# 2025 Subject Exploration

## Opportunities to begin early exploration of your Level 3 subjects

Later in the year we will contact all future The Hinckley Sixth Form students with a list of research and preparation tasks which should be completed before your first day. However, the idea of starting sixth form and exploring new subjects is an exciting prospect and you may want to start investigating the subjects you are passionate about now.

Therefore, our subject leaders have compiled a list of optional initial research opportunities for each subject. Each opportunity has been selected to help inspire your imagination, encourage independent thinking and broaden your knowledge as you prepare for Level 3 study.

*The Future Starts With Us*

### BIOLOGY

- Watch a David Attenborough documentary on BBC iPlayer
- Read 'What is Life? Understand Biology in Five Steps' by Paul Nurse
- Visit a nature reserve, wildlife park or zoo

### BUSINESS

- Regularly listen to a business podcast; Diary of a CEO, GirlBoss or BBC Business Daily
- Read regular news articles from the Business section of the Guardian, Times and the Independent.
- Read 'The Google Story,' by David Vis
- Take part in virtual or in person work experience to gain experience of a business environment.

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## EQUIPMENT

**Q: Do I need any specific equipment for my courses?**

A: Specialist equipment and text books are provided for a lot of our courses, however a few subjects do require students to purchase a particular resource to support their study.

All subjects will advise you of any required equipment or books during your official 'Offer Holder Day' so that they can discuss it with you face to face, answer any questions and explain when the items will be needed for.

Arriving with a notepad, a pen and ready to take advantage of every opportunity is the most important thing to remember on your first day!

## CHEMISTRY

- Watch the 2012 Royal Institute Christmas lectures -

- Read 'The Disappearing Spoon' by Sam Kean
- Find out about some of the latest developments in Chemistry by reading articles from the Science collection from the magazine Education in Chemistry -

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

- Practise your Python Programming skills -
- Use an online tutorial to learn the basics of Python (there are so many more online!) -
- Keep yourself up to date with the latest computing news and developments. Watch BBC Click for example -

## CRIMINOLOGY

- Watch an introduction to crime scene analysis -
- Learn how to collect evidence with Britain's CSI School -
- Read a written overview of a variety of criminal cases -
- Listen to a BBC True Crime Podcast -

## DRAMA & THEATRE

- Visit the theatre or watch streamed performances on line to experience and appreciate as much 'live' theatre as possible, such as National Theatre at Home
- Research contemporary theatre companies
- Read a play. Try plays by Mark Wheeler, a Theatre in Education specialist, to get used to the structure and format of a play
- Sign up to Drama forums on Instagram or Facebook to connect with like-minded people and share ideas or resources/blogs
- Read live theatre reviews in weekend newspapers such as The Guardian or the Times

## ENGINEERING

- Look at a one use plastic water bottle and think about the following;
  - ◊ Where do the materials come from to make it?
  - ◊ How many different materials are used for the water bottle?
  - ◊ What is the lifespan of the water bottle?
  - ◊ Why are there ridges on the water bottle sides (yes there are several uses)?
  - ◊ How will we solve the problem of waste plastics?
- Watch how a product is made from start to finish in 'Inside the Factory' on BBC iPlayer or Youtube
- Watch the film 'Pale Blue Dot' by Carl Sagan and think how you are going to improve our world in your lifetime -

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## LINGUISTICS

- Watch these ted talks by linguists about gender and identity and child language acquisition -

- Read articles about how our language is controlled by institutions and the media -

- Get involved in some debates about language and considering some of the topics that we address in A Level Language -

## ENGLISH LITERATURE

- Watch an adaptation of one of our set texts – for example one of the many film versions of 'Hamlet' or 'Wuthering Heights'
- Read a biography of Shakespeare, for example Bill Bryson's 'Shakespeare' or David Crystal's 'Shakespeare on Toast'
- Read other texts by key authors such as Sally Rooney (for example 'Conversations with Friends') and Tennessee Williams (for example 'The Glass Menagerie')
- Research the medieval period in preparation for our study of Chaucer's 'The Merchant's Prologue and Tale'. Ian Mortimer's 'The Time Traveller's Guide to Medieval England' is a good starting point

## FINE ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

- Download the 'Pinterest' app and start pinning – Create 'boards' that include; the work of historical and contemporary artists, creative and innovative materials and techniques (that go beyond traditional fine rat and or/ photography) and tutorials to support their application and exploration.
- Visit the New Walk art gallery, (or a gallery of your choice) – a short walk from Leicester train station 53 New Walk, Leicester, England LE1 7EA Collate ideas and make notes to suggest how the work observed could inform your own outcomes and ideas. What connections and links might we see?
- Use YouTube or Pinterest to look at A Level Fine Art/ Photography 'Sketchbook Tours' before identifying areas of strength and success as well as projects and themes that allow for more effective application of the assessment objectives and criteria.

## FRENCH

- Immerse yourself in French culture through music, podcasts, newspapers, magazines and films for natural language acquisition.

## GEOGRAPHY

- Listen to the podcast 'Costing the Earth' -
- Listen to the Royal Geographical Society's 'Ask the Geographer podcasts' -
- Read 'Prisoners of Geography' by Tim Marshall – an insightful book which helps understanding how physical geography impacts on political reality and really helps to understand how decisions of world leaders have been shaped by geography- a good introduction to Geopolitics
- Read 'Six Degrees' by Mark Lynas – a scary walkthrough of the impacts of Climate Change as world temperatures increase by 1 degree through to 6 degrees.

## HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

- Read 'No such thing as normal' by Bryony Gordon
- Watch 'Hospital' on BBC iPlayer. Could you picture yourself doing a rewarding vocational role in the care sector?
- Research shows us that midwife care is the safest care for a low risk mum to be, would you like to be an expert in pregnancy and birth? Visit the RCM website to find out more
- Reach the article—Mid Staffordshire NHS foundation trust – Failings in care
- Learn more about an exemplary service provider – The Royal Chelsea Hospital -

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## HISTORY

- Listen to the BBC podcast 'You're Dead to Me' with Greg Jenner.
- Visit a gallery or museum such as Birmingham Art Gallery and Leicester's New Walk – both have world class collections - Birmingham of 19th Century pre-Raphaelite art and culture and Leicester of German Expressionism from the 20th Century (and the mummies!).
- Read 'History Today' – magazine or on-line.

## MATHEMATICS AND FURTHER MATHEMATICS

- Have a look at this video: The applications of Mathematics. How you can use mathematical logic and codes -
- Challenge your mathematical skills and attempt unusual problems -
- Read: Mathematics: From the Birth of Numbers (1997) by Jan Gullberg.

## MEDIA STUDIES

- Access the 'English and Media Centre' online. When you get to log in, go to media magazine.
  **Username: Hinckley School**
  **Password:Media**
  ◊ Read through the most recent issues.
- Look at Becky Fisher's Youtube page and read through the most recent issues

## MUSIC

- Watch live recordings of your favourite musicians – see what they do on stage
- Strengthen your music theory by trying some of the work on the Music Theory website -
- Find out more about where music can take you! -

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## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Regularly participate/compete in at least one sport. Research the background history of that sport and the current media and commercialisation of the sport. Keep up to date with the news and key stories in that sport such as on Sky TV or listening to Radio 5 Live.
- Watch a documentary related to an aspect of sport such as 'Game changers' looking at nutrition of sport or 'Cristiano Ronaldo tested to the limit' focusing on power, strength and conditioning of elite athletes.
- Read a book such as 'The Champions Mind' or 'The Mindful Athlete' looking at the psychology of successful performance.
- Go on YouTube and listen to short videos from 'James Morris' on A Level PE topics such as muscles, joints and the cardio-respiratory system.
- Watch a performer in a sport of your choice and analyse their strengths and weaknesses in their skills, tactics and fitness.
- Visit a live sports performance

## PHYSICS

- Watch ***Black Holes, The Edge of All We Know*** on Netflix.
- Interested in sci fi? Check out the futuristic programme ***Devs*** on BBC iPlayer – can we really go back in time?
- Read the ***Feynman Lectures on Physics*** to gain a more in-depth insight into topics such as electromagnetism and quantum mechanics.
- Interested in something a bit different? Check out ***Sunfall*** – a fiction book based on real physics concepts written by world famous theoretical physicist Jim Al-Khalili.
- Discover the magic of astronomy by visiting **Jodrell Bank** in Cheshire - home to one of the largest radio telescopes in the world!
- Or maybe visit the **National Space Centre** in Leicester and see the Soyuz spacecraft – responsible for transporting cosmonauts in the Russian lunar programme.

## PSYCHOLOGY

- Look at Psychological studies including clips from 15
  Famous Experiments and Case Studies in Psychology (2022) -

- Have a look at some ideas to help you to develop your own Psychological research -

- Read 'The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good
  People Turn Evil' (2007) by Philip Zimbardo.

- Or maybe even visit to the Freud museum in London.

## SOCIOLOGY

- Watch these two Youtube clips -

- Read 'Chavs' by Owen Jones and watch him being interviewed about his book -

- Have a look at this website -

## UNIFORMED PROTECTIVE SERVICES

- Read '*British Politics: A Very Short Introduction*' by Tony Wright
- Watch British crime documentaries
- Research and complete a 6-week fitness training programme

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# SUPPORT

**Q: I have an additional question about a course, who can I speak to?**

A: Please contact the relevant subject leader and they will be happy to provide additional information about their course :

**Art/Photography**—kwebster@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Biology**—afawkner@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Business**—vbull@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Chemistry**— csmith@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Computer Science** - lstone@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Criminology** - nkelly@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Drama and Theatre**—kcook@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Engineering**—jwilson@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**English Literature/Linguistics**
hfoers@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Geography**– whillier@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Health and Social Care** -
FNaulla@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**History**—cburton@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Mathematics/Further Mathematics**
imorris@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Media Studies** - hfoers@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Music**—driley@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Physical Education**—
abarnacle@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Physics**—afawkner@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Psychology** - nkelly@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Sociology** - nkelly@thehinckleyschool.co.uk

**Uniformed Protective Services** -
shayto@thehinckleyschool.co.uk