

Sixth Form

Super-Curricular



Preparing for your next steps



During sixth form, you have the opportunity to read, watch and listen according to personal taste, exploring the subjects, ideas and issues that interest you most. Explorations of this kind – where you go beyond the things that you are taught directly at school – are often known as “**super-curricular activities**”.

Through such activities, you will be able to learn what a future course/career entails and better appreciate the knowledge/skills that will be expected from you. You will also be able to refer to these activities as evidence in applications, using them to illustrate your interest and commitment in a particular area, and to demonstrate the skills and qualities that you can offer.

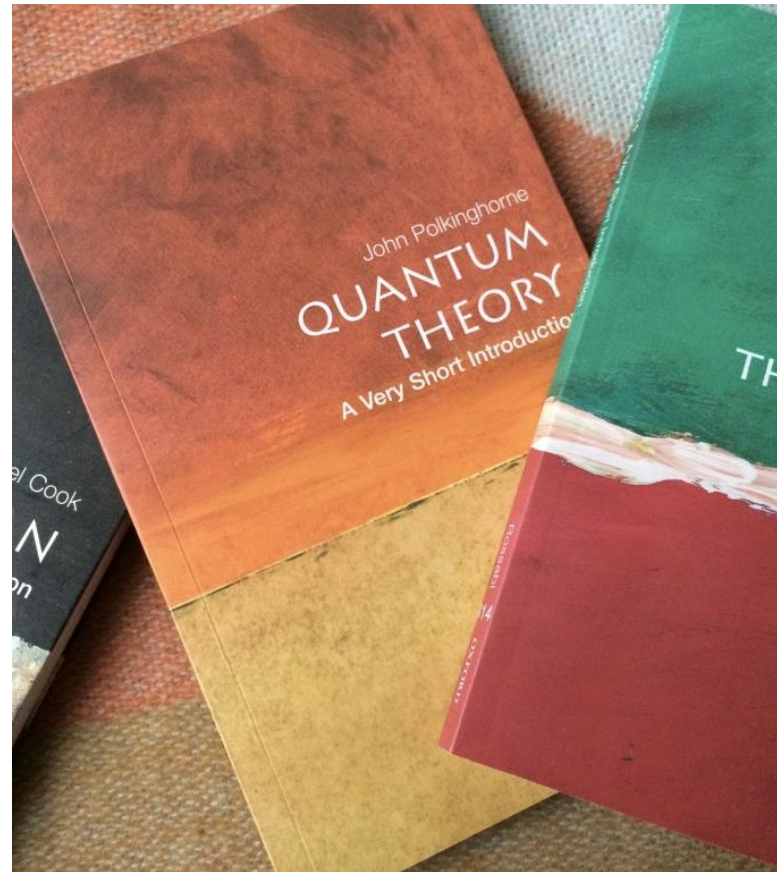
Here are a few suggestions to get you started...

+ Explore subject areas in depth

Visit the University of Warwick's **Knowledge Centre** to access many videos, podcasts and articles on up-to-the-minute issues, all arranged by subject area.

<https://warwick.ac.uk/newsandevents/knowledgecentre/>

You can also learn about subjects/topics that interest you by reading **guides** from well-regarded publishers, e.g. the Oxford *Very Short Introduction* series.





Explore subject areas in depth



Browse the **Reading Bank** compiled by students from University College, Oxford, comprising reviews of books which they read before going to university... or wish they had.

www.univ.ox.ac.uk/applying-to-univ/reading-bank/

Explore the **Resource Hub**, also from University College, Oxford, and discover a treasure trove of further resources, covering all subjects and disciplines and featuring everything from podcasts to databases to films.

www.univ.ox.ac.uk/applying-to-univ/resource-hub

Visit the website for the **Millennium Mathematics Project** for free resources, lecture videos and more: <https://maths.org/>



Oxplore

Oxplore (from the University of Oxford) helps you to tackle 'Big Questions' in ways that reflect the kind of thinking that students undertake at university. A wide range of subjects are covered, all reflecting the latest research.

<https://oxplore.org>



OX?LORE



Digital Resource Hub

In addition to the University College webpages, the University of Oxford has produced an overarching online database that compiles the best of the university's digital resources. Regardless of your plans for after A-level, these will enable you to explore your passions and interests further.

www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/increasing-access/ug-digital-resources/students-over-16



+ Signing up for a MOOC



Many leading universities and organisations provide free online courses covering a diverse range of subjects; these are often referred to as **Massive Open Online Courses**.

Attempting a MOOC can help you to develop your skills and knowledge independently in an area of personal interest.

Most courses last 2-8 weeks; they are all free to access, with some requiring a payment should you wish to be given a certificate upon completion (this is entirely optional and in most cases unnecessary).

www.futurelearn.com

www.coursera.org

www.open.edu/openlearn

See the separate guide on '**Searching for MOOCs in Unifrog**'.



Learn a new language

The websites listed here provide information about learning a language free-of-charge online.

www.duolingo.com

www.openculture.com/freelanguagelessons





Take a virtual tour

Visit some of the world's greatest **museums** and **galleries** with these tours.

www.timeout.com/travel/virtual-museum-tours

Explore the **Royal Collection** – one of the most important art collections in the world.

www.rct.uk/collection

Take in must-see museums as well as famous sites and landmarks with **Google Street View**.

<https://artsandculture.google.com/project/street-view>





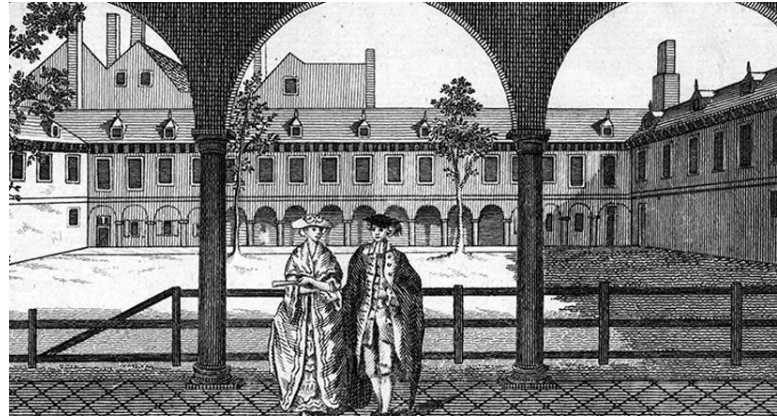
Attend virtual lectures and talks

Gresham College in London hosts 130 free public lectures and events each year. The video archive dating back to the 1980s can be accessed online free-of-charge.

www.gresham.ac.uk

The London School of Economics (LSE) shares its wide-ranging programme of lectures and events in the form of free videos/podcasts.

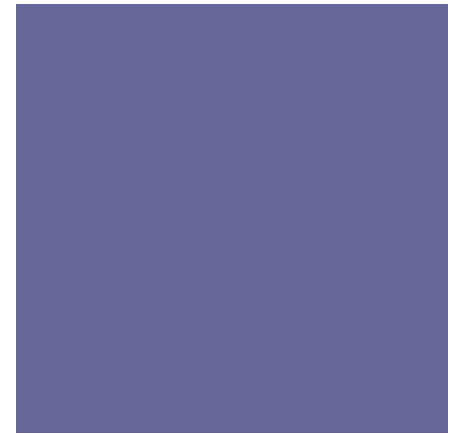
www.lse.ac.uk/lse-player





TED Talks can be found on a wide range of topics and featuring many inspiring speakers. The website also features educational videos under the TED-Ed banner.

www.ted.com



TED Talks and 'A History of Ideas'

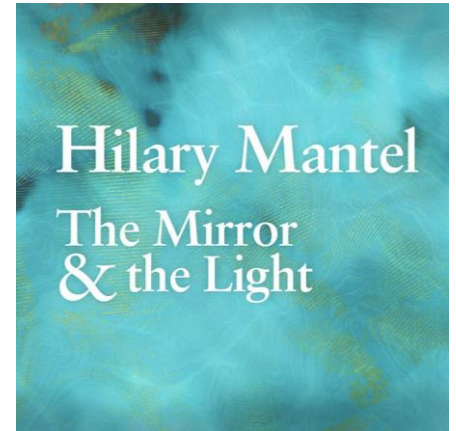
The BBC Radio 4 series **A History of Ideas** covers the work of major philosophers and their theories. The 'clips' tab features brief introductions to some of the most important ideas in history.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04bwydw



Audiobooks

Free audiobooks can be accessed through **BBC Sounds**. A number of free titles are also available from **Audible**.



www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/category/audiobooks

Texts include: *The Thirty-Nine Steps*; *The Mirror and The Light*.

<https://stories.audible.com/discovery>

Texts include: *Jane Eyre*; *Frankenstein*; *Wuthering Heights*.



Longer reads

Explore diverse subjects in greater depth by browsing and choosing from a wide range of free non-fiction articles.



www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/cxqvep8kqext/long-reads

www.independent.co.uk/news/long_reads

www.theguardian.com/news/series/the-long-read

<https://publicdomainreview.org/>

+ Podcasts – BBC Radio 4

■ Business & Economics

‘The Bottom Line’ – covering a wide variety of topics with 2-3 people interviewed on a business theme.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006sz6t

■ Psychology

‘All in the Mind’ – a huge array of podcasts for anyone interested in psychology.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qxx9

■ Law

‘Law in Action’ – a large assortment of topical podcasts all relating to the field of law.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006tgy1

■ Mathematics

‘More or Less: Behind the Stats’ – debunking statistics used in the news.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02nrss1

+ Podcasts – BBC Radio 4

■ Politics

‘Political Thinking with Nick Robinson’ – the BBC journalist talks about what’s going on in British politics.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04z2031/

■ Politics

‘Yesterday in Parliament’ – five-minute reports from BBC correspondents on the key events in Parliament.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02s8yk1

■ Natural Sciences

‘Inside Science’ – illuminating mysteries and challenging controversies in science changing our world.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b036f7w2

■ Sociology

‘Thinking Allowed’ – a series that addresses various themes and up-to-the-minute sociological research.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qy05

+ Podcasts – BBC Radio 4

■ Philosophy

‘Moral Maze’ – provocative and engaging debates examining the moral issues behind current news stories.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qk11

■ Science

‘Life Scientific’ – interviews with leading scientists about their life and the importance of their work.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b015sqc7

■ Philosophy

‘The Public Philosopher’ – Harvard philosopher Michael Sandel examines the thinking behind a current controversy.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01nmlh2

■ Science

‘Putting Science to Work’ – working out how science can be used to solve a pressing problem facing society.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06t1y3z

+ Podcasts – BBC Radio 4

■ History

‘The Long View’ – a series in which stories from the past are compared with current events.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006s7d6

■ Computing & Technology

‘Computing Britain’ – 75 years of computing history that reveal the UK’s lead role in developing technologies.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06bq6jl

■ Geography

‘Costing the Earth’ – fresh ideas from the sharpest minds working towards a cleaner, greener planet.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006r4wn

■ Arts & Performance

‘Only Artists’ – one-to-one conversations between artists from a wide range of creative fields, discussing their work.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08ltbhl