

# Raising aspirations – English

At Ormiston Bushfield Academy, we believe that reading opens doors to imagination, understanding, and opportunity. This page offers a carefully selected range of books, websites, and podcasts designed to inspire a love of English, broaden cultural awareness, and challenge students to think deeply and creatively. Whether you're exploring powerful stories, sharpening analytical skills, or delving into new ideas, these resources aim to spark ambition and raise aspirations.

## Suggested Reading list

### KS3 (years 7-9)

**The Book Thief** by Markus Zusak – A powerful and emotional story set in WWII, told from a unique perspective.

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** by Mark Haddon – A mystery told through the eyes of a neurodivergent protagonist.

**A Monster Calls** by Patrick Ness – A moving blend of reality and fantasy that explores grief and resilience.

### KS4/5 (years 10-13)

**Frankenstein by Mary Shelley** – A gothic classic that raises questions about science, creation, and responsibility.

**1984** by George Orwell – A thought-provoking dystopian novel about power, surveillance, and freedom.

**Never Let Me Go** by Kazuo Ishiguro – A subtle and haunting story exploring identity, ethics, and memory.

## Websites

**Physics & Maths Tutor** – English Revision – A reliable revision site offering clear notes, past papers, and practice questions. ([www.physicsandmathstutor.com/english-revision/](http://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/english-revision/))

**Save My Grades** – Accessible guides and explanations great for independent study. ([www.savemygrades.com](http://www.savemygrades.com))

**BBC Bitesize** – A trusted platform with easy-to-understand explanations, videos, and quizzes. ([www.bcbitesize.co.uk](http://www.bcbitesize.co.uk))

## Podcasts

**GCSE Revision Pod** – English Revision Pod – Short, exam-focused episodes that break down key concepts.

**BBC Radio 4** – In Our Time – Discussion-based episodes covering literature, history, and philosophy.

**Write About Now** – A creative-writing podcast featuring authors and storytelling techniques.