the bones - Natalie Goldberg

Bird by bird - Anne Lamott

On writing: a memoir of the craft - Stephen King

Write a novel and get it published - Nigel Watts and Stephen May

Wired for story: the writer's guide to using brain science to hook readers from the very first sentence - Lisa Cron

13 ways of looking at a novel - Jane Smiley

On writers and writing - Margaret Atwood

How fiction works - James Wood

The artful edit - Susan Bell

The art of fiction - John Gardner

Dance

Tiny pretty things - Dhonielle Clayton and Sona Charaipotra

Appreciating dance: a guide to the world's liveliest art - Harriet R Lihs

The intimate act of choreography - Lynne Anne Blom and Tarin Chaplin

A dancer's complete guide to health care and a long career -Allan James Ryan

Essential Guide to Dance - Linda Ashley

Alvin Ailey: a life in dance - Jennifer Dunning

Martha Graham: a dancer's life by Russell Freedman

Revelations: the autobiography of Alvin Ailey - Alvin Ailey

The Essential Inheritance of the London Contemporary Dance Theatre - Edited by Ross McKim

Understanding dance - Graham McFee

Design Engineering and Technology

Deconstructing product design - William Lidwell & Gerry Manasca

Fashion design - Sue Jenkyn

Twentieth Century Design - Jonathan M Woodham

The fundamentals of fashion design - Richard Sorger

What is a designer - Kinross & Potter

Lovemarks - Kevin Roberts

The Medici effect: breakthrough insights at the intersection of ideas, concepts and cultures - Frans Johansson

Global design history - Adamson, Riello & Teasley

The green imperative - Voctor Papanek

Designing interactions - Bill Moggridge

Newly recommended reading for Design Engineering and Technology:

The gecko's foot: how scientists are taking a leaf from nature's book - Peter Forbes

Structures: or why things don't fall down - J. Gordon

The new science of strong materials: or why you don't fall through the floor - J. E. Gordon

Sustainable energy - without the hot air - David J.C. MacKay

Competition car aerodynamics: a practical handbook - Simon McBeath

Pushing the limits: new adventures in engineering - Henry Petroski

Success through failure: The paradox of design - Henry Petroski

The simple science of flight: from insects to jumbo jets - Henk Tennekes

Cats' paws and catapults: Mechanical worlds of nature and people - Steven James Vogel

Drama

The History Boys - Alan Bennett
Death of a Salesman - Arthur Miller
Oleanna - David Mamet
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? - Edward Albee
Look Back in Anger - John Osborne
A Streetcar Named Desire - Tennessee Williams
The Pillowman - Martin McDonagh
Betrayal - Harold Pinter
Arcadia - Tom Stoppard
King Lear - William Shakespeare

Economics

What you need to know about Economics - George Buckley
The Undercover Economist – Tim Harford
Predictably Irrational – Dan Ariely
The Bottom Billion: Why the poorest countries are failing and what can be done about it – Paul Collier
Poor Economics: barefoot hedge-fund managers, DIY doctors and the surprising truth about life on \$1 a day - Abhijit V Banerjee and Esther Duflo
The trouble with markets: saving capitalism from itself - Roger Bootle
Thinking fast and slow – Daniel Kahneman
Globalization and its discontents - Joseph E Stiglitz
Talking to my daughter about the economy: A brief history of capitalism - Yanis Varoufakis
Doughnut economics: Seven ways to think like a 21st Century Economist - Kate Raworth

English

The study of English Literature is reading; so, in addition to the 10 books listed below, here's a link to: top tens of pretty much everything (courtesy of The Guardian). There's always more; one book always leads to another.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
1984 by George Orwell
Hard Times by Charles Dickens
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
Tom Jones by Henry Fielding
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
The Golden Notebook by Doris Lessing
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
The French Lieutenant's Woman by John Fowles

French

Pardon My French - Charles Timoney
Le Petit Prince – Antoine de Saint Exupéry (Bande Dessinée)
Les Trois Mousquetaire - Alexandre Dumas (lecture facile)
L'étranger - Albert Camus
Ils partiront dans l'ivresse: Lyon, mai 1943, Londres, février 1944 - Lucie Aubrac
Madame Bovary - Gustave Flaubert
Notre Dame de Paris - Victor Hugo
Contes du jour et de la nuit – Guy de Maupassant
Candide - Voltaire
L'Avare – Molière

Geography

The Power of Geography (sequel to Prisoners of Geography) – Tim Marshall
The Almighty Dollar - Dharshini David
Dead aid: Why aid is not working and how there is another way for Africa - Dambisa Moyo
Poverty Safari - Darren McGarvey
When the Rivers Run Dry: The Global Water Crisis and How to Solve It – Fred Pearce
The tipping point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference - Malcolm Gladwell
Disaster by Choice – Ilan Kelman
Guns, Germs and Steel – Jared Diamond
Notes from Deep Time: A Journey Through Our Past and Future Worlds – Helen Gordon
Factfulness - Hans Rosling

German

Emil und die Detektive (Emil and the Detectives) - Erich Kästner
Das fliegende Klassenzimmer (The Flying Classroom) - Erich Kästner
Das Parfum (The Perfume) - Patrick Süskind
Der Vorleser (The Reader) - Bernhard Schlink
Die Verwandlung (Metamorphosis) - Franz Kafka
Der Tod in Venedig (Death in Venice) - Thomas Mann
Andorra - Max Frisch
Die Blechtrommel (The Tin Drum) - Günter Grass
Der Besuch der alten Dame (The Visit)- Friedrich Dürrenmatt
Die Physiker (The Physicists) - Friedrich Dürrenmatt

History

The age of extremes: the short twentieth century, 1914-1991 - Eric Hobsbawm
A people's tragedy: the Russian revolution 1891-1924 - Orlando Figes
New Worlds, Lost Worlds: The Rule of the Tudors 1485-1603 - Susan Brigden
Mao's great famine - Frank Dikotter
The pursuit of history – John Tosh
If this is a man - Primo Levi
The meaning of Hitler - Sebastian Haffner
The Crusades: The War For The Holy Land - Thomas Asbridge
Notes on a century: reflections of a Middle East historian - Bernard Lewis
Everyday Stalinism - Sheila Fitzpatrick

History of Art and Architecture

Art: a beginner's guide - Laurie Schneider Adams
Mirror of the world: a new history of art - Julian Bell
1001 paintings to see before you die - Stephen Farthing
Ways of seeing - John Berger
The shock of the new - Robert Hughes
An outline of European architecture - Nicolas Pevsner
Caravaggio: a life sacred and profane - Andrew Graham-Dixon
Citizens: a chronicle of the French revolution - Simon Schama
High art lite: the rise and fall of British art - J Stallabrass
The ten books on architecture - Vitruvius

Journals:

The Burlington Magazine
Oxford Art Journal

Leadership

Leader: Know, Love, Inspire! - Granville-Chapman & Bidston
The Culture Code – Daniel Coyle
Legacy – James Kerr
Leaders Eat Last – Simon Sinek
Leadership Unleashed – Frei and Morriss
Good to Great – Jim Collins
Give and Take: A revolutionary approach to success – Adam Grant
The Fearless Organization – Amy Edmondson
Dare to Lead – Brené Brown
7 Habits of Highly Effective People – Stephen Covey

Mandarin

Falling leaves return to their roots: the true story of an unwanted Chinese daughter - Adeline Yen Mah
Chinese Cinderella - Adeline Yen Mah
China Highlights: Quick introduction to Chinese Culture (DVD)
Wild Swans - Jung Chang-in English
Wild swans-Zhang Rong-in Chinese
100 Tang and Song Ci Poems - Compiled and Translated by Xu Yuancong
A dream of Red Mansions - Cao Xueqin & Gao E
When China rules the world - Martin Jacques
Tiger head, snake tails: China today, how it got there and why it has to change - Jonathan Fenby
China: portrait of a people - Tom Carter

Maths

History and Biography:

Fermat's Last Theorem – Simon Singh
The man who loved only numbers: the story of Paul Erdos and the search for mathematical truth – Paul Hoffman

Puzzles and problem solving:

Mathematical Puzzles and Diversions – Martin Gardner
How to solve it – George Polya

General interest:

Mathematics: a very short introduction – Timothy Gowers
Taking chances: winning with probability – John Haigh

Academic Texts:

Mathematics: from the birth of numbers – Jan Gullberg
A concise introduction to pure mathematics – Martin Liebeck
Godel, Escher, Bach: an eternal golden braid – Douglas R Hofstadter
Flatland: a romance of many dimensions – Edwin Abbott

Journals & blogs

The website of Ben Goldacre (you should also read his book, Bad Science)
A monthly supply of good school-level puzzles
A journal of articles and puzzles
This is a series of cartoons, not a journal, but all mathematicians find at least something here that they love.

Music

Music: a very short introduction – Nicholas Cook
Listen to this – Alex Ross
The making of music: a journey with notes – James Naughtie
This is your brain on music – Daniel Levitin
Musicophilia: tales of music and the brain – Oliver Sacks
The best of jazz – Humphrey Lyttelton
A life in letters - Mozart
The classical style – Charles Rosen
A guide to musical analysis – Nicholas Cook
Rethinking music – Mark Everist and Nicholas Cook

Philosophy

Can a robot be human? 33 perplexing philosophy puzzles - Peter Cave
The life you can save: how to play your part in ending world poverty - Peter Singer
The Myth of Sisyphus - Albert Camus
Philosophy: the basics - Nigel Warburton
The problems of philosophy - Bertrand Russell
On the genealogy of morals: a polemic: by way of clarification and supplement to my last book,
Beyond good and evil - Friedrich Nietzsche
A introduction to the philosophy of religion - Brian Davies
Wittgenstein's poker: the story of a ten minute argument between two great philosophers -
David Edmonds
The sovereignty of good - Iris Murdoch
Logic: an introduction to elementary logic - Wilfred Hughes

Journals:

The Philosopher's Magazine
Dialogue: a Journal of Religion and Philosophy
Philosophy Now (online and in print)

Physical Education

Perfection Point - John Brenkus
Acquiring skill in sport - John Honeybourne
Sport and the British: a modern history - Martin Holt
Mind games: inspirational lessons from the world's biggest sports stars - Jeff Grout and Sarah
Perrin
British sport: a social history - Dennis Brailsford
Mind gym: an athlete's guide to inner excellence - Gary Mack and David Cassevens
The evolution of English sport - Neil Wigglesworth
Sports Gene - David Epstein
Sports history: a social guide - Martin Polley
Sacred Hoops: Spiritual Lessons - Phil Jackson
Physics
A short history of nearly everything – Bill Bryson
Quantum theory cannot hurt you: a guide to the universe - Marcus Chown
The new world of Mr Tompkins - George Gamow and Russell Stannard
The canon: the beautiful basics of science - Natalie Angie Atom - Piers Bizony
Why does $E=mc^2$? (and why should we care?) - Brian Cox and Jeff Forshaw
Quantum: a guide for the perplexed - Jim Al-Khalili
Big bang: the most important scientific discovery of all time and why you need to know about it
- Simon Singh
Sophie's world - Jostein Gaarder

Surely you're joking Mr Feynman! - Richard P. Feynman

Politics

Animal Farm - George Orwell

Politics: a very short introduction - Kenneth R. Minogue

The Essential anatomy of Britain. Democracy in crisis - Anthony Sampson

Blair - Anthony Seldon

The Prime Minister: The Office and its Holders since 1945 - Peter Hennessy

American Caesars: lives of the US presidents from Franklin D. Roosevelt to George W. Bush - Nigel Hamilton

The whites of their eyes: the Tea Party's revolution and the battle over American history - Jill Lepore

Global transformations - David Held, Anthony McGrew, David Goldblatt and Jonathan Perraton

Political thought from Plato to NATO - Brian Redhead

The Shield of Achilles: war, peace and the course of history - Phillip Bobbitt

Psychology

The Oxford Companion to the Mind— Richard Gregory

The man who mistook his wife for a hat – Oliver Sacks

Behave – Robert Sapolsky

The Curious incident of the dog in the night time - Mark Haddon

Thinking fast and slow - Daniel Kahneman

Man's search for meaning - Viktor Frankl

Stumbling on happiness – Daniel Gilbert

How the mind works – Steven Pinker

the Selfish Gene – Richard Dawkins

The Psychology of Dreams - Sigmund Freud

Sign up for the weekly News Digest from the BPS (British Psychological Society)

Religion

Mere Christianity – C. S. Lewis

Buddha: A Story of Enlightenment - Deepak Chopra

A history of Christianity - Diarmaid MacCulloch

Jesus, interrupted: revealing the hidden contradictions in the Bible - Bart Ehrman

The Prophet Muhammad: a biography - Barnaby Rogerson

Saints and Sinners: a history of the popes - Eamon Duffy

Letter to a Christian nation: a challenge to faith - Sam Harris

Confessions of a sinner - St Augustine

The complete Dead Sea Scrolls in English - Geza Vermes (Ed.)

The modern theologians: an introduction to Christian theology since 1918 - David Ford and Rachel Muers

Journals:

The Philosopher's Magazine

Dialogue: a Journal of Religion and Philosophy

Spanish

The motorcycle diaries: notes on a Latin American journey - Che Guevara

It's not about the tapas - Polly Evans

On a hoof and a prayer - Polly Evans

Three plays (Bodas de Sangre, Yerma, La casa de Bernarda Alba) - Federico García Lorca

One hundred years of solitude - Gabriel García Márquez

Love in the time of cholera - Gabriel García Márquez

Como agua para chocolate - Laura Esquivel
Ghosts of Spain: travels through a country's hidden past - Giles Tremlett
Ficciones - Jorge Luis Borges
El burlador de Sevilla - Tirso de Molina

Travel Writing

My family and other animals - Gerald Durrell
Kim - Rudyard Kipling
As I walked out one midsummer morning - Laurie Lee
Voices of the old sea - Norman Lewis
Arabian sands - Wilfred Thesiger
Robinson Crusoe - Daniel Defoe
The travels of Sir John Mandeville - John Mandeville
On the road - Jack Kerouac
Black lamb and grey falcon - Rebecca West
A time of gifts - Patrick Leigh Fermor

Wellbeing

Tuesdays with Morrie: an old man, a young man and life's greatest lesson - Mitch Albom
Bounce: how champions are made - Matthew Syed
The miracle of mindfulness: the classic guide to meditation by the world's most revered aster - Thich Nhat Hanh
The happiness hypothesis: putting ancient wisdom and philosophy to the test of modern science - Jonathan Haidt
Emotional intelligence - Daniel Goleman
The resilience factor: 7 essential skills for overcoming life's inevitable obstacles - Karen Reivich and Andrew Shatté
Philosophy for life and other dangerous situations - Jules Evans
Man's search for meaning: the classic tribute to hope from the Holocaust - Viktor Frankl
A user's guide to the brain: perception, attention and the four theaters of the brain - John Ratey
The pursuit of happiness: a history from the Greeks to the present - Darrin McMahon

Shelf Help

The Shelf Help books have been chosen by young people and health experts to help you with difficult feelings and experiences that can affect your wellbeing. The books have information and advice as well as personal stories about dealing with feelings such as anxiety, depression or stress and experiences such as bullying.

General (wellbeing, mental health, coping, feeling fine, self-esteem, learning about life)

Blame My Brain - Nicola Morgan
Mind Your Head - Juno Dawson
Stuff That Sucks - Ben Sedley
The Self-Esteem Team's Guide to Sex, Drugs and WTFs?!! - Self-Esteem Team
Every Day - David Leviathan
House of Windows - Alexia Casale
I'll Give You the Sun - Jandy Nelson
Kite Spirit - Sita Brahmachari
Quiet the Mind - Matthew Johnstone

ADHD

Putting on the Brakes: Understanding and Taking Control of Your ADD or ADHD - Patricia Quinn and Judith Stern

Anxiety, worry and panic

My Anxious Mind - Michael Tompkins and Katherine Martinez
The Shyness and Social Anxiety Workbook for Teens - Jennifer Shannon
The Anxiety Survival Guide for Teens - Jennifer Shannon
The Perks of Being a Wallflower - Stephen Chbosky

Autism and Asperger Syndrome

Freaks, Geeks and Asperger Syndrome - Luke Jackson
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time - Mark Haddon
The Reason I Jump - Naoki Higashida

Body image and eating disorders

Can I Tell You About Eating Disorders? - Bryan Lask and Lucy Watson
Banish Your Body Image Thief - Kate Collins-Donnelly
Tyranny - Lesley Fairfield

Bullying

Bullies, Cyberbullies and Frenemies - Michele Elliott
Vicious: True Stories by Teens About Bullying - edited by Hope Vanderberg

Confidence and Self-Esteem

Banish Your Self-Esteem Thief - Kate Collins-Donnelly
Self-Esteem and Being You - Anita Naik
Face - Benjamin Zephaniah

Depression

Am I Depressed and What Can I Do About It? - Shirley Reynolds and Monika Parkinson
Can I Tell You About Depression? - Christopher Dowrick and Susan Martin
I Had a Black Dog - Matthew Johnstone

Mood Swings

Don't Let Your Emotions Ruin Your Life for Teens - Sheri Van Dijk

Self-Harm

The Truth About Self-Harm - Celia Richardson

OCD

Breaking Free from OCD - Jo Derisley and others
The Unlikely Hero of Room 13B - Teresa Toten
Touch and Go Joe - Joe Wells

Stress

Fighting Invisible Tigers - Earl Hipp
The Teenage Guide to Stress - Nicola Morgan

Global Citizenship

A selection of mainly autobiographical books giving some insight into a range of social issues.

Depression, Mental health issues

Black rainbow - Rachel Kelly
Reasons to stay alive - Matt Haig
The shock of the fall - Nathan Filer (fiction)
It's kind of a funny story - Ned Vizzini

Dementia, Aging

Elizabeth is missing - Emma Healey (fiction)

Homelessness, Addiction

A street cat named Bob - James Bowen

Poverty, Child neglect

Ugly - Constance Briscoe

The Kid - Kevin Lewis

Hidden - Cathy Glass

Life lessons - Tuesdays with Morrie - Mitch Albom