

John Port Spencer Academy



JOHN PORT
SPENCER ACADEMY

Sixth Form Taster Session

Monday 30th June 2025

Name

Form

12

Form Tutor/Room

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Welcome to your Taster Day at John Port Spencer Academy

We are delighted to welcome you to our Sixth Form Taster Day, and we hope you enjoy experiencing what it's like to be a sixth former at John Port Spencer Academy.

We are extremely proud of our sixth form and are excited to welcome both our current Year 11 students and those visiting us from other schools. Sixth form is an important step in your academic journey, where you will begin to focus on a more tailored selection of subjects that align with your interests and aspirations. This is a time for personal growth, intellectual exploration, and developing the skills you'll need for university, apprenticeships, or the world of work. We want you to thrive here—academically, personally, and socially—and to take ownership of your future. Above all, we want you to be happy and confident. We hope today's taster sessions will help ease any nerves and give you a clear sense of what life in our sixth form is like. During the day, you'll also learn more about our Student Leadership Team and the charity work that is an important part of our sixth form community. Welcome—and enjoy your day!



Year 12 taster session sixth form tutors

You will be assigned a form tutor who will stay with you throughout both Year 12 and Year 13. Your form tutor will get to know you well and will be responsible for writing your UCAS reference when the time comes. They are your first point of contact and will play a key role in monitoring your academic progress and behaviour. You will see your form tutor each school day during registration, from 08:35am to 08:55am. This time will be used to take attendance, collect any absence notes, share important notices, and help you prepare for the day ahead. Occasionally, your form tutor will use this time to speak with you individually about how you're getting on in school



The Senior Leadership Team

Welcome to John Port Spencer Academy Sixth Form

Miss L O'Leary
Principal



At John Port Spencer Academy, our Sixth Form is a vibrant and ambitious community where students are supported and challenged to achieve academic excellence and grow as confident, caring and kind individuals.

We are proud of our strong academic outcomes, high expectations, and inclusive environment where every student is known, valued, and empowered to achieve progress and success. As a Sixth Form student, you will have access to a wide range of enrichment opportunities, expert teaching, and tailored guidance to help you shape your future.

Whether your next step is university, an apprenticeship, or the world of work, our commitment is to help you reach your full potential. We expect you to bring ambition, independence, and a readiness to embrace all the opportunities on offer.

Mrs Vann
Vice Principal



Mr L Shepherd
Vice Principal, DSL



Mr A Stephenson
Assistant Principal



Mrs A Swift
Assistant Principal



Mrs H Warsop
Assistant Principal



Mrs C Smitton
Assistant Principal



Mrs M Walker-
Endsor
Finance & Operations
Manager



John Port Spencer Academy Site

The academy is on a large site and each faculty area is based in different buildings. If you are a new student to John Port, please don't worry there is a map on page 9 of this booklet for you to use and our student ambassadors will be on hand to make sure you find your way.

Faculty Areas:

Sixth Form Centre/G Block – off the main drive in, front of the lake is the Post 16 Building.

Exam Centre – the big building on the main drive, this is where students take their exams, or it is used for assemblies and events.

Ashbourne Building – located at the front of the school, this building is where you will find the maths faculty, A Hall dining area and Student Services.

Chatsworth Building – located off the main drive, this is where you find the English faculty, Miss O'Leary's office and Chatsworth Hall where there are dining facilities and the stage where assemblies and performances take place.

Jubilee Building – located near the lake, this building is where you will find Student Support and Referral.

Bakewell Building – the tall tower block building near the lake, this includes the library, ICT and Modern Foreign Languages.

Edale Building – this is the newer building near the lake, this is the Year 7 base area and where you will find History, Geography, Art, PRE, Maths and Social Sciences. First aid and Safeguarding are also based in this building.

Hathersage Building – the newer building near the turning circle, this is where you will find Art, Drama and Music.

Flamstead Building – located behind Chatsworth building and off the main drive, this is where you will find the Science faculty.

Derwent Building – at the lower end of the school are two buildings Old Derwent and New Derwent where you will find the Technology Faculty and Health & Social Care.

Leisure Centre – at the back of the academy near the Astroturf area you will find the Leisure Centre, swimming pool, gym and changing rooms. The PE Faculty are based here.

Structure of the Day

In September you will have 5 one-hour long sessions a day. You will have a timetable to follow, and it will be the same each week. Your timetable will include Independent Study Periods (ISPs). You will have a 15-minute break time in the morning and a 30-minute lunch break. The Sixth form block is open until 4pm every evening if you would like to use the facilities to study.

Year 12 students are required to be on site full time; study space is available in the Post 16 Building.

Registration is a compulsory part of sixth form study and the attendance policy is followed in line with the rest of the school. Students will be required to attend an after-school detention for lateness / non-attendance to lessons.

Careers Information, Advice & Guidance

At John Port Spencer Academy sixth form we recognise that impartial careers guidance and advice is key to ensuring that all our students are fully informed of the range of career opportunities and pathways available. Students are encouraged and supported to maximise the options available, and most importantly, are empowered to make career decisions which enable independent management of career decision-making successfully and confidently.

Students continue to use Unifrog in the sixth form and you will be encouraged to actively engage in the platform to aid your research and decision-making process for either University, Apprenticeships or the world of work. You will also be expected to organise a week of work experience in the summer term. Unifrog is used for logging the placement and communication with the employer.

Careers Programme

To allow the successful delivery of a comprehensive careers programme, students are provided with individualised personal career planning and advice. Unifrog, an online platform, allows students to research, collate and store information about specific career pathways which interest them. Furthermore, they are able to build a portfolio of professional documents including a personal statement and a CV and maintain an up-to-date record of all academic and extracurricular achievements: resources which will assist students with both university and job applications.

Luminate Careers work with John Port Spencer sixth form and offer individual careers appointments for KS5 students. Students will also participate in a mandatory enrichment and wellbeing programme for one hour a week and this will include: *sport and emergency first aid, cooking for university life / independent living, financial planning, enterprise, and preparation for UCAS and apprenticeship applications.*

Work experience

Work experience is a compulsory part of Key Stage 5 study, and a week is designated for this in the summer term; students must secure the work experience for themselves with the support of the sixth form team. We would advise you to secure a placement with an employer as soon as you can. Businesses can be booked up for work experience a year in advance. Medicine, Veterinary Science, Law and Architecture placements are examples of this.

Paid Work

Part time work gives you the opportunity to become independent and builds valuable communication and time management skills. It can however impact your studies if you commit to too many hours of paid work each week. We recommend no more than 12 hours of paid work each week to allow for appropriate study and free time.

Student wellbeing is a priority, and an effective balance is key to a successful sixth form experience.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Your safeguarding and wellbeing is our priority. We work with the Safeguarding Team in the academy, and we have our own Pastoral Manager to provide support. Mr Shepherd is the academy's DSL.

Social Media

Please follow the school Facebook and Twitter pages to keep up to date with news and events:



Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/JohnPortSpencer/?ref=bookmarks>

Dress Code

The Sixth Form dress code is “formal business dress” for all students, by this we mean:

- A two-piece trouser suit (i.e. matching jacket and trousers) with plain formal collared shirt and tie
- Tailored trousers or knee length skirt and a matching jacket with formal blouse, or a business dress
- A smart cardigan may be worn in addition to a jacket, not instead of.
- Jewellery should not be excessive. One pair of small ear lobe studs only is permitted and can only be worn in ear lobes. Other facial or body piercing is not permitted at school, and students will be required to remove them if worn.
- Hair should be a sensible style with no extremes of fashion. Any hair accessories should be in keeping with business wear. Hair that is dyed a bright colour is not acceptable.
- Outdoor coats can be worn in transit to and from school and from one building to another but should be removed inside all buildings.

The following items are not permitted:

- Denim or Leather jackets.
- Hoodies or Sweatshirts.
- Trainers, canvas shoes (e.g. Vans, Converse).
- Stretchy or vest style tops or dresses.
- Leggings or jeans.
- Baggy jumpers/cardigans.
- Shorts or short skirts / dresses.

If a student is dressed inappropriately, we reserve the right to send the student home to change.

Final decisions on any particular uniform issues are at the discretion of Miss O’Leary, Mrs Swift and Mrs Lowndes.

Attendance

If you have very high attendance (98-100%) you will always perform better than students who miss several days or weeks of lessons.

If you are absent your parents/carers must email Sixthform@johnportportspencer.org.uk as soon as possible on each day that you are away.

Please be aware that John Port Spencer Academy will not be authorising holidays or other days off in term time. All late students should report and sign in at Student Reception in Ashbourne Building upon arrival in school and likewise sign out and be collected from Student Reception upon leaving school.

100% attendance to lessons is expected when in school and attendance is monitored closely. If your attendance falls below 90%, we do adopt a reporting system to encourage positive attendance.

School Meals and Catering

We use a cashless catering system at John Port Spencer Academy. Every student has their own account. You need to put money on your account if you want to buy food from school. You can access 'Lakeside', the sixth form café during break and lunch times.

Ms Davis - Student Service



You can add money to your account in the following ways:

1. Online payments can be made via ParentMail. Please log into ParentMail to add money to a cashless catering account.
2. By paying cash into Student Services in Ashbourne.

Students new to John Port will need to set a Parentmail account up in the first week of the Autumn term.

You can check how much money you have on your account using the ParentMail app or the machines in Ashbourne before school, at break or at lunch. If you forget your dinner money and your account has no money, you must see Student Services (Ashbourne). If you are entitled to free school meals, your account will be credited automatically each day. The school has a daily limit on the amount of money you can spend. The amount is £4.50; this can be reduced by parental request. If you lose your card, you should go and inform Student Services straight away.

Bursary

The purpose of the 16-19 Bursary Fund is to provide financial support to young people continuing in education, who would otherwise be prevented from participating due to financial barriers. You can apply for financial support if:

- Your family's gross household income including benefits is £25,000 or less
- You are entitled to Free School Meals
- You are a young person living independently and get Income Support, or are a young person in care, or leaving care, or are a young person in receipt of Employment & Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance. If you are living independently and not on Income Support, we may still be able to help you.

Students are invited to complete and apply for the Bursary; in the first instance please contact Mrs Lowndes. The Academy will endeavour to notify applicants of receipt of their completed applications as soon as possible. The acknowledgement of receipt is not confirmation of acceptance for support. The application will be assessed against agreed criteria, as set out in the guidance notes. Applications may be

submitted throughout the academic year, and re-applications will be accepted where there are changes to circumstances. An application for Free School Meals may also be completed.

Note: The bursary requirements are reviewed annually in line with Government recommendations. Please ensure you complete the forms for 2025/26 when available.

Timetable during Taster Days

Please complete your timetable for the Taster Day; your form tutor will go through this with you during Period 1.

Reg & Period 1				Period 2 (Opt D)			Period 3 (Opt A)			Period 4 (Opt B)			Period 5 (Opt C)		
Reg & Period 1	Group	Teacher	Room	Group	Teacher	Room	Group	Teacher	Room	Group	Teacher	Room	Group	Teacher	Room
EC1	12S	MCo	C18	12D/Bi1 (Biology)	CCO	F2	12A/Ed1 (Engineering L3)	MDY	B2	12B/Ar1 (Art)	HU	H10	12C/Bs2 (Business Studies)	DMM	A15
EC1	12X	AHo	G02	12D/Cm1 (Core Maths)	OWO	A10	12A/Bi1 (Biology)	RJV	F2	12B/Ch1 (Chemistry)	KMC	F13	12C/Cm1 (Core Maths)	OWO	A10
EC1	12T	MIE	A04	12D/Dr1 (Drama)	LWi	H2	12A/Bs1 (Business Studies)	DMM	A15	12B/Cm1 (Core Maths)	MIE	A4	12C/Cr1 (Criminology)	SUB	G3
EC1	12H	MSa	C13	12D/El1 (English Lit)	AHOW	F18	12A/En1 (English Lang)	TCL	C4	12B/Cr1 (Criminology)	SUB	G2	12C/Cs1 (Computer Science)	AS	B5
EC1	12F	AB	A13	12D/Ep1 (Epg)	AST	G9	12A/Ep1 (Epg)	AST	G9	12B/Ed1 (Economics)	AJA	A7	12C/Ep1 (Epg)	AST	G9
EC1	12O	AS	B07	12D/Ep2 (Epg)	LS	G4	12A/Hi1 (History)	MTh	E12	12B/El1 (English Lit)	ASWI	C3	12C/Ep2 (Epg)	LS	G4
EC1	12R	AJB	G05	12D/Hi1 (History)	CDe	E8	12A/Im1 (Imedia)	LBo	B5	12B/En1 (English Lang)	DJG	C17	12C/Gg1 (Geography)	EOT	EO9
EC1	12M	RJV	F2	12D/Ma1 (Maths)	AB	A13	12A/Ma1 (Maths)	ALS	A12	12B/Ep1 (Epg)	LS	G9	12C/Hs1 (HSC)	CHI	DO3
				12D/Ph1 (Physics)	AJB	G5	12A/Me1 (Media)	JGR	C3	12B/Fm1 (Further Maths)	ALS	A12	12C/Ma1 (Maths)	AB	A13
				12D/Ps2 (Psychology)	MAL	C14	12A/Pe1 (Pe)	AWE	LC	12B/Ps1 (Psychology)	MSA	C13	12C/Pd1 (Product Design)	RJL	D08
				12D/So2 (Sociology)	OMB	C19	12A/Ps1 (Psychology)	RGO	G8	12B/Ed1 (Engineering L3)	GFI	D11	12C/Pl1 (Politics)	MCO	C18
							12A/Tx1 (Textiles)	MBO	H8				12C/So1 (Sociology)	MSA	C13
													12C/Bs1 (Business Studies)	DMM	A15

Taster Day Timetable - please add your lessons into the grid below.

Registration	Period 1	Period 2 (D)	Period 3 (A)	Period 4 (B)	Period 5 (C)
EC1 Welcome assembly and meet your tutor	Form tutor room				

Break time for the Sixth Form – 10.00am – 10.15 am. You can access the Sixth Form Café
Lunch Time for the Sixth Form – 12.25pm – 12.55pm. You can access the Sixth Form Café

(Internal students only)- Remember we run a cashless catering system so you must have you ID card

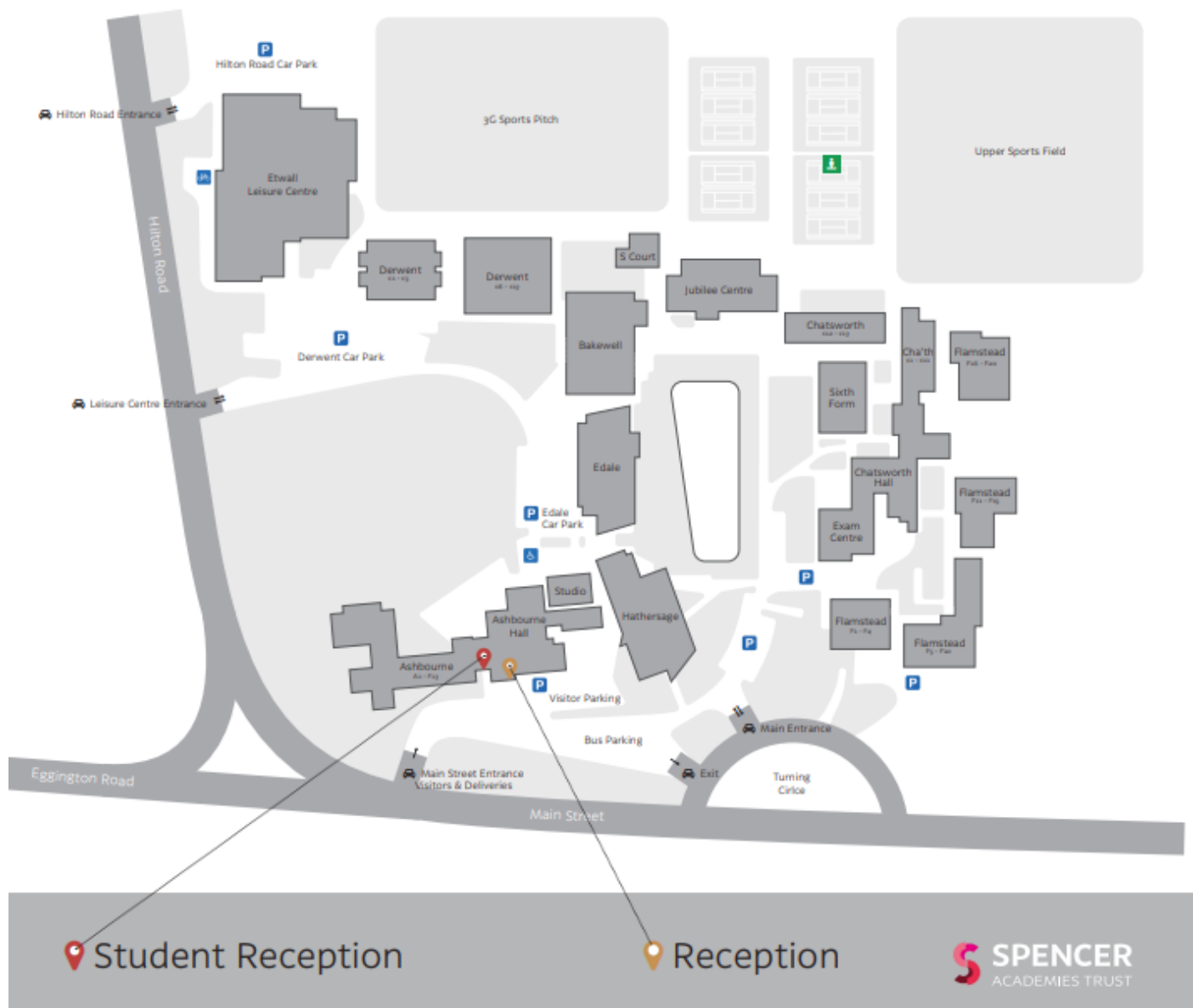
The Academy Day

Period 1	9.00 am – 10.00 am
Period 2	10.15 am – 11.15 am
Period 3	11.20 am – 12.20 pm
Period 4	12.55 am - 1.55 pm
Period 5	2.00 pm – 3.00 pm

Map of John Port Spencer Academy



JOHN PORT SPENCER ACADEMY



Sixth Form Transition Work

Module 1 – Subjects

<https://sites.google.com/johnport.derbyshire.sch.uk/tasteressionsandtransitionwor/module-1>

Module 2 - Personal Development

<https://sites.google.com/johnport.derbyshire.sch.uk/tasteressionsandtransitionwor/module-1/module-2>

Module 1 – Subjects

Subject staff from your option subjects, will set transition work as a continuation to their taster lessons. You must fully engage with this and return it on the date specified. Details will be shared with you during your taster sessions and the resources will be made available on the school website.

Module 2 – Personal Development

Access Code for Web resources: net321

The move into Sixth Form is an exciting one but is also one that demands a higher level of critical thinking and a wider range of applied skills. To help students better prepare for life as a Sixth Form student we have put together a range of resources for you to use during the summer term. Initially, there is focus on learning how to use the Cornell method - an effective note-taking system that is recognised worldwide. There are also several activities focusing on A Level Mindset.

We would like you to really challenge yourself over the coming weeks and get yourself prepared for the next step of your educational journey by taking part in the **Ten Step Transition scheme**. All resources will be available on the school website.

Step 1 – Note taking Cornell Style

Step 2 – Notes from lectures

Step 3 – Having a Goal

Step 4 – Independent Learning

Step 5 – Putting in the Hours

Step 6 – Organisation

Step 7 – The leap from GCSE

Step 8 – Procrastination

Step 9 – A Level Mindset

Step 10 – Extra Curricular

MOOCS/ Super Curricular

We would also like to take this opportunity to encourage you to do some additional reading around your chosen subjects, this will be a requirement of A Level study. The John Port Supper Curricular is a great place to start **We also have a JPSA super curricular link - [The John Port SUPER Curriculum](#)**

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses> is a good place to start.

Mooc.org is an extension of edX.org, a leader in online courses. Whether you're interested in learning for yourself, leveraging online courses to educate your workforce or creating a MOOC, edX can help.

<https://www.mooc.org/>

University of Southampton <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/courses/free-online-learning.page#moocs>

Free Online courses from Harvard University - <https://online-learning.harvard.edu/catalog/free>

Summer Reading Challenge

Please bring a list of the titles you have read from this list to your form tutor in September or email Mrs Swift (aswift@johnportspencer.org.uk). There will be prizes for students who read the most titles. We would like you all to read at least two books from this list and we hope you enjoy the recommendations. There are a lot to choose from!

Unifrog

You should be familiar with the platform from Year 11 if you are an internal student. Unfortunately, external students will not be able to access the platform until you join us in September. If you can't remember your password, just ask for a reminder to your school email on the homepage.

We would like you to:

*Re- do the interests and personality quiz in preparation for year 12.

* Record your post-16 intended destination.

Fire Procedure

Please see the notices on the wall in the classrooms and familiarise yourself with the procedure.

If you are in a lesson, you will follow the procedure led by the teaching member of staff.

Act calmly and quietly, do not stop to collect your belongings.

Results Day information and accepting your place at John Port Spencer Academy Sixth Form.

Year 11 can collect their results from 9:00am until 10:00am.

Results will be collected from the Exam Centre at John Port Spencer Academy. Students must bring your academy ID cards with you to receive your results. If you have lost your academy ID card, another form of identification will be required.

There are two options for any students who are not able to collect their results in person.

Students can either provide a stamped self-addressed A5 envelope and the results will be posted. Please bear in mind that we are not allowed to post the results before the allocated results day so depending on the post, it may take several days to arrive.

Alternatively, someone could collect on the student's behalf. If this option is chosen, then the person collecting will need to bring a letter of permission written by the student. We would also need prior notice of this by email to Exams@johnportspencer.org.uk as this will ensure the results are taken to the academy main reception where they can be collected.

Further guidance and support

Members of the Year 11 guidance team, the Sixth Form team, and the leadership team will be available for students to speak to on Results Day.

Mrs Lowndes (Head of Sixth Form) and Mrs Swift (Assistant Principal) will be available from 9:15am – 11:15am on Results Day in C Hall.

Mrs Smith will also be available from 9:15am to discuss any examination queries.

Mrs Lowndes – RLowndes@johnportspencer.org.uk

Mrs Swift – ASwift@johnportspencer.org.uk

Mrs Smith – Exams@johnportspencer.org.uk

External Applicants

To confirm your place, please email a copy of your results to Sixthform@johnportspencer.org.uk, and confirm your subject choices by 12.00pm on Friday 22nd August 2025. If we do not hear from you your place will not be confirmed for the start of the academic year.

Please check your grades meet the entry requirements before you confirm your place. You can find the details on the link below:

[Entry Requirements – John Port Spencer Academy](#)

If you have any questions, please contact us on the email above as soon as you can.

John Port Spencer Academy Sixth Form

Walk more than 30,000 steps in one day	Go 48 hours without a screen	Cook a 3-course meal for your family
Run a 5K	Buy and read a newspaper	Go for a picnic with your friends
Swim a mile.... you don't have to do this all at once!	Listen to a podcast	Go to the cinema or theatre
Grow and look after a plant	Participate in or organise a beach/park/street clean	Donate to or volunteer at your local charity shop or food bank
Learn a new skill – can you juggle or solve a Rubix cube?	Visit a city you have not been to before – use the train or trams	Take a short course language qualification
Watch a TED Talk	Turn off the lights and electronic devices at home to save energy	Run an errand for a neighbour
Learn how to use your washing machine and do a load of washing	Write and send a postcard to a friend or relative	Declutter your bedroom
Bake and decorate a cake	Learn a new card game and play it with your friends or family	Listen to music/watch a film from more than 30 years ago
Complete a random act of kindness	Read a biography	Cook a vegan recipe
Complete a crossword or sudoku	Wash your family's or neighbour's car	Learn how to sew a button onto a shirt and then iron it

6th Form

Summer

Challenge:

How many of these can you

complete?

Tick them off

and bring your

completed

sheet in to

your form in

September

for a

prize!



Sixth Form Summer Reading Challenge 2025

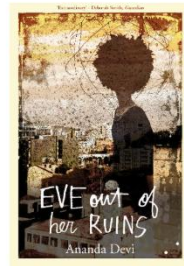
We hope the following reading list will inspire you to bury your head in a book and enjoy reading this summer.

Please bring a list of the titles you have read from this list to your form tutor in September or email Mrs Swift (ASwift@johnportspencer.org.uk). There will be prizes for students who read the most titles. We would like you all to read at least two books from this list and we hope you enjoy the recommendations. There are a lot to choose from!

Books for Year 12 – our sixth form reading list recommendations

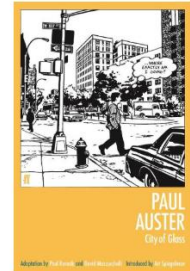
Eve out of her Ruins by Ananda Devi

This complex love story will draw older teen readers into an atmospheric and stark world that tourists don't get to see when holidaying in Mauritius. Told through monologues and descriptive narrations, the lives of four teens are explored through pain, love, sexuality and control in a searing and memorable account of modern alienation. This would be a good novel to contrast with *Catcher in the Rye* in sixth-form book clubs.



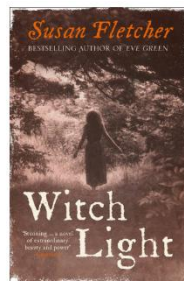
City of Glass by Paul Auster

Adapted from Paul Auster's novel by artists Paul Karasik and David Mazzucchelli, this revered graphic novel is a must-read. In a postmodernist metafiction mystery, the reader is toyed with by a private investigator who instigates a case that may involve a writer who turns out to be the author of his own story. Ideal for book groups, since it is highly likely everyone will have their own interpretation of the story.



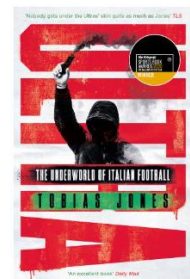
Witch Light by Susan Fletcher

When Charles Leslie hears of a young woman who has been locked up, accused of being a witch and due to be burned at the stake, he decides to delve deeper into her story. Uncovering details of a wicked and brutal crime, both of them are faced with an unenviable dilemma in this gripping tale of broken loyalties, superstition and resilience against all the odds. A powerful and atmospheric page-turner.



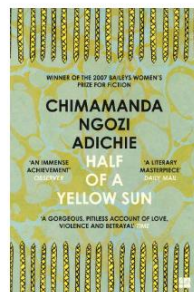
Ultra: The Underworld of Italian Football by Tobias Jones

A gripping account of what happens when football fandom goes too far and becomes an obsessive, criminal and organised counter-culture. This non-fiction investigation is a fascinating insight into both Italian culture and how a common cause can radicalise people in unexpected ways. An award-winning book, *Ultra* is highly recommended for teens interested in social anthropology, sport, criminology and philosophy.



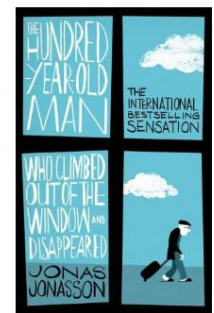
Half of a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Caught in the middle of the Nigerian Civil War three disparate characters find their lives inextricably intertwined in this visceral study of race, class, privilege and love. Told through a unique and startling narration, this novel creates a searingly powerful image of African politics and the catastrophic and enduring effects of war. A memorable novel, and one that is ideal for book club discussions.



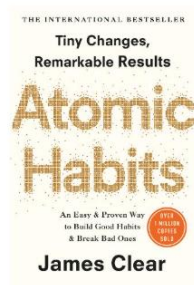
The Hundred-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared by Jonas Jonasson

While everyone else is gearing up for Allan Karlsson's milestone 100th birthday, he isn't remotely interested and decides to sneak out. So begins the story of his compelling and surprising journey through life at the centre of key historical events. This is a novel of spectacular ambition and scope, and one which will provide endless talking points.



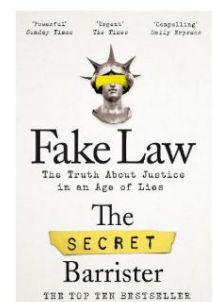
Atomic Habits: An Easy & Proven Way to Build Good Habits & Break Bad Ones by James Clear

The ultimate guide to building lasting good habits that can apply to study, learning, life and work. The accessible writing style makes this a useful book for sixth-formers, with narrative life lessons and manageable efficiency hacks that will work well for young people who want to plan how to achieve their goals.



Fake Law: The Truth About Justice in an Age of Lies by The Secret Barrister

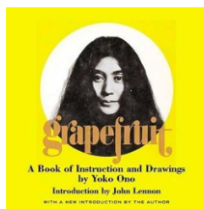
The revealing non-fiction series of anecdotes and essays uncover how justice really works in 21st-century Britain. Cutting through fake news, media tropes and even common sense, *The Secret Barrister* reveals how ignorance of the law is not only not a defence but also presents an insidious danger that threatens us all. A useful and challenging book for older teenagers to read, and one which will debunk many commonly held urban myths.



You can see the full reading list here [Sixth Form Reading List Book Recommendations](#)

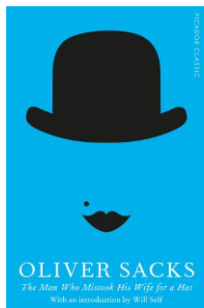
Grapefruit: A Book of Instructions and Drawings by Yoko Ono

This collection of poetic lines, instructions and drawings conceptualise the profound, absurd, intellectually seditious and fun. Over fifty years have passed since this book was first published, yet the ideas retain a sharp and lingering focus. Still fresh and prescient, each piece of art will provide a springboard for debate, conversation and creative writing.



The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat by Oliver Sacks

This fascinating work of narrative nonfiction explores the lives of patients with brain disorders and is based on case history studies by neurologist Oliver Sacks. Memory, perception, and the idea of self are challenged in ways that will provide many discussion opportunities in book clubs. A must-read for students interested in careers in nursing, social care or medicine.



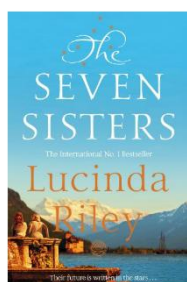
The Midnight Library by Matt Haig

When Nora finds herself in a supernatural library where she can choose to change her life for a different one, she is presented with the chance to right wrongs, correct mistakes and live out her dreams. But, the book asks the reader, what defines a good life? A warm-hearted and compelling bestseller that's a guaranteed good read.

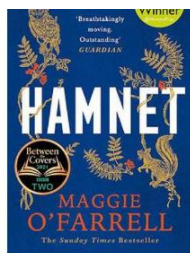


The Seven Sisters by Lucinda Riley

When Pa Salt – a rich but mysterious patriarch dies, six of his adopted daughters convene at the family castle on Lake Geneva. There, each of them is given a clue to their backgrounds, setting in motion an epic tale of ambition, love and sacrifice that spans generations and crosses continents. A cracking story – the first of seven – that may well be responsible for getting older teens hooked on reading again.

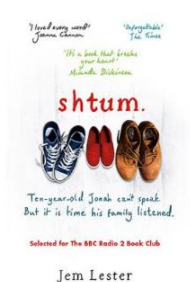


In this unputdownable and award-winning historical novel, Maggie O'Farrell tells the story of Hamnet, the son of a revered playwright. Using pieces of real history, Shakespeare's culture, and a richly imaginative storytelling style, a fascinating plot of loss and love in plague-ridden England is spun.



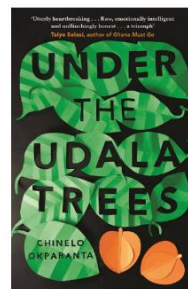
Shtum by Jem Lester

An unforgettable novel that marries a child's autism, family life struggles and the many faces of human relationships into a darkly funny and emotionally moving story. Both compelling and powerful, there's a lot of subject matter for sixth-form book club discussion and this is a good pick for students interested in careers in education or law.



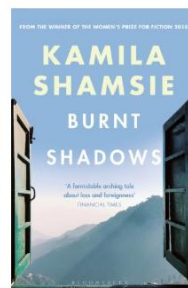
Under the Udala Trees by Chinelo Okparanta

A startlingly fresh and original novel about the power of love in a desperate and dangerous world. Set in the Biafran war, Ijeoma finds herself on her own in Nigeria, without family or friends, until she meets another lost soul, Amina, and the pair seek refuge in each other's company, becoming first friends and falling in love – a difficult situation in West Africa, where LGBT couples are not tolerated. With daring and impassioned prose, Under the Udala Trees is ideal for book club discussion.



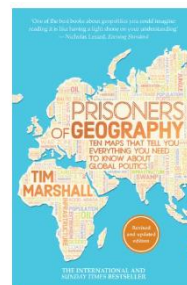
Burnt Shadows by Kamila Shamsie

Set on the day of the Nagasaki atomic bomb detonation in August 1945, this story follows Hiroko as her life changes in an instant, how she moves to Delhi and how her life moves again, to New York, with an astonishing turn of events. This moving novel combines a sweeping narrative with absorbing characters set to a backdrop of history, politics and social comment.



Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Tell You Everything You Need to Know About Global Politics by Tim Marshall

A great book to help broaden sixth-formers' geopolitical horizons and perceptions of the world we live in. Chronicling past and current thinking on foreign affairs through 10 infographic maps, this is an ideal book to appeal to students interested in international relations and world history.



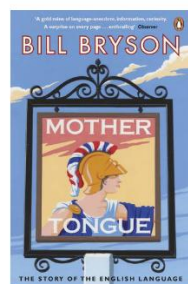
Running Upon The Wires by Kae Tempest

This verse collection by poet, songwriter and singer Kae Tempest dissects the theme of love, from blossoming romance, familiarity, division, and break-up to new flames. The direct imagery and unflinching style will linger in the memory. Ideal for reading, performing and using as impetus, Running Upon The Wires will appeal to teens interested in drama and creative writing.



Mother Tongue: The Story of the English Language by Bill Bryson

An entertaining read, Mother Tongue sweeps through the history of the English Language, from its starting point as a hybrid of ancient dialects, through to the impact of invader languages, and the nuances of modern grammar, spelling and pronunciation conventions. A great read for students interested in languages, linguistics and English.



The Ballad of Jacob Peck by Debra Komar

When Mercy Hall is murdered in the cold wilds of New Brunswick in Canada, Amos Bradley is quickly accused and hanged for the crime. Over 200 years later, Debra Komar re-investigates the case and reveals that without the influence of preacher Jacob Peck, the murder might never have happened. This cold and clinical treatment challenges the reader's ideas of truth, facts and evidence. A visceral read for fans of true crime podcasts.

