

# Independent Learning:

## A guide for Year 7 Parents 2020-2021



### Contents:

<b>1. Introduction and rationale</b>	2
<b>2. What does it mean to be an independent learner?</b>	3
<b>3. What does Independent Learning look like in Year 7?</b>	4-6
3.1. The termly cross-curricular project	4
3.2. The Independent Learning Booklet (ILB)	5
3.3. Daily independent study routines	6
<b>4. Useful resources</b>	7-20
4.1. Study timetable (suggested)	7
4.2. Websites	8
4.3. Suggested Year 7 Reading List	9-20

## 1. Introduction and rationale

Dear parent,

The purpose of this guide is to provide clarity and guidance on independent learning at the Norwood School.

The effect of homework tasks on student attainment is currently a hot topic of debate. However, what is clear from the research is that students must see the reason behind tasks and have a sense of ownership in order to benefit from them.

Furthermore, according to research carried out by the Education Endowment Foundation, **focusing on metacognition and self-regulated learning can result in students experiencing an average of seven months additional progress.**

This has informed our approach to Independent Learning in Year 7. The Independent Learning model in Year 7 aims to achieve the following:

- **Challenge students with relevant and engaging tasks to complete.**
- **Engage; excite, arouse curiosity, and foster a sense of achievement.**
- **Develop the skills to manage their time effectively.**
- **Deepen understanding of how we learn best.**

We have found that setting more traditional homework tasks has not been the most effective approach towards achieving these aims. As such, Year 7 students follow a more project-based, formative approach to independent learning, which will be outlined in this guide.

## 2. What does it mean to be an independent learner?

The key ingredient of Independent Learning is **the shift of responsibility for the learning process from the teacher to the student**. This has a proven positive impact on learning.

To achieve this, students need:

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### **Cognitive skills:**

(a good memory, concentration, problem-solving ability)

### **Metacognitive skills:**

(to be able to describe how they learn, identify strategies for learning and apply what they have learnt to other contexts)

### **Affective skills:**

(self-motivation, managing frustrations, the ability to cope when faced with challenges)

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As teachers and parents, we must:

### **Ensure students have the resources they need to learn independently, by...**

- ensuring they have a suitable place to work.
- providing a bank of suitable study aids and reference materials.
- ensuring access to and proficiency in ICT and online learning.

### **Train students to be independent, by...**

- explicitly teaching strategies for learning independently.
- providing work at just the right level of challenge support they need to start working unaided.
- showing them how to plan their learning and use their time effectively.

### **Ensure students have ownership over their learning, by...**

- ensuring students have some choice over independent tasks.
- designing tasks that excite their curiosity and develop a sense of achievement.
- Fostering a positive attitude towards failure and a growth mind-set.

### **Give students the time and space to reflect on the learning process, by**

- discussing the learning process in the classroom and at home.
- giving regular opportunities for self and peer assessment.
- ensuring students know the gaps in their knowledge and what to do about them.

### 3. What does Independent Learning look like in Year 7?

Independent Learning in Year 7 has three main elements:

- A termly, cross-curricular project.
- An Independent Learning Booklet for each subject.
- Daily independent study routines

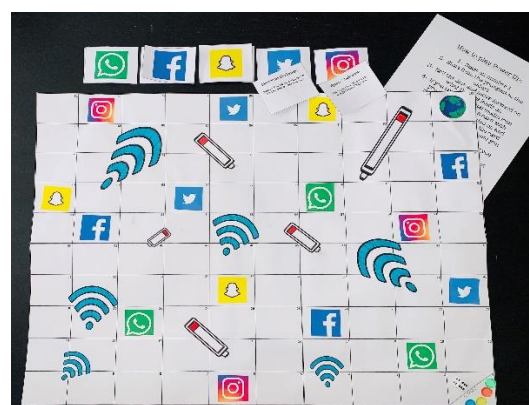
#### 3.1. The termly cross-curricular project

The termly **cross-curricular projects** aim to apply all of the knowledge and skills students have learnt in their subjects to a creative, individual, unique outcome. They also strengthen independent research skills and time-management.

Projects are set at the beginning of each term and run for 6-8 weeks. Each project is set and marked by a number of subjects and encourages students to see links between subjects and how they apply to the wider world.

Projects are regularly adapted and modified to ensure they are relevant and meaningful to the students. Projects in year 7 have included:

- The **IGNITE** oracy project. Set by the Performing Arts faculty, this project develops students' public speaking and general oracy skills in response to a topic they feel passionate about.
- **BOARD WARS**: A board game design project that extends students language, computer programming and mathematical skills. Set by the MFL, Mathematics and Computing faculties.
- The **ARTEFACT** project. The Artefact 2020 project. Set by the performing and Visual Arts faculties, has been designed to focus on developing planning, creative, literacy, numeracy, performance and physical skills. The outcome is a lockdown survival guide to help others facing similar circumstances.



Two examples of last year's Year 7 Board Wars project

### 3.2. The Independent Learning Booklet (ILB)

Students also have an Independent Learning Booklet (ILB) for each subject. The purpose of the ILB is to guide students through independent study and support them in developing an effective routine of home study.

#### **ILBs contain:**

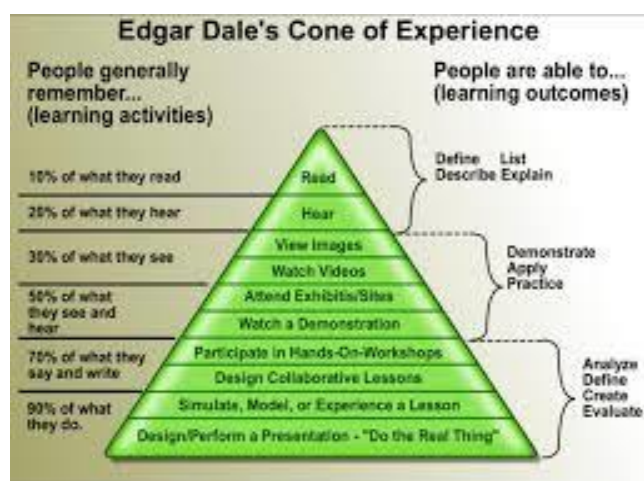
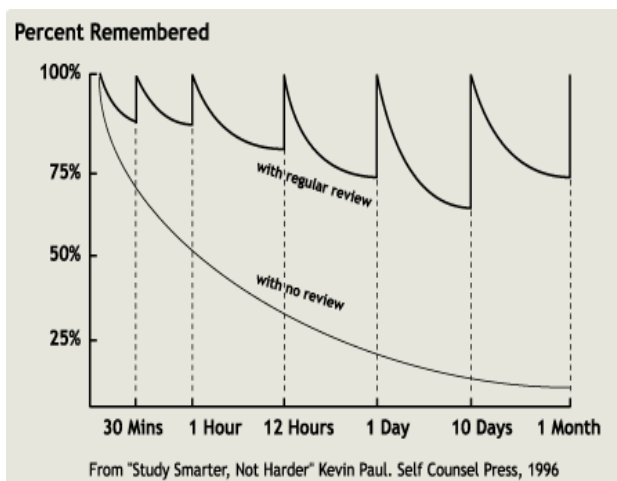
- All of the key knowledge for the term/ half term in your subject;
- Opportunities to practice and test knowledge;
- Strategies for effective revision and links to resources;
- Relevant online learning tools and passwords;
- Suggested ways to apply what you have learnt creatively;
- Links to further reading.

#### **Key points:**

- It is expected that students will spend about 45 minutes per week on each ILB.
- ILBs should be referred to in lessons regularly by teachers and students will be shown how to use them by their relevant subject teacher.
- Although they are not marked by teachers and should be primarily used at home, students may be asked to bring them in for informal monitoring or for a particular lesson.
- Students must hold on to all of their ILBs and keep them safe, as they will serve as a revision guide for the end of year exams in year 7 and into year 8.
- Most ILBs cover a term's worth of learning. Visual Arts ILBs cover the academic year.
- Faculties will provide an electronic version of the ILB on Google Classroom, alongside guidance on how to use it effectively. There will be no weekly tasks set on Google Classroom in Years 7 and 8.

### 3.3. Daily independent study routines

The benefits of regular review and a trying a variety of different activities is well documented, as these two graphics show.



It is also expected that, in addition to project and ILB work, students regularly do the following:

#### **Reading for pleasure.**

A year 7 student should read for at least 30 minutes each day. This brings huge benefits across all subjects and will enable them to access an increasing range of written material.

#### **Reviewing their work in each subject.**

Students must also take some time each day to reflect on the key things they have learnt that day, perhaps by summarising, mind-mapping or representing in pictorial form what they have learnt.

#### **Organising their work.**

It is advisable that students spend some time ensuring their exercise books are in order, well presented and well organised, as well as finishing off any work that was not completed in lesson time. This could also involve highlighting, colour coding, sticking in relevant sheets (and discarding others), as well as responding to any teacher questions, comments or feedback that need addressing.

#### **Online learning.**

Students will also have access to online learning platforms, and should be using these regularly in short bite-size bursts to develop their retrieval of key knowledge. These resources are often very effective in highlighting gaps in knowledge.

## 4. Useful resources

### 4.1. STUDY TIMETABLE:

Below is a suggested timetable for year 7 independent study, integrated with one week of the two-week timetable. Please feel free to adapt it through dialogue with your child and support them in using it. What is key is that your child has ownership over the learning process.

Before school	Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	8.15- 8.30	Independent Reading	Independent Reading	Independent Reading	Independent Reading	Independent Reading	Morning: Project work 9.00-10.30	Morning: Project work 9.00-10.30
During School	Form time	Mail on Monday	Together Tuesday	Wellbeing Wednesday	Let's Talk About.../	Feel-good Friday		
	P1-2	Music	Maths	Science	Technology	English		
	Break							
	P3-4	English	Spanish	History	Science	Spanish		
	Lunch							
	P5-6	Dance	Art	P.E.	Geography	Maths	Afternoon: Free time	
After school (1)	3.30-4 (review)	<u>Review :</u> Music, English, Dance.	<u>Review :</u> Maths, Spanish, Art	<u>Review :</u> Music, English, Dance.	<u>Review:</u> Music, English, Dance.	<u>Review :</u> English, Spanish, Maths.		
	4-5pm (ILBS, online)	ILB: Art/ Linguascope (15 mins)	ILB: Science Educake (15 minutes)	ILB: Geog Heggarty (15 minutes)	ILB: English Heggarty (15 minutes)	ILB: Music Spanish vocab (15 minutes)		
Down time	Dinner							
After school (2)	6-6.45 (ILBs)	ILB: Spanish	ILB: History	ILB: Tech.	ILB: Maths	ILB: Dance		
Down time	Notes?		P.E. tomorrow (kit)		Maths test tomorrow?		next week: tests?	

## **4.2. WEBSITES**

Subjects will have their own subscriptions to online learning platforms, and details on how to access them will be available from teachers or through the ILBs. In some cases, these websites are directly accessible through single sign-on, via the school's RMunify homepage.

Here are some of the key online platforms used by subjects:

1. [www.linguascope.com](http://www.linguascope.com)

The World's Number 1 Interactive Language Learning Platform for Schools –Learn French, Spanish, German, Italian, Russian, Mandarin Chinese, English.

2. [www.educake.co.uk/science](http://www.educake.co.uk/science)

Educake Science includes thousands of carefully-written questions for KS3 and GCSE or IGCSE, all designed to improve and assess your students' knowledge and understanding.

3. [www.hegartymaths.com](http://www.hegartymaths.com)

Log in and complete tasks set by your teacher, revise and track your progress.

4. [www.language-gym.com](http://www.language-gym.com) (MFL)

All the content in the Language Gym is ideal for independent learning because of the careful scaffolding and heavy recycling.

5. [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) (all subjects)

Use BBC Bitesize to help with your homework, revision and learning. Find free videos, step-by-step guides, activities and quizzes by level and subject.

6. [www.bbc.co.uk/newsround](http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround)

Watch the news (CBBC newsround, or even better the BBC news) to keep up to date with current affairs.

7. [www.google.co.uk/intl/en\\_uk/earth](http://www.google.co.uk/intl/en_uk/earth) (Google Earth- geography)

Other Geography-related websites:

<https://geoguessr.com>

<https://www.natgeokids.com>

<http://www.geographypods.com>



### 4.3. YEAR 7 READING LIST

#### The English Department @ The Norwood School

#### KS3 Suggested Reading List

#### Year 7 Autumn 1 and 2

*During the Autumn term, Year 7 will be studying 'The Graveyard Book' by Neil Gaimans and a creative writing unit inspired by Gothic literature.*

#### Gothic/Horror

<b>What's the title?</b>	<b>Who's the author?</b>	<b>What is it about?</b>
The Lie Tree	Frances Hardinge	The Lie Tree is set in the male-dominated Victorian scientific society, and tells the story of Faith Sunderly, a 14-year-old girl whose father is killed in mysterious circumstances after the family moves to the fictional island of Vane.
Coraline	Neil Gaiman	While exploring her new home, a girl named Coraline discovers a secret door, behind which lies an alternate world that closely mirrors her own but, in many ways, is better. She rejoices in her discovery, until the Other Mother and the rest of her parallel family try to keep her there forever. Coraline must use all her resources and bravery to make it back to her own family and life.
The Haunting of Aveline Jones	Phil Hicke	Turn on your torches and join Aveline Jones! Aveline loves reading ghost stories, so a dreary half-term becomes much more exciting when she discovers a spooky old book. Not only are the stories spine-tingling, but it belonged to a girl called Primrose Penberthy, who vanished mysteriously, never to be seen again. Intrigued, Aveline decides to investigate Primrose's disappearance, with some help from her new friend, Harold. Now someone...or something, is stirring. And it is looking for Aveline.
Raven's Gate	Anthony Horowitz	Matt has always known he has unusual powers. Raised in foster care, he is sent to Yorkshire on a rehabilitation programme, only to find himself in the midst of sinister goings-on. Matt investigates and uncovers a terrible secret – eight guardians are protecting the world from the Old Ones, beings banished long ago by five children. But devil worshippers want to let the Old Ones back in...
Miss Peregrine's Peculiar Children	Ransom Riggs	When his beloved grandfather leaves Jake clues to a mystery that spans different worlds and times, he finds a magical place known as Miss Peregrine's School for Peculiar Children. But the mystery and danger deepen as he gets to know the residents and learns about their special powers - and their terrifying enemies.
Small Spaces	Katherine Arden	Eleven-year-old Ollie only finds solace in books. So when she happens upon a crazed woman at the river threatening to

		throw a book into the water, Ollie doesn't think—she just acts, stealing the book and running away. As she begins to read the slender volume, Ollie discovers a chilling story about a girl named Beth, the two brothers who both loved her, and a peculiar deal made with “the smiling man,” a sinister specter who grants your most tightly held wish, but only for the ultimate price.
The Jumbies	Tracey Baptiste	Corinne La Mer claims she isn't afraid of anything. Not scorpions, not the boys who tease her, and certainly not jumbies. They're just tricksters made up by parents to frighten their children. Then one night Corinne chases an agouti all the way into the forbidden forest, and shining yellow eyes follow her to the edge of the trees. They couldn't belong to a jumbie. Or could they? When Corinne spots a beautiful stranger at the market the very next day, she knows something extraordinary is about to happen. When this same beauty, called Severine, turns up at Corinne's house, danger is in the air. Severine plans to claim the entire island for the jumbies. Corinne must call on her courage and her friends and learn to use ancient magic she didn't know she possessed to stop Severine and to save her island home.
The Spiderwick Chronicles	Tony Diterlizzi and Holly Black	9-year-old twins Jared and Simon and their 13-year-old sister Mallory move with their mother to a decaying Victorian house after their father leaves them. On their first night, they discover a secret library, and later discover a more house secrets and passages
Goth Girl	Chris Riddell	After befriendng the ghost of a mouse who needs her help, Ada begins boldly exploring her home, discovering new rooms, gardens, and friends while learning of a sinister plot being hatched by Maltravers, the creepy gamekeeper charged with organizing an annual indoor hunt inside the massive estate.
The Signalman	Charles Dickens	In the story, a practical-minded narrator meets a railway worker who has been seeing supernatural visions. The narrator doubts the man at first, but at the story's conclusion a strange event makes him a believer.

### **Ambitious reads**

<b>What's the title?</b>	<b>Who's the author?</b>	<b>What's it about?</b>
The Woman in Black	Susan Hill	A young solicitor travels to a remote village where he discovers the vengeful ghost of a scorned woman is terrorizing the locals. ... However, Arthur goes to the isolated manor and soon he finds that Eel Marsh House is haunted by the vengeful ghost of a woman dressed in black.
Dracula	Bram Stoker	Dracula is a classic and genre-defining tale of horror from famed author Bram Stoker. This novel contains the chilling tales of those that encountered the monster Dracula on his quest to emigrate

		from Transylvania to England, as he seeks to consume blood and spread his undead curse to the innocent.
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	Victor Frankenstein is a scientist obsessed with generating life from lifeless matter. He subsequently manages to create a horrifying, sentient creature assembled from pieces of stolen body parts. Shunned by society and faced with eternal isolation, the creature becomes murderous with revenge against the one who brought him into existence, Frankenstein.

### Year 7 Spring 1

During Spring 1, Year 7 will be studying 'Apple and Rain' by Sarah Crossan.

### Bildungsroman

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What is it about?
Beyond the Bright Sea	Lauren Wolk	What does it mean to be a family? In this beautifully written and heart-wrenching story, 12-year-old Crow explores questions of her own identity and where she truly belongs.
How High the Moon	Karyn Parsons	How High the Moon is an ambitious novel weaving together family drama with a miscarriage of justice and the horrifying reality of the prejudice and racism faced by black and mixed race people.
The Alchemist	Paulo Coelho	Santiago is a shepherd boy who dreams that a treasure awaits him beside the Egyptian pyramids. After a long, uneventful journey he finds that real riches are waiting for him in an unexpected place.
The Weight of Water	Sarah Crossan	When Kasienka's father leaves the family home in Poland in search of a new life, her broken-hearted mother resolves to follow him to England. Kasienka, who is reluctant to leave Poland, finds their shabby new home in Coventry damp and depressing. To make matters worse, Kasienka is constantly made to feel like an outsider in her new school: she is ostracised by the other girls and finds no solace at home, as her mother spends all her free time determinedly searching the streets of Coventry for her missing husband. The only release Kasienka finds from her problems is through swimming and an important friendship she makes at the pool with a boy called William.
Wolf Hollow	Lauren Wolk	Wolk's children's novel revolves around twelve year-old Annabelle as she attempts to deal with a local bully named Betty while defending local recluse and World War I veteran Toby against lies and accusations of violence during World War II.
Wonder	R.J. Palacio	Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run

		<p>away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go.</p> <p>Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?</p>
Noughts and Crosses	Malorie Blackman	<p>Sephy is a Cross - a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a nought - a 'colourless' member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have been friends since early childhood. A romance between the two lands them in trouble.</p>

### Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
We Have Always Lived in the Castle	Shirley Jackson	Not only does this novel feature the best opening paragraph of all time (or at least one of them; see the entry for <i>We The Animals</i> on this very list), but it also features a very compelling young protagonist coming to terms with what I'll gingerly describe as a . . . unique family situation.
Great Expectations	Charles Dickens	Great Expectations follows the childhood and young adult years of Pip, a blacksmith's apprentice in a country village. He suddenly comes into a large fortune (his great expectations) from a mysterious benefactor and moves to London where he enters high society.

### Year 7 Spring 2

During Spring 2, Year 7 will be studying an 'Introduction to Poetry' unit.

### Poetry anthologies and novels following the poetic form

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
The Rattle Bag	Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes	Edited by Seamus Heaney and Ted Hughes, and conceived of as a collection of their own favourite poems, <i>The Rattle Bag</i> has established itself as the classic anthology of our time. Heaney and Hughes have brought together an inspired and diverse selection, ranging from undisputed masterpieces to rare discoveries, as well as drawing upon works in translation and traditional poems from oral cultures.

A Poem for Every Day of the Year	Allie Esiri (Jackie Kay, Robert Frost, Martin Luker King Jr, Robert Burns, Edgar Allen Poe etc.)	<i>A Poem For Every Day of the Year</i> is a magnificent collection of 366 poems compiled by Allie Esiri, one to share on every day of the year. Reflecting the changing seasons and linking to events on key dates – funny for April Fool's Day, festive for Christmas – these poems are thoughtful, inspiring, humbling, informative, quiet, loud, small, epic, peaceful, energetic, upbeat, motivating, and empowering!
Funky Chickens	Benjamin Zephaniah	Enter the crazy world of rap poet Benjamin Zephaniah! A reissue of the wonderfully irreverent collection of poetry for young people, touching on anything from vegetables to the Queen and from sewage to the sun. There's plenty of humour as well as poems on racism, pollution and the murder of a cat.
A Poem for Every Night of the Year	Allie Esiri (William Wordsworth, Langston Hughes, Sappho, T.S. Eliot etc.)	<i>A Poem For Every Night of the Year</i> is a magnificent collection of 366 poems compiled by Allie Esiri, one to share for every night of the year. The poems – together with introductory paragraphs – have a link to the date on which they appear. Shakespeare celebrates midsummer night, Maya Angelou International Women's Day and Lewis Carroll April Fool's day.
Long Way Down	Jason Reynolds	A breath-taking examination of loyalty, guilt and the self-destructive urge for retribution, <i>Long Way Down</i> is a verse novel set in real time and a single location that packs one hell of a punch.
Unheard Voices	Malorie Blackman	In 1807, the British parliament passed an Act making the trading and transportation of slaves illegal. This book brings together stories and poems which provide a first-hand account of the horrors of slavery, remembering the brutal and long-lasting inflictions which have shaped millions of lives.

### Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Half-Caste	John Agard	The tensions brought about by differences of race and culture are at the heart of this powerful and entertaining collection by one of Britain's most exciting and original poets and performers. John Agard, winner of the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry, explores the richness of human diversity in the world today.
Shakespeare for Every Day of the Year	Allie Esiri (William Shakespeare)	William Shakespeare wrote at least 37 plays, 154 sonnets and a handful of longer poems and you can discover them all here. Each page of this unique collection contains an extract, which might be a famous poem, quote or scene, matched to the date. Allie Esiri's introductions give her readers a new window into the

		work, time and life of the greatest writer in the English language.
Poet X	Elizabeth Acevedo	Xiomara has always kept her words to herself. When it comes to standing her ground in her Harlem neighbourhood, she lets her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But X has secrets – her feelings for a boy in her bio class, and the notebook full of poems that she keeps under her bed. And a slam poetry club that will pull those secrets into the spotlight.

### Year 7 Summer 1

During Summer 1, Year 7 will be studying 'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness.

### Magical Realism

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Life of Pi	Yann Martel	After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild, blue Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a zebra (with a broken leg), a female orang-utan - and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger.
The Ocean at the End of the Lane	Neil Gaiman	The book follows a nameless narrator who returns, in middle age, to his childhood hometown for a funeral. The trip brings to mind his youthful friendship with his old neighbor, Lettie Hempstock, a strange girl who insisted that the little pond by her house was an ocean. Lettie's since moved to Australia — or so our hero thinks. As he lingers around his childhood haunts, he comes to remember more and more about his past. It turns out that the idyllic veneer of his childhood hides secrets both monstrous and magical.
Harry Potter (7 books)	J.K. Rowling	Harry Potter is a series of fantasy novels written by British author J. K. Rowling. The novels chronicle the lives of a young wizard, Harry Potter, and his friends Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley, all of whom are students at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.
His Dark Materials (Trilogy)	Phillip Pullman	His Dark Materials is a trilogy of fantasy novels by Philip Pullman consisting of Northern Lights (1995) (published as The Golden Compass in North America), The Subtle Knife (1997), and The Amber Spyglass (2000).
Letting Go	Cat Clarke	Agnes tries to sort out her tumultuous feelings when she helps her ex-girlfriend and her new boyfriend scatter her mum's ashes.

### Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Skellig	David Almond	This book revolves around a 10-year old boy, Michael. When Michael moves into a crumbling, old house with an ancient garage that he cannot resist going into, he encounters a mysterious creature named Skellig.
The Rest of Us Just Live Here	Patrick Ness	Award-winning writer Patrick Ness's bold and irreverent novel powerfully asks what if you weren't the Chosen One? The one who's supposed to fight the zombies, or the soul-eating ghosts, or whatever this new thing is, with the blue lights and the death? What if you were like Mikey? Who just wants to graduate and go to prom and maybe finally work up the courage to ask Henna out before someone goes and blows up the high school. Again. Because sometimes there are problems bigger than this week's end of the world and sometimes you just have to find the extraordinary in your ordinary life.
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	In 1938, young orphan Liesel arrives at the home of her new foster parents, Hans and Rosa.. When Hans, a kindly house painter, learns that Liesel cannot read, he teaches the child the wonders of the written language. Liesel grows to love books, even rescuing one from a Nazi bonfire. Though Liesel's new family barely scrape by, their situation becomes even more precarious when they secretly shelter a Jewish boy whose father once saved Hans' life.

## Year 7 Summer 2

During Summer 2, Year 7 will be studying 'The Tempest' by William Shakespeare.

## Plays to read and explore

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Grimm Tales	Carol Ann Duffy	Grimm Tales is a play by British poet Carol Ann Duffy, based on the original fairy tales written down by the Brothers Grimm.
Blood Brothers	Willy Russell	The story is a contemporary nature versus nurture plot, revolving around fraternal twins Mickey and Eddie, who were separated at birth, one subsequently being raised in a wealthy family, the other in a poor family.
Noughts and Crosses RSC	Malorie Blackman	An electrifying, bittersweet love story with echoes of Romeo and Juliet, set in a society divided by racial bigotry and a world rocked by terrorism. Adapted from Malorie Blackman's best-selling novels.
Face (The Play)	Benjamin Zephaniah and Richard Conlon	Benjamin Zephaniah and Richard Conlon deal with issues such as prejudice, drugs and disfigurement in this vibrant, gritty adaptation of Zephaniah's bestselling novel for young people. Everything is going Martin's way. The holidays have started, he's got a gorgeous girlfriend and everyone agrees he's

		the coolest dancer around. But when his world is turned upside down by a crash in a stolen car, he has to come to terms with more than his facial injuries...
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### **Ambitious reads**

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
A Midsummer Night's Dream	William Shakespeare	A Midsummer Night's Dream is a comedy written by William Shakespeare in 1595/96. The play consists of multiple subplots that revolve around the marriage of Theseus and Hippolyta.
The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe	C.S. Lewis (adapted by Glyn Robbins)	

### **Reading groups and challenges**

#### **Phoenix Book Award**

This exciting South London based Book Prize targets KS2 and KS3 pupils in Lambeth, encouraging them to read through the transition years. Phoenix is a unique book prize as students are involved in every stage of the award; from picking the shortlist, to shadowing the award and then finally voting for their favourite. It is open to all schools in the Lambeth area and The Norwood School takes part every year!

The following books have been shortlisted for this award in the past:

- **Serafina and the Black Cloak** by Robert Beatty
- **Boy X** by Dan Smith
- **Sweet Pizza** by GR Gemin
- **The Mystery of the Jewelled Moth** by Katherine Woodfine
- 

#### **The Carnegie Book Award**

The CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals are the UK's oldest and best-loved children's book awards, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through writing and illustration in books for children and young people.

The following books have been shortlisted for The CILIP Carnegie Medal Shortlist 2020

- **Girl. Boy. Sea** by Chris Vick
- **The Black Flamingo** by Dean Atta
- **Lark** by Anthony McGowan
- **Patron Saints of Nothing** by Randy Ribay
- **On the Come Up** by Angie Thomas
- **Nowhere on Earth** by Rick Lake
- **Lampie** by Annet Schaap and Laura Watkinson



- **Voyages in the Underworld of Orpheus Black** by Marcus Sedgwick and Julian Sedgwick

### Reading Challenge: 16 before 16

'16 before 16' is our reading challenge for all students Year 9+. Some texts include mature themes, so if students in Years 7 and 8 want to participate, they have to have a note signed by their parents/carers. It runs until the end of Year 11 or until students have read their 16 books.

The increased difficulty and level of challenge in the new English GCSE means that students need to be fully prepared for what is now expected of them. The '16 before 16' initiative is designed to support and aid this preparation.

Below is a list of 25 books specially selected by our English Department as the 'must read' texts for young individuals. Your child is asked to choose 16 of these 25 and read them before they finish their studies at The Norwood School.

If your child would like to participate in this competition they need to pick up a passbook from their English teacher or from the school library. The passbook is designed to allow them to complete a short review of each book and also to enable you to add your signature to verify that they have completed the text. House points will be awarded after each finished book and a prize and certificate will be issued when the competition has been completed and 16 pages of the passbook have been filled.

Students are encouraged to read at their own pace and to then show their English teacher their passbook after they have read each text in order to be awarded house points. Many of the texts are available to be booked out from the school library. There is no requirement for students to read the texts in a particular set order. Please find the shortlisted books below:

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	Frankenstein tells the story of gifted scientist Victor Frankenstein who succeeds in giving life to a being of his own creation. However, this is not the perfect specimen he imagines that it will be, but rather a hideous creature who is rejected by Victor and mankind in general.
The White Tiger	Aravind Adiga	The White Tiger is the story of Balram Halwai's life as a self-declared "self-made entrepreneur": a rickshaw driver's son who skillfully climbs India's social ladder to become a chauffeur and later a successful businessman.
The Tattooist of Auschwitz	Heather Morris	The book tells the story of how Slovakian Jew Lale Sokolov, who was imprisoned at Auschwitz in 1942, fell in love with a girl he was tattooing at the concentration camp.
To Kill A Mockingbird	Harper Lee	Shoot all the Bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a Mockingbird. Lawyer Atticus

		Finch gives this advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee's classic novel - a black man charged with the rape of a white girl. Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with exuberant humour the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s.
Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe	The novel chronicles the life of Okonkwo, the leader of an Igbo community, from the events leading up to his banishment from the community for accidentally killing a clansman, through the seven years of his exile, to his return, and it addresses a particular problem of emergent Africa—the intrusion in the 1890s of white missionaries and colonial government into tribal Igbo society.
The Outsiders	S.E. Hinton	The novel tells the story of Ponyboy Curtis and his struggles with right and wrong in a society in which he believes that he is an outsider. Ponyboy and his two brothers — Darrel (Darry), who is 20, and Sodapop, who is 16 — have recently lost their parents in an automobile accident.
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy	Douglas Adams	One early morning, Arthur's friend, who's actually an alien, informs him of Earth's impending doom and whisks him away in a spaceship. While Arthur deals with his woes, he also has a great adventure.
Brighton Rock	Graham Greene	Pinky, a small time gangster, becomes the leader of a gang on the English seaside of the Brighton town. His guilt for murdering a rival, leads him on a path of self-destructions.
Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry	Mildred D Taylor	Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry is the classic story of a girl growing up in the deep South. Set in Mississippi at the height of the American Depression, this is the story of a family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride and independence against the forces of a cruelly racist society.
Lord of the Flies	William Golding	William Golding's 1954 novel Lord of the Flies tells the story of a group of young boys who find themselves alone on a deserted island. They develop rules and a system of organization, but without any adults to serve as a 'civilizing' impulse, the children eventually become violent and brutal.
Great Expectations	Charles Dickens	Great Expectations follows the childhood and young adult years of Pip, a blacksmith's apprentice in a country village. He suddenly comes into a large fortune (his great expectations) from a mysterious benefactor and moves to London where he enters high society.
I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou	I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, the first of seven autobiographical works by American writer Maya Angelou, published in 1969. The book chronicles her life

		from age 3 through age 16, recounting an unsettled and sometimes traumatic childhood.
Hagseed	Margaret Atwood	Felix is at the top of his game as Artistic Director of the Makeshiweg Theatre Festival. His productions have amazed and confounded. Now he's staging a Tempest like no other. It will boost his reputation. It will heal emotional wounds. Or that was the plan.
White Teeth	Zadie Smith	A humorous and strange novel focusing on the joining of 2 old war friends, their families and the strange events that unfold including cults, animal experiments and anarchy.
Small Island	Andrea Levy	Andrea Levy's Small Island tells the story of post-war Caribbean migration through four narrators – Hortense and Gilbert, who migrate from Jamaica to London in 1948, and an English couple, Queenie and Bernard, in whose house in London they find lodgings.
Home Fire	Kamila Shamsie	Two families' fates are inextricably, devastatingly entwined in this searing novel that asks: what sacrifices will we make in the name of love? A contemporary reimagining of Sophocles' Antigone, Home Fire is an urgent, fiercely compelling story of loyalties torn apart when love and politics collide - confirming Kamila Shamsie as a master storyteller of our times.
The Handmaid's Tale	Margaret Atwood	An unforgettable portrait of defiance and authoritarian rule, The Handmaid's Tale is a classic dystopian vision of a terrifyingly believable future. A devastatingly powerful exploration of female oppression with an all-too chilling resonance for our times.
The Catcher in the Rye	J.D. Salinger	Holden Caulfield, the maelstrom of contradictions and repressed rage at the tale's centre, emerges as an everyman for a disaffected generation, a boy adrift in time. Through a series of encounters – old friends, random strangers – Caulfield's story is that of coming of age, a young man profoundly shocked by the understanding that all innocence must end.
The Secret History	Donna Tartt	Under the influence of their charismatic classics professor, a group of clever, eccentric misfits at an elite New England college discover a way of thinking and living that is a world away from the humdrum existence of their contemporaries. But when they go beyond the boundaries of normal morality their lives are changed profoundly and for ever.
My Sister, the Serial Killer	Oyinkan Braithwaite	Satire meets slasher in this short, darkly funny hand grenade of a novel about a Nigerian woman whose younger sister has a very inconvenient habit of killing her boyfriends.

Educated	Tara Westover	Westover's journey from an Idaho mountain- girl who, according to the state, did not exist to a Cambridge-educated, sharply intelligent young woman is detailed with candour and grace in this remarkable memoir. Both a fascinating snapshot of survivalist, rural America and an uplifting tribute to the power of self-knowledge, Educated is a singularly gripping work of nonfiction.
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