Recommended Reads for Key Stage 4

**Action, Mysteries, Horror & Thrillers**

- **Famous Last Words** or **Bad Girls Don’t Die** – Alender
- **Bodyguard: Hostage** (& sequels) by Chris Bradford*
- **Dead Time** (& sequels), **Getting Away With It** or **The Bone Room** by Anne Cassidy*
- **And Then There Were None** by Agatha Christie
- **Say Her Name** by Juno Dawson
- **Mortal Chaos, Speed Freaks, The Everest Files** or **Lie, Kill, Walk Away** by Matt Dickinson*
- **A Gathering Light** by Jennifer Donnelly
- **The Enemy** (& sequels) by Charlie Higson*
- **House of Silk, Moriarty, Magpie Murders**- Horowitz
- **A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder** by Holly Jackson
- **Sawbones** or **Blade & Bone** by Catherine Johnson
- **The Long Weekend** by Savita Kalhan
- **Carrie or It** by Stephen King
- **We Were Liars** by E Lockhart
- **Here We Lie**, **Sweetfreak, Blood Ties** or **Girl Missing** (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie
- **#Murdertrending** by Gretchen McNeil*
- **One of Us is Lying**, **One of Us Is Next** or **Two Can Keep a Secret** by Karen McManus
- **I am Still Alive** by Kate Marshall
- **Blame or Itch** (& sequels) by Simon Mayo
- **The Recruit (Cherub), The Escape (Henderson’s Boys)** or **Rock War** (& sequels) by R Muchamore*
- **Foul Play** (& sequels) or **Ghost Stadium** - T Palmer*
- **Daniel X or Confessions of Murder** by J. Patterson*
- **13 Minutes** by Sarah Pinborough
- **Remade or TimeRiders** (& sequels) -Alex Scarrow*

**Autobiographies/Memoirs/Biographies**

- **Tuesdays With Morrie** by Mitch Album
- **I Know Why a Caged Bird Sings** by M. Angelou
- **A Street Cat Named Bob*** by James Bowen
- **Playing the Enemy** by John Carlin
- **In Cold Blood** by Truman Capote
- **Nothing to Envy** (North Korea) by B Demick
- **Hope in a Ballet Shoe**: Michaela & Elaine DePrince
- **Wave: Life After the Tsunami** by S. Deraniyagala
- **One Dog at a Time** (& sequels) by Pen Farthing
- **Fatal Throne: The Wives of Henry VIII** - multiple YA writers (fictionalised biography)
- **Diary of a Young Girl** by Anne Frank
- **Marley & Me** by John Grogan*
- **Mud, Sweat and Tears** by Bear Grylls*

**Classics & Modern Literature**

- **Things Fall Apart** by Chinua Achebe
- **Purple Hibiscus** by Chimamanda Adichie
- **Pride and Prejudice** or **Emma** by Jane Austen
- **Farenheight 451** by Ray Bradbury
- **Jane Eyre** by Charlotte Bronte
- **Wuthering Heights** by Emily Bronte
- **Great Expectations or Oliver Twist** by C Dickens
- **Sherlock Holmes** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
- **Frankenstein** by Mary Shelly
- **Lord of the Flies** by William Golding
- **Tess of the D’ubervilles** by Thomas Hardy
- **Not Without Laughter** by Langston Hughes
- **Brave New World** by Alex Huxley
- **Never Let Me Go** by Kazuo Ishiguro
- **Flowers for Algernon** by Daniel Keyes
- **To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee
- **Cider With Rosie** by Laurie Lee
- **The Road** by Cormac McCarthy
- **Rebecca** by Daphne du Maurier
- **The Bluest Eye or Beloved** by Toni Morrison
- **1984** or **Animal Farm** by George Orwell
- **The Catcher in the Rye** by JD Salinger
- **Dr Jekyll and Mr Hide** by RL Stevenson
- **Dracula** by Bram Stoker
- **The Adventures of Huck Finn** by Mark Twain
- **The Color Purple** by Alice Walker

**Complex/Difficult/Thought-provoking Issues**

- **Fever Pitch** by Nick Hornby
- **The Story of My Life** by Helen Keller
- **Finding Gobi** by Dion Leonard*
- **Today Everything Changes** by Andy McNab*
- **Chinese Cinderella** by Adeline Yen Mah
- **Long Walk to Freedom** by Nelson Mandela
- **A History of the World in 21 Women** - Jenni Murray
- **The Greatest: Muhammad Ali** by WD Myers*
- **Dreams From My Father** by Barack Obama
- **Becoming** by Michelle Obama
- **Persepolis** by Marjane Satrapi (graphic novel)*
- **Touching the Void** by Joe Simpson*
- **Educated** by Tara Westover
- **Brown Girl Dreaming** by Jacqueline Woodson*
- **Black Boy: A Record of Youth & Childhood**-R Wright
- **I am Malala** by Malala Yousafzai

* indicates a young adult read
Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda – B Albertalli*
Booked, Rebound or Crossover- Kwame Alexander*
The Hypnotist by Laurence Anholt
Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher
Black Flamingo by Dean Atta*
Noughts & Crosses or Boys Don’t Cry -M Blackman*
Tiger Eyes or anything by Judy Blume*
Am I Normal Yet? (Spinster Club series)- H. Bourne
The Heart’s Invisible Furies by John Boyne
The Bunker Diary or See Through Me by K Brooks*
Hate List by Jennifer Brown
Junk or The Hit by Melvin Burgess
Looking for JJ or No Virgin/No Shame-Anne Cassidy
The Perks of Being a Wallflower by S. Chbosky
Stolen by Lucy Christopher
The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier
Toffee, One or The Weight of Water by S Crossan*
A Swift Pure Cry or Solace of the Road -S. Dowd
Furious Thing or Before I Die by Jenny Downham
Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper
Heroic, Being Billy or Saving Daisy by Phil Earle*
Mockingbird or Seeing Red by Kathryn Erskine
The Universe versus Alex Woods by G. Extence
If I Stay & Where She Went by Gayle Forman
Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi
The Curious Incident of the Dog... by Mark Haddon
After the Fire by Will Hill
The Outsiders by SE Hinton*
That Asian Kid by Savita Kalhan
Pigeon English by Stephen Kelman
That’s Not What Happened by Kody Keplinger
I am Thunder or Kick the Moon - Muhammed Khan
The Secret Life of Bees or Invention of Wings - Kidd
Rose, Interrupted or Orangeboy - Patrice Lawrence
Brock, Pike, Rook & Lark by Anthony McGowan*
The Sky is Everywhere or I’ll Give You.. by J Nelson
Things a Bright Girl Can Do, An Island of our Own or Ways to Live Forever- Sally Nicholls
We Are All Made of Molecules, Word Nerd or No Fixed Address by Susin Nielson
All the Bright Places & Holding Up Universe - Niven
Before I Fall or Vanishing Girls by Lauren Oliver
My Sister’s Keeper or Small Great Things - J Picoult
My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece or Ketchup Clouds by Annabel Pitcher
The Harder They Fall or Stay a Little Longer; (Un)arranged Marriage or Killing Honour -Bali Rai*
Gloves Off or Black Heart Blue by Louisa Reid*
Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
Extraordinary Means or Severed Heads, Broken Hearts by Robin Schneider
The Lovely Bones or Lucky by Alice Sebold
The Boxer or Run, Riot Nikesh Shukla
Counting by 7s by Holly Sloan
The Help by Kathryn Stockett
Stone Cold by Robert Swindells*
Anita and Me by Meera Syal
Lies We Tell Ourselves by Robin Talley
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor
Somebody Give This Heart a Pen by Sophia Thakur
The Hate U Give or On the Come Up by A Thomas*
The List by Siobhan Vivian
It’s Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini
My Name is Leon by Kit de Waal
Can You See Me? by L Scott & R Westcott
Lickle Bit (& sequels) by Alex Wheatle
The Art of Being Normal by Lara Williamson
Teacher’s Dead, Face or Terror Kid by B. Zephaniah
Conflict, War, Genocide & the Refugee Experience
A Country to Call Home: Anthology of Young Refugees & Asylum Seekers ed. by Lucy Popescu
Illegal by Eoin Colfer (graphic novel)*
All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks
The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon
Act of Love or The Trap by Alan Gibbons*
Bone Talk by Candy Gourlay
The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah
The Kite Runner by Khalid Hosseini
Orphan, Monster, Spy by Matt Killeen
The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe
The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Leferi
Dog Tags: Semper Fido or Strays by CA London*
The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris
Fallen Angels or Sunrise over Fallujah-WD Myers*
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park*
All Quiet on the Western Front by EM Remarque
Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys
Maus by Art Spiegelman (graphic novel)*
Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli
Night by Elie Wiesel
Code Name Verity, Rose Under Fire by E. Wein
My Dear I Wanted to Tell You by Louisa Young
Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah
The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

Dystopian, Science Fiction or Magic Realism
Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
Internment by Samira Ahmed
The Testaments or The Handmaid’s Tale - Atwood
iBoy by Kevin Brooks*
World War Z by Max Brooks
The Girl With All the Gifts by MR Carey
City of Bones (& sequels) by Cassandra Clare
Matched (& sequels) by Ally Condie
The Maze Runner (& sequels) by J. Dashner
Stepsisiter by Jennifer Donnelly
Cell 7 (& sequels) by Kerry Drewery*
The Gender Game by Bella Forrest
Gone or BZRK (& sequels) by Michael Grant*
The Deathless Girls by Kiran Millwood Hargrave
Department 19 (& sequels) by Will Hill
The Loneliest Girl in the Universe by Lauren James
Maladapted by Richard Kurti*
I Am Number Four (& sequels) by Pittacus Lore*
Legend (& sequels) by Marie Lu*
The Passengers by John Marrs*
Circe or Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller
The Knife of Never Letting Go (& sequels)- P Ness
MetaWars: Fight for Future (&sequels) - J. Norton*
Z For Zachariah by Robert O’Brien
Replica or Delirium (&sequels) by Lauren Oliver
Only Ever Yours by Louise O’Neill
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen*
Divergent (&sequels) by Veronica Roth
Lord Loss* or Zom-B* (&sequels) by D Shan
Scythe, Unwind or Dry (&sequels) -N Shusterman*
Concentr8 by William Sutcliffe
An Ember in the Ashes (&sequels) by Sabaa Tahir
Contagion or Slated (&sequels) by Teri Terry
Uglies or Zeroes (&sequels) by Scott Westerfield
The 5th Wave (&sequels) by Rick Yancey*

Humorous books
The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy by D Adams
The Life and Times of The Thunderbolt Kid - Bryson
Swim the Fly or Call the Shots by Don Calame
The Private Blog of Joe Cowley by Ben Davis*
An Abundance of Katherines by John Green*
Noah Can’t Even or Alex in Wonderland - SJ Green*
The Reformed Vampire Support Group by Jinks*
Hellbent or Henry Tumour by Anthony McGowan*
Don’t Even Think About It – Sarah Mylnowski
Discworld series by T Pratchett (try The Last Hero)
Good Omens by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman
A Midsummer Tights Dream or Georgia Nicholson
series by Louise Rennison
The Rosie Project (& sequel) by Graeme Simsion
The Gifted, The Talented and Me by W Sutcliffe
The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾ (& sequels) by Sue Townsend

Relationships
Beautiful Broken Things by Sara Barnard
Three Daughters by Consuelo Saah Baehr
Tender Earth by Sita Brahmachari
Fault in Our Stars or Looking for Alaska by J Green*
Why We Broke Up by Daniel Handler*
To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before (& sequels) –J Han
Slammed or Regretting You by Colleen Hoover
Hold Back the Stars by Katie Khan
 Falling Fast (&sequels) by Sophie McKenzie
One Day by David Nicholls
Eleanor and Park & Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell
The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein*
Shiver or The Raven Boys(&sequels) - M. Stiefvater
Our Chemical Hearts by Krystal Sutherland
Paper Avalanche by Lisa Williamson
If You Come Softly by Jacqueline Woodson
Everything, Everything & Sun is Also a Star-Yoon*
Girl Online (&sequels) by Zoe Sugg*

* = top picks for reluctant readers or readers who prefer visual/less dense texts. Includes some dyslexia friendly titles; quick-paced reads of longer books; verse novels; and graphic novels.

Note to parents: Many of these books are written for young adult readers (13+) or adults; this means there may be ‘gritty’ content. Generally by Key Stage 4 young people are ready for this, but parents know their children best; if you have queries about suitability, please check online reviews or ask your child’s teacher.