

Sixth Form Transition

Phase 1

Something to:
think about, listen to and read about



Mrs S Bradley-Brophy
Director of Sixth Form
Assistant Headteacher
sbradley-brophy@nsbtrust.school

Art



Something to think about...

Why do we create art?
What is the importance of art in society today?
Who is your favourite artist(s)? Why have you made this choice?
What is the best exhibition you have been to?



Something to listen to...

Art Matters podcasts (www.artuk.org) created by Ferren Gibson exploring the interesting ways art meets popular culture and non-traditional art topics. Recent podcasts include: Art and Tattoos, Art References in Recent Hip Hop, Hair Trends Throughout Art History.



Something to read about...

Tate Galleries: Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Tate Liverpool, Tate St Ives (www.tate.org.uk), The Yorkshire Sculpture Park (www.ysp.org.uk) and The Royal Academy of Arts (www.royalacademy.org.uk). Student Art Guide (www.studentartguide.com) Information about drawing, sketchbooks and projects.
Arts and Culture (<https://artsandculture.google.com>) Explore Art collections from institutions around the world.



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Art contact:
eclark@nsbtrust.school

Biology



Something to think about...

What does it mean to be alive? Should we take more action to protect the Biodiversity on our planet? How far should Biologists go in the manipulation of an organisms genome?



Something to listen to...

[The Natural Selection](#) podcast
[Infinite Monkey Cage](#) podcast
[Horizon documentaries](#) available on the BBC iPlayer



Something to read about...

Oxford University Press [transition pack](#)
[@AngiePeahen](#) booklet
[PiXL booklet](#)
Free CGP e-book
Shelley Parry's [enrichment](#) from Y11 to Y12.



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Biology contacts:
astele@nsbtrust.school and
tclarke@nsbtrust.school

BTEC



Something to think about...



Something to listen to...

Podcasts – The Magic Academy



Something to read about...

<https://www.rugbycoachweekly.net/>

www.Ruck.co.uk

Netflix: Building Jerusalem

Beyond the tryline

All or Nothing New Zealand All Blacks series

RFU.com - Rising sons documentary

Youtube: Rugby Pass Official



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BTEC contact:

pbeaumont@nsbtrust.school

Chemistry



Something to think about...

Will humans ever be able to synthesise chemicals in the same way nature can? How should Chemistry shape the sustainable development of our planet? Will we ever design the perfect drug? How would life be different without Chemistry?



Something to listen to...

Royal Society for Chemistry Podcast ([click here](#))

Periodic table podcast ([click here](#))

Entropy (Order and Disorder) Energy ([click here](#))

Secrets of the Super Elements ([click here](#))



Something to read about...

Royal Society of Chemistry [website](#)

New Scientist [magazine](#)

SENECA Learning - [enrol](#) on the AQA A-level Chemistry course

A-level Chemistry Revision [site](#)

Early Topics [website](#)



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Chemistry contact:

priches@nsbtrust.school

Computing



Something to think about...

Is it possible to create a program that can look at the code of any other program and decide if that other program will ever stop running?



Something to listen to...

The 'Infinite Monkey Cage' has lots of fascinating insights on Tech topics from AI to big data. Available on iTunes.



Something to read about...

'Brown Dogs & Barbers: What's Computer Science All About?' A great introduction to lots of Computer Science concepts or try YouTube Computer Science crash course.



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Computing contact:
nberkin@nsbtrust.school

Dance



Something to think about...

What is dance? How do we define it? It is clearly multifaceted. Dance has been practiced throughout history for artistic, educational, therapeutic, social, political, religious and other purposes. There are also types of dance on the margins of what many would consider dance, such as digital dance, or types of competition dance that have features that make them similar to aesthetic sports like gymnastics or figure skating. So the question is....what counts as "dance" ?



Something to listen to...

Find out more about a dance genre, or a dance artist that interests you by listening to some Apple dance podcasts such as A Dancer's Guide, The Curious Dancer, We Grow 360 or a Dancer's Mindset.

[Ballet & Dance Podcast on Apple Podcasts](#)

OR maybe listen to ideas on 'why we dance' or 'can Hip Hop save Ballet?' explore the Dance Passion podcasts from the [BBC](#)



Something to read about...

Something to read about...Visit the ONEDANCE UK website and find articles that interest you. You could read more about a dancer's health and wellbeing, dance psychology, injury prevention, dance science and much more!!



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Dance contact:
aclinton@nsbtrust.school

Drama



Something to think about...

Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better.

Why do you think theatre has been one of the most popular forms of entertainment since records began? Why do we still congregate in theatres now like the Ancient Greeks did (even though we have film and TV)? Why is studying Drama useful even if you don't plan to be an actor? What routes are there into acting?



Something to listen to...

You have access to Digital Theatre plus [Digital Theatre+](#) ([digitaltheatreplus.com](#)) –User name: digitaltheatre_337 Password: bigger@8547 watch *Frantic Assembly – Lovesong* or *Things I Know To Be True* and *DV8* (great physical theatre companies). Also, Jonathan Harvey's *Beautiful Thing* and, if you like musicals, there is *Funny Girl*, *Into the Woods*, *Pieces of String*. and *Some Like It Hip Hop*



Something to read about...

Any play ever written! The more knowledge the better. Try to vary the styles/genres and playwrights that you explore. Some favourites of mine are [Simon Stephens](#), [Caryl Churchill](#), [Mark Ravenhill](#), [Hanif Kureishi](#), [Winsome Pinnock](#), [Ryan Calais Cameron](#), and [Philip Ridley](#) (please be warned there is some very mature content in some of these plays) You can also read some Shakespeare – scripts online!



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Drama contact:
lgreenaway@nsbtrust.school

Economics



Something to think about...

1. Should a government try to balance its budget?
2. What impacts the value of a country's currency?
3. Is profit the most important consideration for any business?



Something to listen to...

The Flip side Podcast by Barclays.



Something to read about...

1. Boomerang by Michael Lewis
2. Basic Economics by Thomas Sowell
3. A selection of articles from The Economist – take advantage of introductory/free offers



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Economics contact:
creid@nsbtrust.school

English Language



Something to think about...

A valuable starting point to this course is to consider the history of the English Language. Do you know how we moved through the stages of Old English, Middle English and Early-Modern English, finally reaching Modern English? If not, start by researching the history of our language. You could even read 'The English Language: A Guided Tour of the Language' by David Crystal.



Something to listen to...

We recommend Stephen Fry's 'Fry's English Delight' on BBC Radio 4. There are some fantastic podcasts which focus on English Language. You could listen to:

The Allusionist – a podcast on the history and story of particular words
The Vocal Fries – a podcast about language and gender
6 Minute Grammar – a podcast about grammar e.g. tenses



Something to read about...

We have a department Twitter account where we post interesting articles almost every day. You can find us on Twitter by searching for @NSBEnglish. As part of the coursework unit, you will craft and compose an opinion article on the topic of your choice. We recommend familiarizing yourself with columnists from broadsheet newspapers to develop an understanding of what makes a successful opinion article. You could try Marina Hyde "The Guardian" [Marina Hyde | The Guardian](#)



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English contact:
cmorrell@nsbtrust.school

English Literature



Something to think about...

What do you think literature offers people in a time of crisis? Why do you think Albert Camus' 1947 novel 'The Plague' is now a best seller? How does our current context affect our interpretations of texts? Why have so many people turned to poetry as source of comfort and expression recently?



Something to listen to...

Poems which have helped BBC correspondents through times of crisis: [Here](#)
Poet Laureate Simon Armitage on Desert Island Discs: [Here](#)
Armitage also has a podcast: [Here](#)
Improve your understanding of significant literary contexts by listening to 'In Our Time' on Radio
You could start with [The Romantics](#) but other episodes on The Metaphysical Poets, The Victorians and Modernism are also well worth a listen.



Something to read about...

NSB has a subscription to emagazine, a quarterly publication for A Level literature students. You can read the magazine online:

1. Go to [EMC Magazines | English & Media Centre \(englishandmedia.co.uk\)](#)
2. Username: NSB1911
3. Password: NSBENGLISH

You can also search the archive for articles on writers, novels, plays or poems you are interested in. Enjoy!



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English contact:
cmorrell@nsbtrust.school

French



Something to think about...

How does language reflect our identity? How and why do languages evolve? What do we lose when a language dies out?



Something to listen to...

Follow the latest in the Francophone world on www.tv5monde.com and <https://www.1jour1actu.com/infos-animees/>



Something to read about...

You will find some great articles for young adults in the magazine Phosphore. You can follow on Instagram #magphosphore or on Twitter @phosphoremag. Le Point also has some great content to develop your vocabulary and knowledge of Francophone issues. You can also find those on social media: #lepointfr and @lepoint.



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French contact:
chibberd@nsbtrust.school

German



Something to think about...

Why are traditions and festivals so important to people in German-speaking cultures? What are the differences between people in rural communities and cities?



Something to listen to...

Listen to the German radio station WDR (<https://www1.wdr.de>). This station plays contemporary music and will have a good range of small news items.



Something to read about...

To keep on tack with German news and current affairs, please go to the website Süddeutsche Zeitung (sueddeutsche.de) or die Welt (www.welt.de). Scan the headlines and look for one article that you want to focus on. You can also look at euronews.com.



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German contact:
chibberd@nsbtrust.school

Geography



Something to think about...

What will our future world look like? Is sustainable development achievable? How can we manage the risk and impacts of future global pandemics?



Something to listen to...

Royal Geographical Society; Ask the Experts podcast ([here](#)) The Ignorance Project TED talk ([here](#))
Climate change TED talks ([here](#))
Plate Tectonic and Earthquake prediction ([here](#))



Something to read about...

Published in the UK since 1935, [Geographical](#) is the official magazine of the Royal Geographical Society.
Wider Reading in Geography ([here](#))
Geographical Magazine Article - Covid 19 and the Environment. ([Here](#))



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Geography contact:
toneill@nsbtrust.school

History



Something to think about...

Is knowledge of the past ever certain? Why do accounts of the same historical event differ? What determines how historians select evidence and interpret events? What problems are posed for the study of history by changes in language and culture over time?



Something to listen to...

If 'Ye Newe Dallam History Podcast' is not your thing, 'You're Dead To Me' is the history podcast for people who don't like history... and those who do. Greg Jenner brings together the best names in comedy and history to learn and laugh about the past on BBC Sounds.



Something to read about...

A great starting point is History Today's website. There are articles on EVERYTHING historical. Also, check out www.historyextra.com for lots of interesting articles.



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History contact:
aimison@nsbtrust.school

Mathematics

Including Further Mathematics



Something to think about...

Does Mathematics need language to be understood? Is Mathematics in fact its own language? Did the human race invent Mathematics or was it present in nature waiting to be discovered? What role does Mathematics play in your world?



Something to listen to...

'The Secrets of Mathematics' is a series of podcasts from Oxford lecturers exploring the applications of Mathematics, from Medicine to Economics and beyond. Available on iTunes. Who is Carl Friedrich Gauss? ([Here](#))
Make sense of the statistics around us ([Here](#))



Something to read about...

Simon Singh is an author, journalist and TV producer, specialising in Science and Mathematics. Visit his website (www.simonsingh.net) and read his blog covering everything from The Simpsons to moonwalking with Einstein. Does God Play Dice?: The Mathematics of Chaos by Neil Stewart



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Maths contact:
mmirnatoghi@nsbtrust.school

Media

Something to think about...

We are exposed to advertising throughout our daily lives – bombarded with brands and attempts to persuade audiences to participate in capitalism. Yet **do they have a greater ideological purpose?** Can adverts change society or do they simply reflect the dominant power structures and prevailing social stereotypes? Read more by [clicking here](#).



Something to listen to...

Given that you'll be studying the Radio 1 Breakfast Show as part of the course, choose an episode to listen to from [BBC Sounds](#). Try and deconstruct the episode and create a breakdown of the main segments, tracks, idents and trails – [see page 8 for an example](#).



Something to read about...

NSB has a subscription to MediaMagazine with access to the digital edition and all past issues and articles.

1. Go to: [English & Media Centre](#) | Enter MediaMagazine online | [MediaMagazine \(englishandmedia.co.uk\)](http://MediaMagazine.englishandmedia.co.uk)
2. Username: NSBMedia
3. Password: MediaMag

Visit the archive and select 1 or 2 articles that cover a range of media forms: gaming, TV, film, radio, newspapers etc.



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Media contact:
mrodger@nsbtrust.school

Music



Something to think about...

Why has music developed the way it has?

If you were sent to a desert island to study composition, which 3 composers' works would you take with you and why?

Look at the film scores of Danny Elfman – how does his work compare to other composers?



Something to listen to...

'Classic FM Hall of Fame Short Stores' is a series of podcasts which delves into the characters and stories behind the famous title which makes up the top 300 pieces in the annual hall of fame listings.



Something to read about...

A good starting point for music theory is www.musictheory.net

Have a look at the following lessons: The Basics, Rhythm and Meter, Scales and Key Signatures, Intervals, the first two lessons from Chords, Diatonic Chords and the first from Chord Progressions would be a bonus!



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Music contact:
odruker@nsbtrust.school

Music Technology



Something to think about...

How did artists, producers and engineers create multi-layered songs during the 1950s?

What impact has technology had on the modern area of popular music?

Paul McCartney is just about to headline Glastonbury at the age of 80-why is his music so relevant, engaging and relatable nowadays?



Something to listen to...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SFNW5F8K9Y>

This is a performance of a classic Beatles tune composed by George Harrison at a benefit concert for him. What do you notice about the performance? Talk about the guitar solo from Prince..



Something to read about...

A good starting point for music theory is www.musictheory.net.

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Music contact:
odruker@nsbtrust.school

Physical Education



Something to think about...

Technology in Sport; cheating or evolution? Should a performer use dynamic or static stretching before competition? Should global events such as the Olympics include all countries regardless of political issues? Technology thought ([Here](#))



Something to listen to...

Podcasts discussing topical sports talking points. 'Sportsworld' and 'Flintoff, Savage and the Ping Pong Guy', both available on BBC Sounds. Netflix- The Last Dance, Game Changers, Losers & Icarus Prime - All or nothing- All Black & The edge



Something to read about...

[YouGov](#) is a Sports Research company with lots of interesting, thought-provoking articles. Also check out [UK Sport](#) for everything Team GB.

Good Books: 'How Bad Do You Want It?: Mastering the Psychology of Mind Over Muscle' by Matt Fitzgerald and 'Bounce: the Science of Success' by Matthew Syed.



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PE contact:
gbradbury@nsbtrust.school

Physics



Something to think about...

How big is the Universe and what is it expanding into?
What are protons and neutrons made of?
How can light be both a wave and a particle?
How can we use pendulums to stabilise buildings in earthquakes?



Something to listen to...

'The Infinite Monkey Cage' is a light-hearted podcast available on BBC Sounds covering all things physics ([click here](#)). Alternatively try one of the various Physics YouTube channels such as Sixty Symbols, Minute Physics, Physics Girl or The Science Asylum, there are lots out there to choose from so one is bound to spark your curiosity.



Something to read about...

Why not try some of Funsize Physics research articles ([click here](#)) which are 10 minute reads for topics ranging from the science of Oreos to building circuits using DNA. For some cutting-edge Physics you could read some of the articles from Physics World ([click here](#)) the Institute of Physics magazine. Or if you're looking to test yourself attempt some of NASA's Pi Day Challenges ([click here](#))



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Physics contact:
pleech@nsbtrust.school

Politics



Something to think about...

In what way is the study of Politics about the study of power? How effective is our electoral system used for General Elections? How powerful is the media in shaping public opinion? How is the President of the USA different to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom?



Something to listen to...

Studying Politics requires an up-to-date knowledge of current events. Radio 4's Any Questions is worth listening to <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qgvj> to help you with this.



Something to read about...

Politics involves debating key issues and understanding their impact on society. Reading quality newspapers will help you with this. Some such as The Times have an online paywall. Others such as The Guardian are free to access. Both are excellent starting points for understanding the many sides of political debate



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Politics contact:
mevans@nsbtrust.school

Product Design



Something to think about...

As product designers, we play an important role in shaping our future. The products we create have the power to transform how societies think, feel and behave. We must be conscious of the social and ethical responsibility that we have; we can proactively drive positive change within our communities.



Something to listen to...

Could things be better? How? In this funny, breezy talk ([Ted talk LINK](#), search for: the first secret of design is noticing), the man behind the iPod shares some of his tips for noticing and driving change. Also, Philippe Starck ([Ted talk LINK](#) search for: Design & Destiny) reaches for the very roots of the question "Why design?"



Something to read about...

We rarely think about the design of the objects we use everyday. The fact is you're not supposed to; these everyday objects have been meticulously designed to work so well that you never have to notice them - that's what good design is all about. Take a look at 'The 23 Most Iconic Furniture Designs In History' ([click here](#))



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Design contact:
cosborne@nsbtrust.school

Psychology



Something to think about...

- 1) Would you be a good eyewitness to a crime?
- 2) We often consider people to behave abnormally, but what exactly makes someone abnormal?



Something to listen to...

'PsychCrunch' The British Psychological Society research digest podcast ([click here](#))
Netflix- Three Identical Strangers



Something to read about...

Simply Psychology, Research digest and Psychology Review magazines available via Hodder Education



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Psychology contact:
lcheckley@nsbtrust.school

RE



Something to think about...

How has coronavirus affected our businesses? Has our morality been changed? Why is there something rather than nothing? Is it more likely that Jesus was a moral teacher or political liberator?



Something to listen to...

BBC – In Our Time (EG. Socrates, Plato, Kant)
Panpsycast – Podcast. <https://thepanpsycast.com/episodes-by-category> (Ancient Philosophy, Ethics, Philosophy of the Mind and Philosophy of Religion, Feminism)
The Good Place – Netflix.
The Story of God – Morgan Freeman.



Something to read about...

Bonhoeffer <http://www.dbonhoeffer.org>,
Would You Kill The Fat Man?
The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy has some interesting articles and entries. Try clicking the random entry button. <https://plato.stanford.edu/index.html>



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RE contact:
wkneeshaw@nsbtrust.school

Sociology



Something to think about...

Sociology is about the impact of social and structural factors on life chances. How does a person's class affect their life chances? How are men and women treated differently in society? How does ethnicity cause division in society? Do people follow a traditional life course in contemporary society?



Something to listen to...

Sociology is a multi-disciplined area of study. You will study families and households, education, beliefs in society and crime and deviance. To prepare you for the study of Education watch and listen to some of these videos - <https://www.tutor2u.net/sociology/collections/education-student-revision-videos>



Something to read about...

There are many articles to explore and start you on your way at [Hectic Teacher Resources \(hecticteacher.co.uk\)](http://Hectic Teacher Resources (hecticteacher.co.uk)). If you are feeling very brave and want to get ahead on sociological theory, then track down a copy of Sociology: Themes and Perspectives (8th Edition) by Haralambos.



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Sociology contact:
mevans@nsbtrust.school

Spanish



Something to think about...

Why are traditions and festivals important to maintain a strong Hispanic culture? What are the differences between life in Spain and in Latin America?



Something to listen to...

Listen to the Spanish radio station Cadena Dial (<https://play.cadenadial.com>). This station plays only Spanish music with plenty of current pop songs.



Something to read about...

To get up to date with Spanish news and current affairs, take a look at the daily Spanish newspaper www.elpais.com online. Scan the headlines and pick out ONE article that grabs your attention. Alternatively, try looking at euronews.com



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Spanish contact:
chibberd@nsbtrust.school

Sixth Form Transition

**Well done on completing Phase 1!
Please refer to the school website for Phase 2**



Mrs S Bradley-Brophy
Director of Sixth Form
sbradley-brophy@nsbtrust.school