

# LEARNSCOPE

The Educational Resource Hub

ISSUE 3: Summer / Autumn 2025

Now Incorporating  
**VIEWEDU**  
The Teacher  
Education Zone



## MAGNIFY

Feature on Hachette Learning,  
*Formerly Hodder Education*

## The Rules of Research

Part 3

## VERSED VIBES

In-Depth Feature on  
Curriculum Resources

## SAGE QUEST

Reviews from the Media Club



## ThinkIgnite

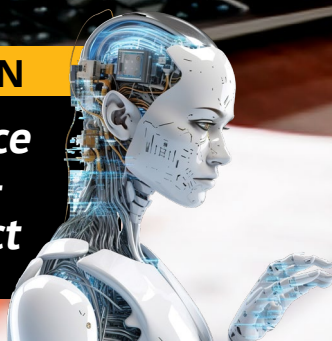
Focus on titles championing  
Environmental Issues

## BookSphere

What's new with our popular  
Graphic Novel Titles

## SPECIAL AI EDITION

*AI is not just science  
fiction anymore –  
It's just science fact*



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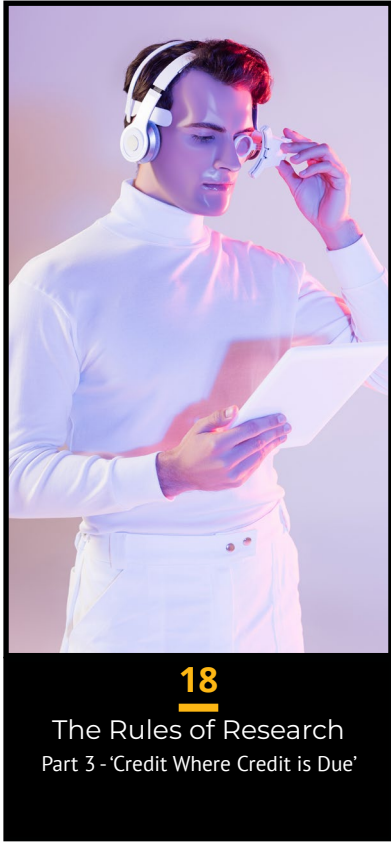
The LRC, more than just a physical space



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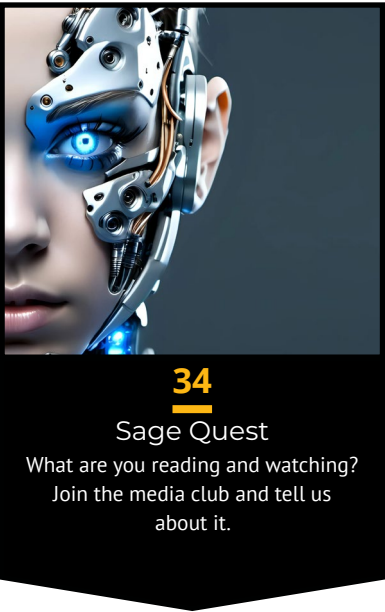


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**CREDITS**

LearnScope, a LRC publication. Edited, designed & layout By George Bullock.  
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Hachette Learning video produced by Simon Dobson.  
AI Edify written by Lucy Abbott. Foreword by George Bullock.  
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ViewEdu written by Jorge Atherton.  
LRC Journal & Review Blog written by Jorge Atherton.  
ThinkIgnite written by Jorge Atherton.  
EDI Gazette, a LRC publication, in conjunction with HR, designed and edited by George Bullock.

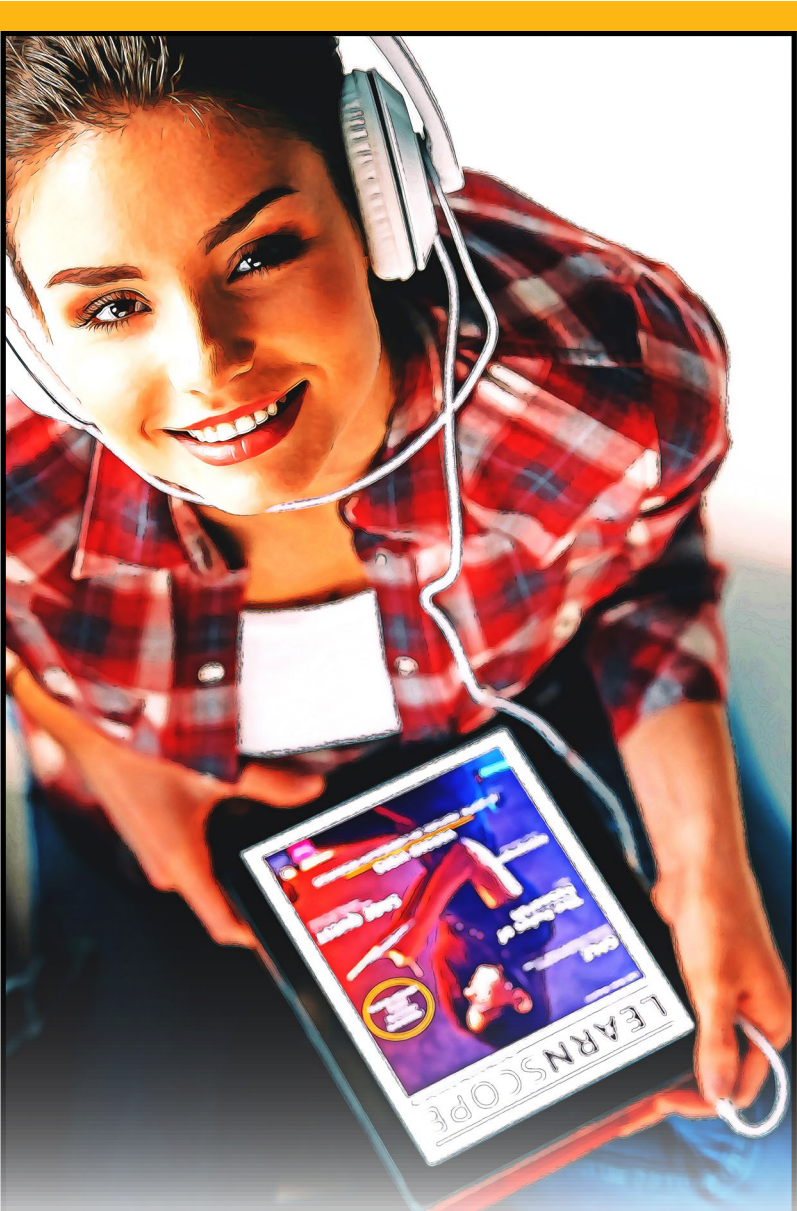
## Welcome to LearnScope

### Issue 3: Summer / Autumn 2025

This supplement is essentially an interactive online PDF. We also have a small run of professionally printed copies, available at various outlets through both sites of the college.

LearnScope is all about educational resources. Books, magazines, websites, eBooks, films, search engines, bibliographic databases, all these are available and provided for you by the LRC to help staff and students maximise their teaching and learning, ensuring all members of the college community reach their full potential. It also aims to assist students with hints and tips when using the LRC and its digital space, 'Go Research'.

Therefore, LearnScope aims to ensure that all areas of curriculum are fully aware and supported with the relevant resources they require for their subject areas. If at any time you do require further help or information regarding the full array of resources the LRC has to offer, then contact a member of the team. Enjoy.



## Guest Contributors



Jasmine Dunn-Lee  
*A Level Student*

I study graphics, fine art, and film studies at Cronton. I have always really enjoyed film, media, and storytelling as well as the visual arts. I aspire to work in one of these sectors in the future.



Simon Ellershaw  
*Head of Digital Learning*

I have over 20 years experience teaching IT. I work closely with staff and learners to support their digital needs. I've a strong background in digital learning, and I am passionate about leveraging AI and technology to enhance education.



Sofia Reid  
*Head of HR & Central Services*

I have worked at the college for over 21 years starting as an in-house recruitment consultant and shortly after moved into the HR department. I have been working with the LRC for four and half years and have enjoyed every minute of it. It is great to work with such a creative team. Outside work I like to run, not very fast I must add. I love reading about international politics, family time, going on holiday (somewhere sunny) and socialising - some may say a little bit too much!

**LEARN SCOPE**  
THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE HUB

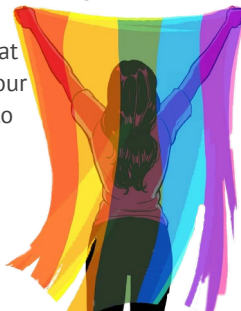


# Contributors



**Neil Atherton**  
*Learning Resources & Print  
Room Team Leader*

When I left school in 1885 there weren't many prospects for a downtrodden comprehensive boy who thought A levels were out of reach and whose best hope (or so I thought) was that I might just 'find a job' and a source of income. Inadvertently I stumbled into an area of work I absolutely loved. It was the last place I imagined I'd work but Central Library in St. Helens provided me with the stepping stone I needed to get back into education and onto university albeit a little late at 27 years of age. I continued to work at the library while studying part time for 5 years to graduate with a BSc (Hons) degree from Liverpool John Moore's University in 2000. My first professional post as a qualified librarian was with Liverpool University as a Reference Librarian at the Information Support Desk. Three years later I left Liverpool and took up the position of Learning Resources Team Leader at Widnes & Runcorn Sixth Form college who later merged with Halton College to create the colleges as we know them today, Riverside and Cronton Sixth Form College. In 2012 I was registered as a Chartered member of CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals). I have been an ally of the LGBTQ+ community since my son came out as gay when he was 16. Being an ally to the LGBTQ+ community is incredibly important to me as I recognise that allies can play a crucial role in advocating for equality, supporting individuals, and fostering inclusive environments. My colleague Lucy Abbott and I are currently facilitating the Pride Club at Riverside and it has been our pleasure to meet and get to know some inspiring individuals.



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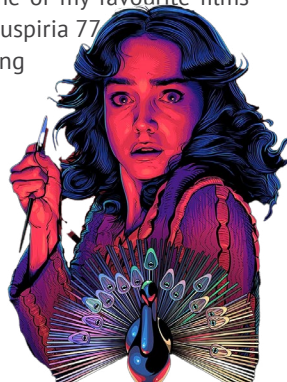
**Lucy Abbott**  
*Central Services Assistant*

Hello! I'm Lucy. I work in Central Services, mainly in the Learning Resource Centre at Riverside. My responsibilities include helping to manage our extensive collection of physical books and cataloguing new stock. I enjoy researching new titles to ensure our library remains up-to-date and relevant, particularly fiction reads! I also enjoy creating engaging displays around the library to highlight different themes and genres. I'm always happy to assist students and staff with their queries, whether it's finding the perfect book or navigating our resources. I love chatting about all things fiction and hearing about what you're currently reading—there's nothing better than a good book discussion! Outside of work, I play football and listen to lots of music (lots of Taylor Swift!). I also like to try out new hobbies and am always up for the challenge of mastering something new. Please feel free to stop by and say hello! I'm always here to help.



**Simon Dobson**  
*Learning Resource Facilitator*

With over 25 years of experience in Further Education, I have developed a specialised expertise in multimedia software, particularly in Adobe Photoshop Adobe After Effects Adobe Firefly. My creative portfolio primarily includes the production of graphical animations and videos for our Learning Resource Centre (LRC) YouTube channel. In addition to content creation, I actively manage and curate our LRC social media platforms, including Instagram and X, where I publicise news, inspirational quotes, and animations designed to captivate and engage. Outside of work I am an avid football fan, with a particular passion for supporting Everton FC. Despite the club's recent challenges, I remain optimistic, drawing strength from my memories of their past achievements mainly 1980s (that long ago?) My interests include maintaining memberships with Chester Zoo and the National Trust, which provide me with opportunities to appreciate nature and wildlife. I value quality time spent with my family and outdoor activities. Additionally, I have a keen interest in live music and comedy, frequently attending concerts and gigs throughout the year. I enjoy music from Arcade Fire, The Strokes, Arctic Monkeys, The Pixies and The Beths and some of my favourite films include The Revenant, Suspiria 77 Bladerunner, and anything by John Carpenter.



Caterra



**Jorge Atherton**  
*Learning Resource Facilitator*

My name's Jorge and I'm fairly new to the LRC having only joined back in January. I'm across both sites so you've probably seen me at Cronton and Riverside. I'm a Season Ticket holder at Liverpool and have been for the past 10 years. In that time I've been across the country at away games with trips down to Wembley for cup finals and have also travelled across Europe to watch Liverpool in European matches and finals. One of my passions is Film having studied the subject at GCSE, A-level and then into University with both a bachelors and Master's Degree. I have an Odeon card and often spend my free time watching new films or watching re-releases of old ones. My favourite film is Lord of the Rings: Return of the King. I also follow Formula 1 and often spend Sundays watching races and have been to Silverstone in the past to watch the British Grand Prix. Another passion I have is music and going to watch gigs and being an avid guitar player myself having played from an early age. My favourite artists include Red Hot Chili Peppers, Muse and The Cheap Thrills.



**George Bullock**  
*Digital Learning Specialist*

I'm George, you will find me based at Cronton LRC, creating and editing multimedia resources such as this, as well as supporting our wonderful students. I began as a film and media student at the college, after which my subsequent quest for fire led me to Edinburgh to study for a degree in Photography, Film and Digital Imaging at Napier University. When not on film or photography shoots around town, you could normally find me frequenting the local eateries and taverns or sauntering down the pool hall in a top hat when foggy. After 6 great years in *Auld Reekie*, I secured an ESF scholarship at John Moore's University to study for a Masters in New Media Production. Thereafter I worked for several years as a digital artist, primarily as a professional video editor and graphic designer. During this time, I also worked as a part-time lecturer at The University of Liverpool, teaching writing and directing for film and television. Later I worked as a Video Training Officer at Halton Access to Media, home of Halton FM, where I began working with young people on various media projects, completing an Approaches to Mentoring course at the University of Manchester during this time. After a 4 year stint in marketing working for Microsoft's search engine Bing, I embarked on a career in education, successfully completing a PCET PGCE at level 7 at Edge Hill University, also gaining a TAQA Level 3 assessor qualification. During this period, I worked as ALS at Wirral Met College, as well as part time at St Helens College, teaching BTEC Level 3 Creative Media. My interests include cooking Mexican food, street art, Grindhouse cinema, mythology, and football. I also like to travel and am further kept on my toes by my 7-year-old son and his persistence on visiting the major art galleries and museums of Europe. In line with this issues theme of AI, I am currently reading Ray Kurzweil's recently released 'The Singularity Is Nearer', the companion piece to his 2005 book, 'The Singularity is Near'.





# AI-EDIFY

## Foreword

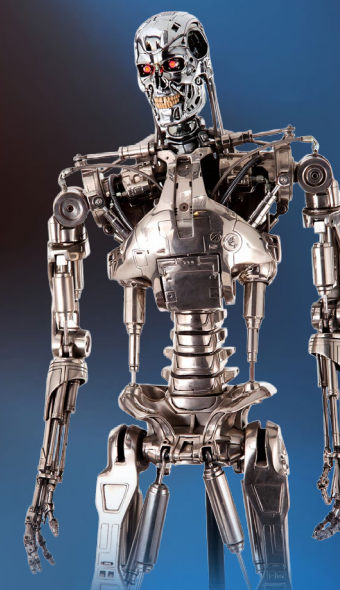
"Everything that civilisation has to offer is a product of human intelligence; we cannot predict what we might achieve when this intelligence is magnified by the tools that AI may provide, but the eradication of war, disease, and poverty would be high on anyone's list. Success in creating AI would be the biggest event in human history. Unfortunately, it might also be the last."

*Stephen Hawking*

As artificial intelligence (AI) currently grows at an exponential rate in the current digital era, AI technology is becoming increasingly pervasive in various aspects of life, including education (Ahmad et al., Citation2021). What is AI exactly? The applications of AI in education (AIED) are rapidly evolving, reshaping the overall teaching and learning landscape (Popenici & Kerr, 2017). Defining AI though can be slippery. What is deemed as AI in some quarters is not even AI at all. Also, what about distinct aspects of AI? Generative and predictive AI are two different strands, utilising different methodologies. Comparing the AI definitions of The EU AI Act in Article 3.1, The United States Congressional Research Service and UNESCO highlight the inconsistencies in determining a universally accepted interpretation.

The above quote from Stephen Hawking has tended to be the classic, polarised view of the limitless possibilities of AI as liberator or destroyer. As its presence grows however, many people still have misconceptions about AI - viewing it as a threat to jobs or as a cold, emotionless technology, with fantastical notions of AI becoming sentient, (what Max Tegmark describes as 'Life 3') and endeavouring to wipe out humanity in the vein of film and TV franchises such as 'The Terminator' or 'Battlestar Galactica'. The truth, however, is far more fascinating and nuanced as we enter a new era of Post Humanism.

*George Bullock*



Ahmad, S. F., Rahmat, M. K., Mubarik, M. S., Alam, M. M., & Hyder, S. I. (2021). Artificial intelligence and its role in education. Kerr, S., Popenici, S. A. (2017). Exploring the impact of artificial intelligence on teaching and learning in higher education Research and Practice in Technology Enhanced Learning



Lucy Abbott takes a look at a selection of some of the artificial intelligence titles that are currently available through the LRC.

ALL THE TITLES INCLUDED HERE ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH EBSCO HOST.

**Artificial Intelligence: Ethical, Social, and Security Impacts for the Present and the Future** by **Julie E. Mehan** provides a thorough exploration of the complex effects of AI on society. The book investigates the ethical dilemmas posed by AI technologies, such as privacy concerns and bias in algorithms. Mehan discusses the social impacts, including how AI influences job markets, human interactions, and societal norms. The book also addresses security issues, highlighting the risks of AI in cybersecurity, surveillance, and military applications. By alternating between theoretical insights and practical examples, Mehan offers a balanced perspective on the potential benefits and challenges of AI. This book is an essential read for anyone interested in understanding the broader implications of AI on our present and future.

**Becoming Artificial: A Philosophical Exploration into Artificial Intelligence and What it Means to be Human** by **Danial Sonik and Alessandro Colarossi** is a thought-provoking collection of essays that examines the intersection of humanity and technology. The book explores the profound questions raised by the advancement of AI, such as whether humans are fundamentally different from machines or merely biological computers. Sonik and Colarossi look into the implications of AI on human identity and societal roles. They discuss the potential for AI to assist or dominate humanity, and the ethical considerations surrounding autonomous systems like self-driving cars. The authors emphasise the importance of guiding AI development to ensure it benefits society while preserving human values. This book is an insightful read for anyone interested in the philosophical and ethical dimensions of AI and its impact on what it means to be human.

**The Sentient Robot: The Last Two Hurdles in the Race to Build Artificial Superintelligence** by **Rupert Robson** explores the final challenges in achieving artificial superintelligence (ASI). Robson identifies two critical hurdles: embedding consciousness in AI and achieving human-level flexibility in thought. The first hurdle involves creating AI that can experience the world as humans do, essentially making it into a living being. The second hurdle focuses on developing AI with the adaptability and creativity of human intelligence. Robson argues that overcoming these challenges will usher in a new era where AI surpasses human capabilities, posing both opportunities and risks. This book is a must-read for those interested in the future of AI and its profound implications for humanity.

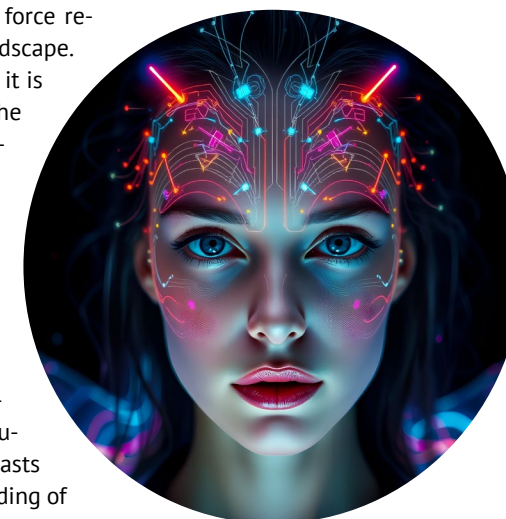
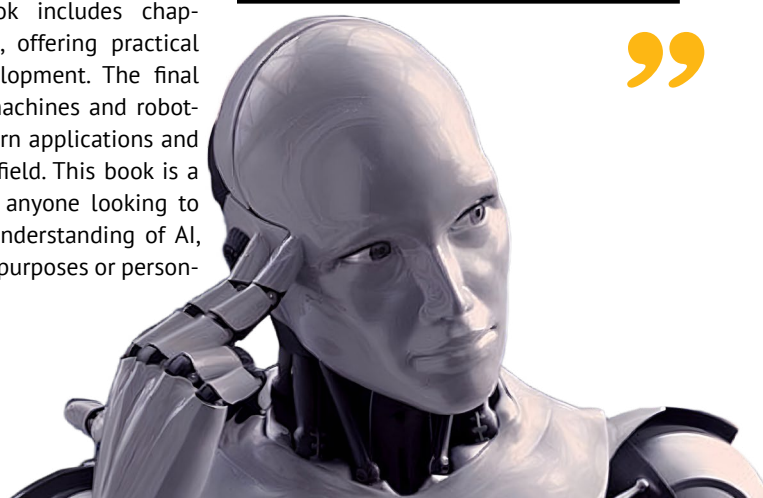
AI is not just a technological advancement; it is a transformative force reshaping the educational landscape. As we navigate this new era, it is crucial to understand both the opportunities and challenges AI presents. The books highlighted in this edition of LearnScope provide valuable insights into AI's technical foundations, ethical considerations, philosophical questions, and future implications. By exploring these resources, educators, students, and enthusiasts can gain a deeper understanding of AI and its potential to revolutionise education. Embracing AI thoughtfully and responsibly will ensure that we harness its power to enhance learning and foster a brighter future for all.

## Doctrina de AI

In recent years, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been transforming various industries, and education is no exception. AI is changing the way we teach, learn, and manage educational settings. From creating personalised learning experiences to streamlining administrative tasks, AI is revolutionising the academic world. In this edition of LearnScope, we explore the diverse ways AI is influencing education, highlighting its potential to create more inclusive, accessible, and effective learning environments. Take a look at some of our titles on AI; these books collectively offer valuable insights into AI's technical, ethical, philosophical, and future implications. By understanding these aspects, educators, students, and enthusiasts can better navigate the evolving landscape of AI in education and harness its transformative power responsibly.

**Artificial Intelligence Basics: A Self-Teaching Introduction** by **Neeru Gupta and Ramita Mangla** is an accessible guide designed for self-learners. The book starts with the history of AI, including early applications. It then delves into fundamental concepts such as searching algorithms, game playing, and knowledge representation. The authors provide detailed explanations of expert systems and machine learning, making complex topics understandable. Additionally, the book includes chapters on programming, offering practical insights into AI development. The final chapter explores AI machines and robotics, highlighting modern applications and advancements in the field. This book is a valuable resource for anyone looking to gain a foundational understanding of AI, whether for academic purposes or personal interest.

“The term Artificial Intelligence (AI) was coined by John McCarthy in 1956.”





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# VERSED VIBES

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In each issue we take a look at specific resources within the curriculum by interviewing members of staff at the college.





# VERSED VIBES

IN THIS EDITION OF OUR 'VERSED VIBES' COLUMN, WE POSE THE QUESTIONS TO HEAD OF DIGITAL LEARNING  
**SIMON ELLERSHAW**



“TECHNOLOGY WILL NEVER REPLACE GREAT TEACHERS, BUT IN THE HANDS OF GREAT TEACHERS, IT'S TRANSFORMATIONAL.”  
**GEORGE COUROS**

## DFE Policy paper - Generative artificial intelligence (AI) in education. Updated 22 January 2025.

### Opportunities and challenges for the education sector

We have limited evidence on the impact of AI use in education on learners' development, the relationship of AI use and educational outcomes, and the safety implications of children and young people using this technology in the classroom. We are working with the education sector, educational technology (edtech) industry, experts and academics to build evidence and support the education sector to use AI safely, responsibly and effectively.

From our research and engagement with the sector, we have learned that generative AI could be used for:

- creating educational resources
- lesson and curriculum planning
- tailored feedback and revision activities
- administrative tasks
- supporting personalised learning

When used appropriately, generative AI has the potential to: reduce workload across the education sector, free up teachers' time and allowing them to focus on delivering excellent teaching.

However, the content produced by generative AI could be:

- inaccurate
- inappropriate or unsafe
- biased
- taken out of context
- taken without permission (intellectual property infringement)
- out of date or unreliable
- low quality

This is because generative AI:

- returns results based on its training dataset, which may not be specific to our curriculum
- stores and learns from input data – any data entered should not contain information that could allow an individual to be identified
- may not provide results that are comparable with a human-designed resource developed in the context of our curriculum
- can generate believable content, including credible scam emails
- can provide instructions for illegal or harmful activities
- can produce nonsensical, inaccurate or false information presented as fact, known as hallucination.



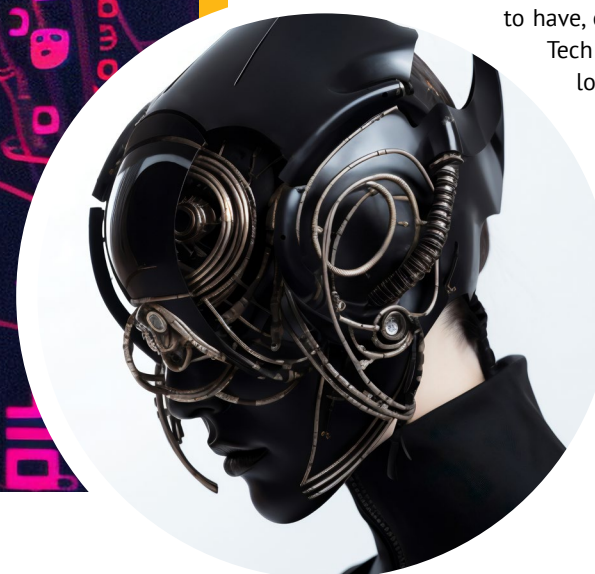
### What drew you to teaching IT initially?

To be honest, I fell into teaching as many do. I had been working in the IT industry for several years—first at NTL (now Virgin Media) as a technical analyst reporting on telecoms sales data for their call centres, then at Nortel Networks as a software engineer developing a product called Preside Performance Reporting, and later as a self-employed database developer for smaller firms around the Greater Manchester area. It was at that point that an old friend contacted me and asked if I would help him teach an A Level ICT group who were building databases as their second-year A Level project. I started off one day a week and really enjoyed it. I got on well with the learners, and my industry experience always helped me motivate the group. I had never considered teaching as a career and was surprised to be asked to teach more classes over an increasing number of days, until eventually I was asked to teach full time. Back then, it was a substantial pay cut and a huge change of career direction, but the opportunity to teach young people and make a difference was something I ended up committing to, so I went full time alongside teacher training. The crazy thing now is that the friend who invited me to teach is no longer in education and has gone the other way, back into corporate IT work.

**As a digital leader, you have helped oversee college initiatives such as the development of the immersive room, V & A reality sessions, and more recently AI. What is it about technical innovations in education that particularly excites you?**

I have always been excited about new technology. As a child of the 80s, I loved the microcomputer scene and have always needed to have, or at least play with, the latest tech. Ed-Tech is just an extension of my own passion. I love to see people engage with technology in the classroom, and working with staff to show them the magic that can happen when using AI, VR, and all these amazing tools gives me a real buzz, especially when it has a positive effect on staff well-being or increases engagement among learners. Over the years, we have seen many technological advancements that have revolutionised teaching, such

(Continued on next page)





as the introduction of the internet, and now the arrival of AI, which will change our lives forever. I would say most people dislike change, but I have always loved it, so inspiring others to use technology is a great job to have.

**Regarding resources in relation to digital learning, AI or otherwise, what do you think the future holds for education?**

I think in the near future we will see AI used to personalise and tailor content for learners. AI will generate video and other content to match the needs of individuals in terms of SEND requirements, vocabulary, level, context, etc., drawing on a wealth of knowledge from all over the world.

Learners should be able to work in teams and collaborate on projects just like they do in the workplace, utilising AI to support them as they create a future through augmented reality provided by personal devices. The technology to achieve this is almost there: VR headsets are getting smaller and smaller, and one day we'll see normal-looking spectacles with embedded AI/AR functionality.

It's an exciting time, as the potential of AI is limitless in education and in pretty much all walks of life.

**Where some see opportunity, others have fear. What strategies do you use to help teachers and support staff embrace AI in their work?**

I think AI is feared by many, and the number of science fiction films depicting AI as an enemy doesn't help. To combat these preconceptions, I

believe it's important to address concerns directly. Our lives will be changed by AI, but it's a supportive tool rather than a replacement. Showing people the magic it can weave, and discussing a future where we embrace AI just as we embraced the internet, can inspire people to start using it rather than fearing it. AI will give us time back to spend with family or allow us to accomplish more in the short amount of time we have on this planet.

**I use some visual and design AI in LearnScope—Firefly, to be exact. What three AI tools do you recommend for Lesson Design & Content Creation, Teaching Aids, and Quiz Generators?**

My top three tools at the moment are:

**ChatGPT or Gemini** – both are amazing for resource creation. If you're starting out with AI and still finding your feet, TeacherMatic is a great option because it uses AI prompt generators to get a reasonable output. However, the raw ability of ChatGPT to adapt results is far more capable and improves with each LLM (Large Language Model) version.

**Perplexity** – a brilliant tool if you want to research a topic, because it references its sources and blends the internet with AI. I would have loved to have had something like this in the past, as it re-

ally inspires you to explore topics more deeply. The product gives you further questions to ask and branches off into more information. If you haven't tried it yet, give it a go.

**Quizizz** – probably the leading platform for AI quiz creation. It essentially removes the need for an external tool like TeacherMatic to generate questions to import, because the AI is embedded directly into Quizizz. It can also mark open-ended questions and produce additional resources, all in one place.



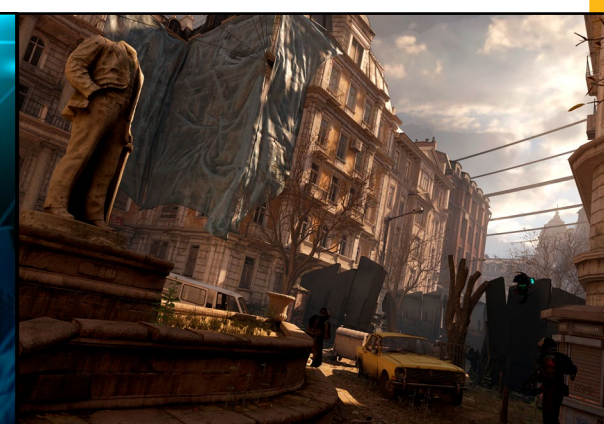
ChatGPT



Ready Player One (2018) Directed by Steven Spielberg



LearnScope



Screenshot of **Half-Life: Alyx**, (2020)  
A VR first-person shooter game developed and published by Valve.

**Do you have any particular favourite films, TV shows, video games, or books that utilise AI, VR, etc., to maximum effect?**

If you have a VR headset connected to a gaming PC, I highly recommend 'Half-Life: Alyx.' I still think it's the best-looking VR game, with ultra-realistic graphics that can take your breath away and some of the most immersive environments ever created. My favourite film involving VR is probably 'Ready Player One.' It offers a vision of the future of home entertainment, where entire communities connect through technology and live alternative lives in an online world. I love the nostalgia of past technology.







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# The Rules of Research

## Part 3

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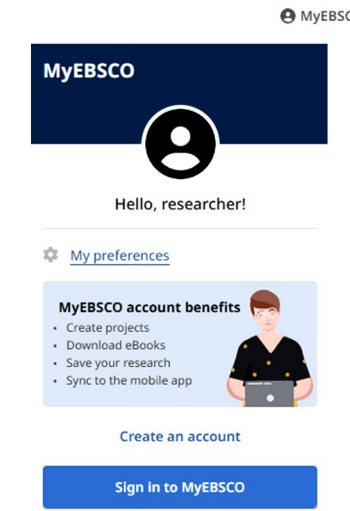
In the third of the series, *Neil Atherton* provides more advice and tips to help navigate the research process.



# RULES OF RESEARCH 3

*'Credit where credit is due'*

In the last edition we looked extensively at how to navigate your research using EBSCO Host and their online databases. In this issue I would like to highlight some of the tools at your disposal to make the whole process much simpler. Plus, as this is a special AI issue, I want to draw your attention to some of the new features of a number of our resources.



You can create a 'MyEBSCO' account to access EBSCOhost. When signed in, you can use the features of the dashboard to permanently save and manage your research.

All you need to do to create an account is click the link, enter your name, personal email address (not your college email) and create a strong password.

You can then save searches to repeat another time, and you can review, edit, and modify your saved searches to resend. You can also save articles and books for later reading or to use again.

By creating a 'Search Alert' you can save valuable time, and can be set up to provide automatic e-mail notifications whenever new search results become available. You can also retrieve those alerts to perform the search immediately, instead of waiting for the alert to run.

You also have the ability to create folders EBSCO calls 'projects' in order to organise your various research tasks.

## TIPS FOR IMPROVING YOUR RESEARCH SKILLS

### Be open-minded

You might hope to find a certain idea in your research but always stay open-minded and accept that you might discover something new that you hadn't considered. It's important to keep your mind open to all results rather than researching to verify your own theory.

### Get organised

Before starting any research, take some time to get organised. Make a plan to outline the information you want to find, the questions you need to ask, and how to gather your information.

### Start broad and get more specific

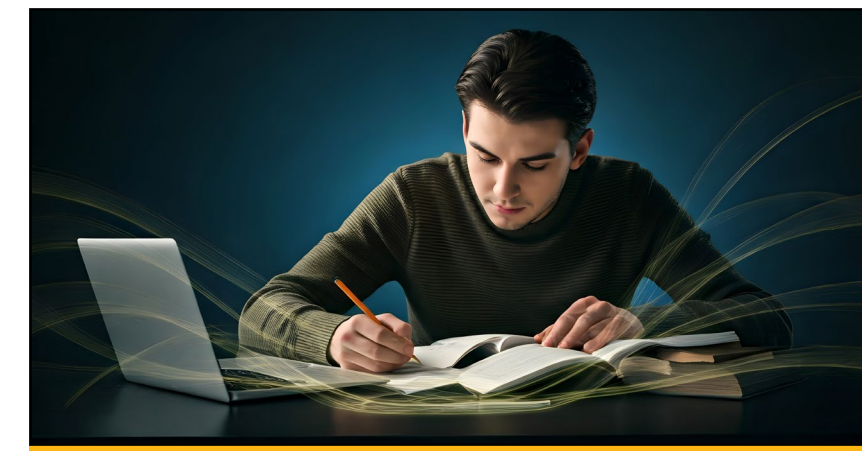
With so much information available, the key is to start broad to build a basic understanding of your topic, then use this information to get more specific with the information you gather. As you learn more about your topic and understand which sources are most credible, you can get more niche with what you look for.

### Check sources

You can easily access many sources, but some may be unreliable or biased. It's vital that you check all sources to ensure they are credible. Check the expertise of the author, the reputation of the website or journal, and whether the author or publication has any conflicts of interest that keep them from being unbiased.

### Use multiple sources

Effective research considers multiple sources and arguments. Valid research involves finding reliable sources and comparing them with others.



## Using the Cite Tool

When writing an essay or report, you must cite (tell the reader) when you use information or quotes that come from another source. The way this is presented is also important as it provides a standardised, recognised easily understandable format. One of the most commonly used styles is Harvard. Whether you quote from the source or paraphrase, you must cite where your information came from. By doing this, you not only establish the credibility of your research, but it also enables you to access the research of

the author via the references 'they' have used.

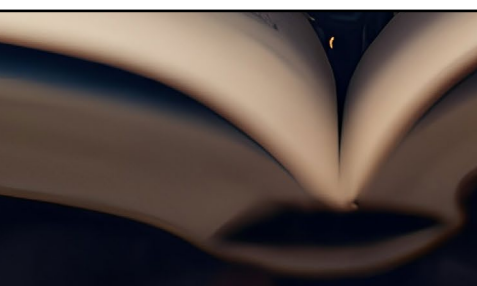
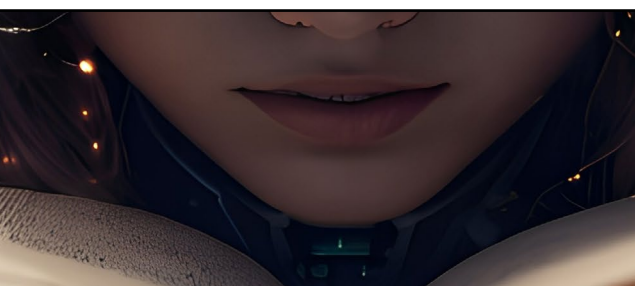
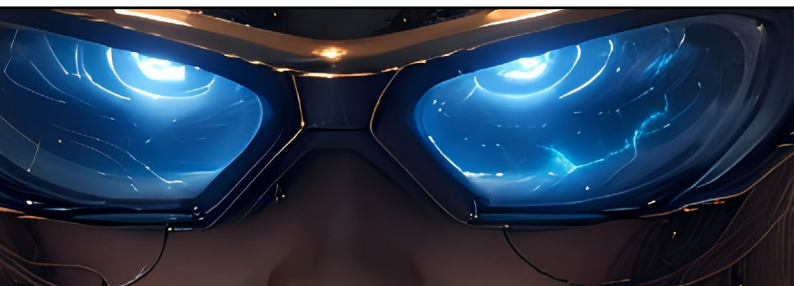
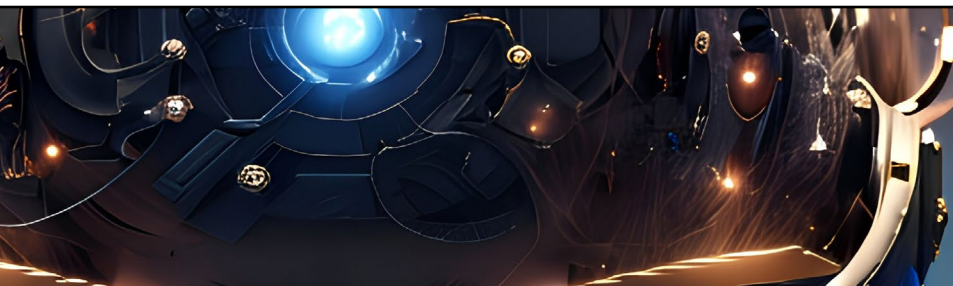
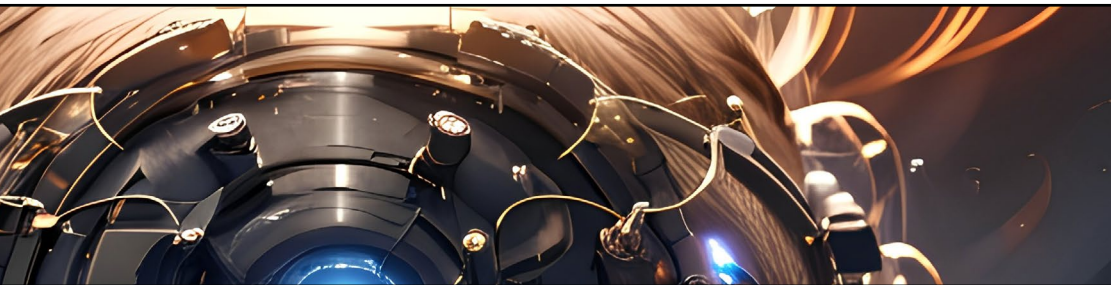
To use the citation tool, click the citation icon **“** and select the style of citation required.

References give an indication of the breadth of the research undertaken by the author of a given article. They can include live links (URLs) so that if the articles are available to you, you can view them online. This is reliant upon whether the College has authority to view them via subscription, which unfortunately cannot be guaranteed.



# AI - New Features Available

★ ★ ★  
"Artificial intelligence is not a substitute for human intelligence; it is a tool to amplify human creativity and ingenuity."  
- Fei-Fei Li, Co-Director of the Stanford Institute for Human-Centred Artificial Intelligence



**E** BSCO HOST AI Insights offer concise summaries, presenting 2-5 key points for each document. This consistent format, applied across multiple databases and deep backfiles of licensed content, introduces a new level of uniformity, facilitating rapid review. For novice researchers AI Insights helps provide language that is easier to understand?

Both abstracts, and AI Insights, can play an important role in helping the user to evaluate the usefulness of articles. Compared to Abstracts, Insights are often (though not always) a more concise and easy-to-read (bulletised format and often simpler, clearer) summary of the article. Insights are more consistent in their format.

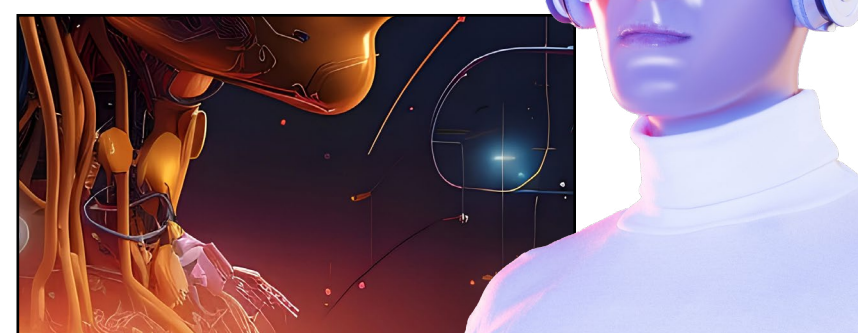
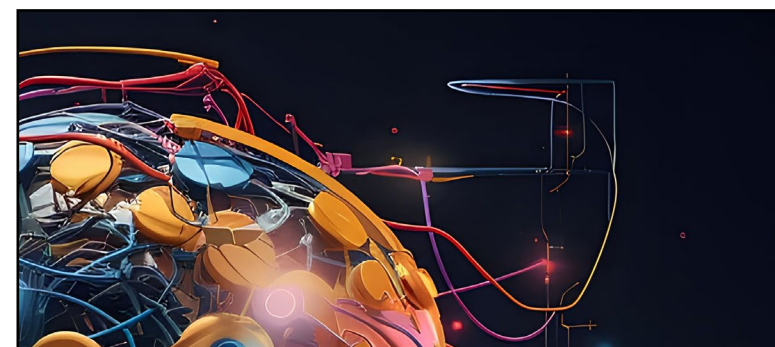
AI Insights does not put language taken directly from the article in direct quotes. This is an enhancement that is planned to be implemented in the foreseeable future. It will eventually have the capacity to directly quote language that is coming directly from the article.

The Ebook Central™ Research Assistant is an academic AI tool designed to enhance your learning and streamline research on the trusted Ebook Central platform. Developed with integrity and responsibility, it helps researchers quickly assess the relevance of books and chapters, enabling you to review, analyse, and explore ideas with ease.

Supporting students at all levels, it fosters deeper engagement with resources, strengthens research and critical thinking skills, and boosts confidence throughout the research process. Unlike general AI tools, the Research Assistant generates insights exclusively from within the book chapter, ensuring accuracy and reliability.



By using the Research Assistant, you will be able to complete assignments more efficiently and confidently by quickly evaluating the relevance of each chapter to research or assignment needs. It will help improve your literacy and research skills and gain a deeper understanding of complex topics, improving your ability to analyse and apply your ideas effectively. The assistant encourages deeper reading and expands research by finding relevant books on key concepts.



"AI can act as a catalyst for active learning, scaffolding students, personalising learning trajectories, and fostering a deeper understanding."  
Priten Shah, AI and the Future of Education: Teaching in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.

**ASK Britannica** answers your questions with information and insights from our wide-ranging collection of articles expanding and enriching your research and knowledge, offering new ways to engage with source material, it enhances the educational process but is not a substitute for thorough research.

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- **Safe Learning:** Filters queries to maintain an educational focus and a secure learning environment.
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YOUR QUESTIONS. OUR ANSWERS. POWERED BY AI.



We can see how AI has been embraced by educational institutions as it provides the researcher with a range of powerful tools and capabilities that significantly enhance their work. Not only can it process large datasets quickly and accurately, identifying patterns and trends but it can summaries lengthy and complex reports.

AI is transforming the research landscape, making it more efficient, accurate, and collaborative. By using the resources available from the LRC's pool of trusted content, learners are provided with fact-based, verified information rather than unvetted sources and therefore upholding the highest standards of accuracy, reliability, and integrity.







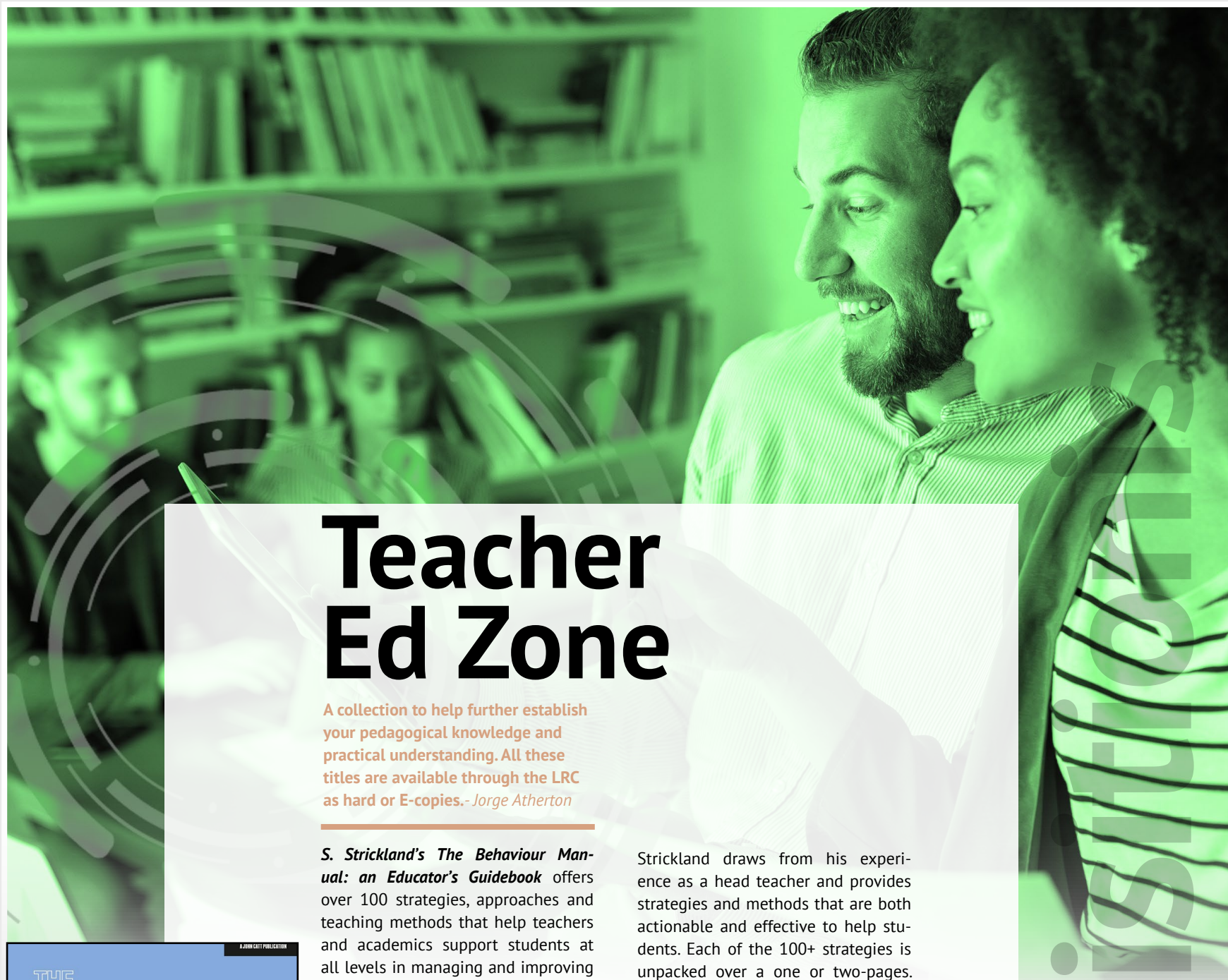


# ViewEdu

Teacher Education Zone

This is a specialist collection of texts carefully selected and provided by the college for the development and enrichment of its trainee and teaching staff.



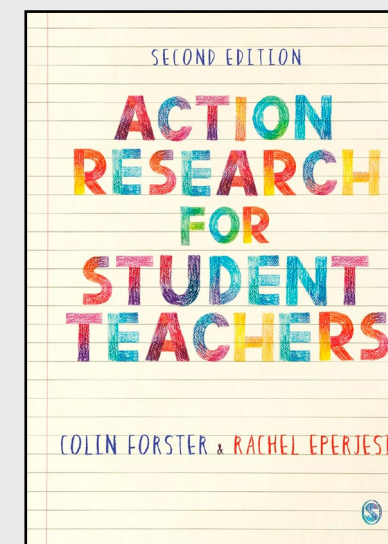
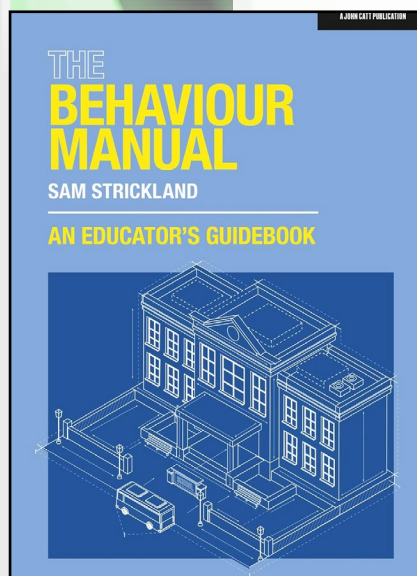


# Teacher Ed Zone

A collection to help further establish your pedagogical knowledge and practical understanding. All these titles are available through the LRC as hard or E-copies.- Jorge Atherton

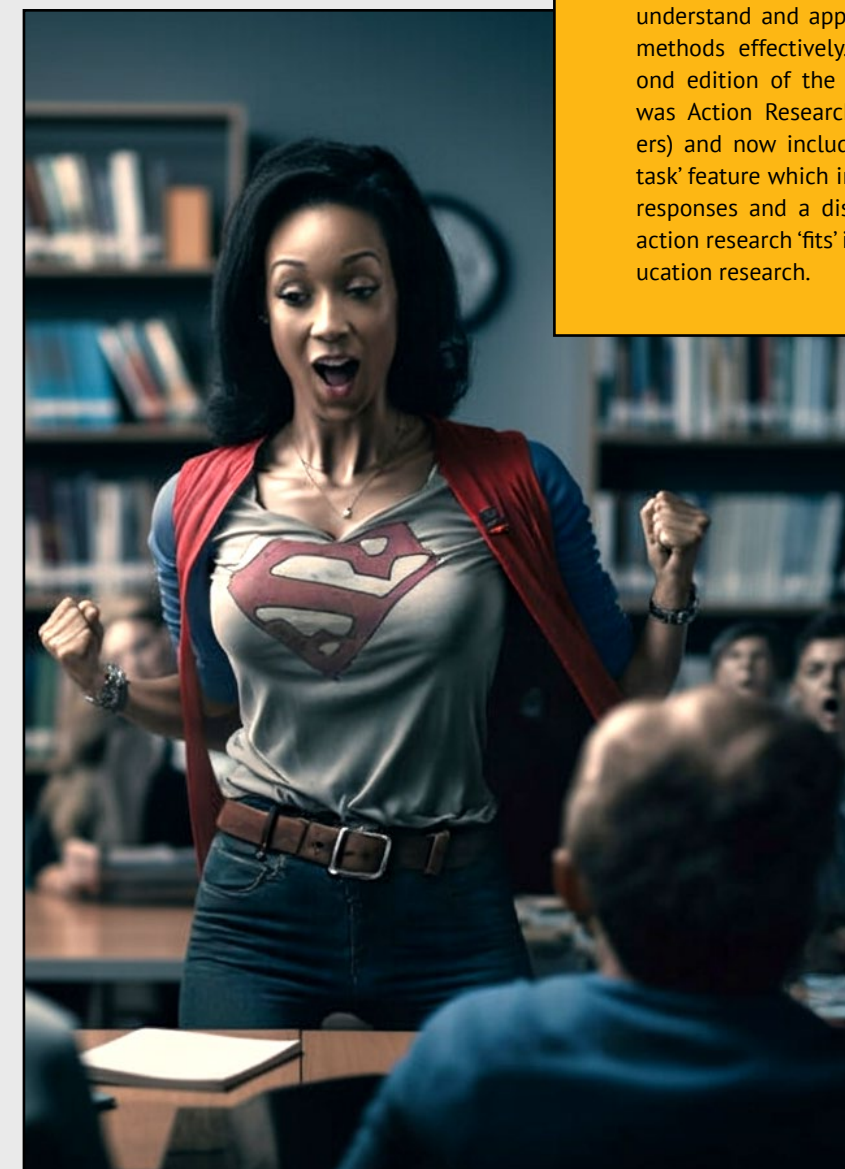
**S. Strickland's *The Behaviour Manual: an Educator's Guidebook*** offers over 100 strategies, approaches and teaching methods that help teachers and academics support students at all levels in managing and improving their behaviour. The book is split into three main sections, each targeting different roles within a school: senior leaders, middle leaders, and classroom teachers. The books are divided into three broad sections. Section one examines the role of the 'Mothership' (the school) and the role that leaders at any level can play. Section two looks at the role of the 'Satellites' (the key areas that make up the school) and the integral role that middle leaders play. The final section looks at the micro level, focusing on the role that teachers play and offers a number of approaches teachers can employ.

Strickland draws from his experience as a head teacher and provides strategies and methods that are both actionable and effective to help students. Each of the 100+ strategies is unpacked over a one or two-pages. Within each strategy is an outline of what the approach is, it's then unpacked in detail how it works and how it can be applied and each spread finishes with a warning and an advice tip. The advice is clear and concise, making it easy for educators to implement the suggested techniques without feeling overwhelmed. The book is deliberately written to help, to offer support and to offer advice to help teachers and academics. It's practical advice, grounded in real-world experience that will benefit educators and academics at any level.



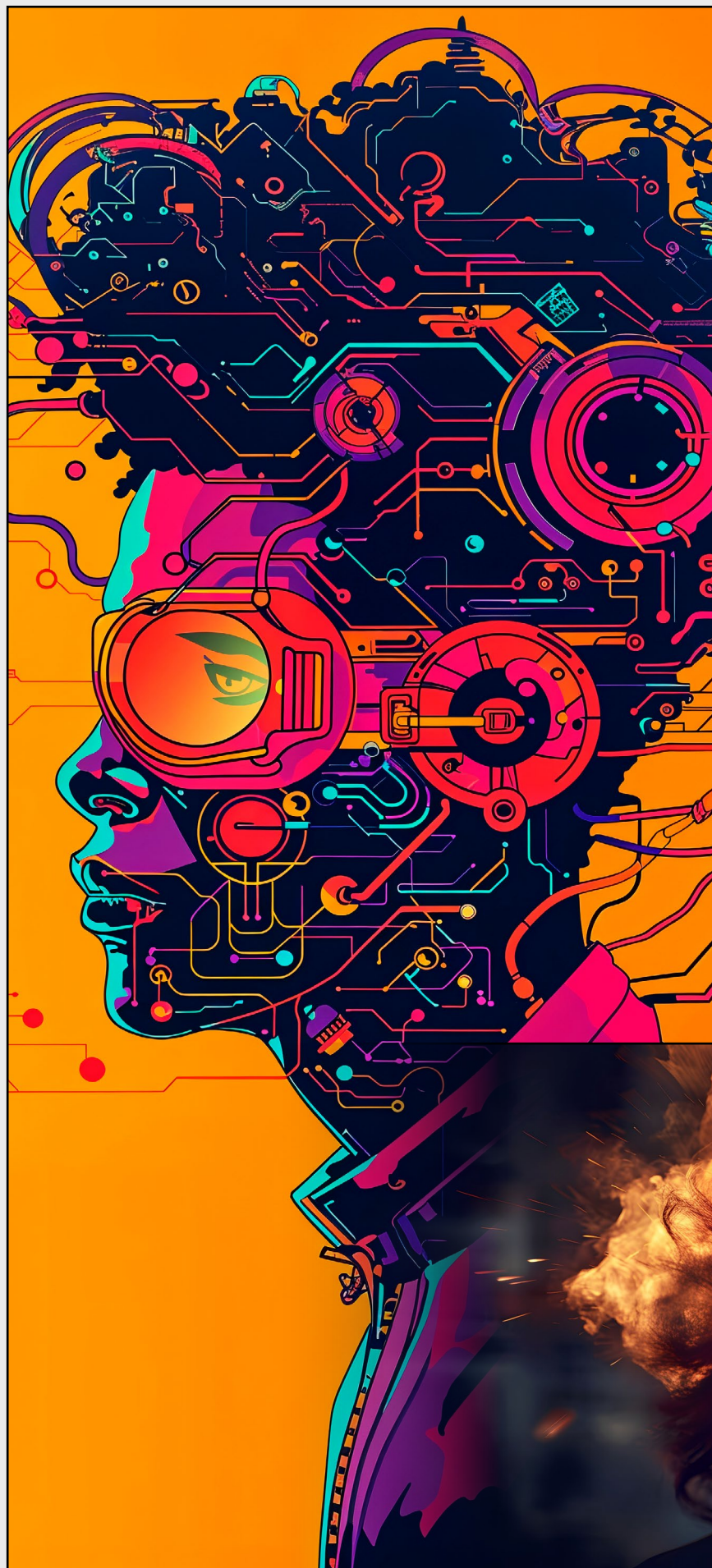
**“What we find changes who we become.”**  
Peter Morville

*Action Research for Student Teachers (C. Forster and R. Eperjesi)* is all about helping student teachers with the planning and preparation of data analysis and writing up research projects to help them and ease them into life as a full-time teacher in education. The book offers a clear, step-by-step guide tailored for student teachers and those new to action research. Forster and Eperjesi provide practical tasks, suggested responses, and guidance on writing with clarity. Both authors also have a clear, structured approach, making complex concepts accessible, and have well-organised examples that help readers understand and apply action research methods effectively. This is the second edition of the book (as the first was *Action Research for New Teachers*) and now includes a new 'Critical task' feature which includes suggested responses and a discussion of where action research 'fits' in the world of education research.



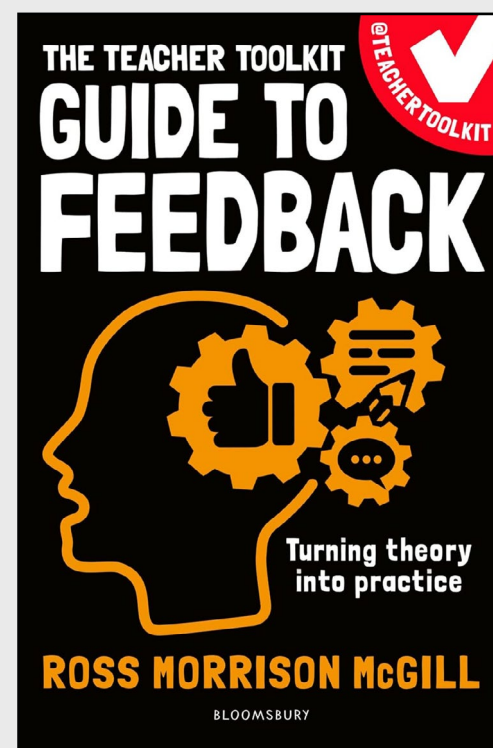
**“Put the things you can control in order. Repair what is in disorder, and make what is already good better.”**  
Jordan Peterson



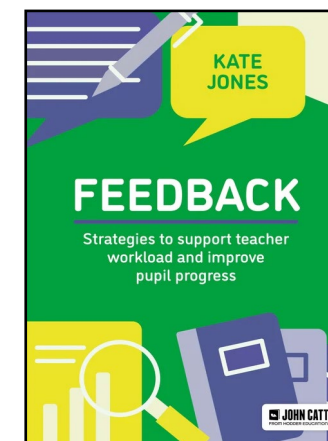


Teacher Toolkit Guides transform the theory of education into practical ideas for your classroom. 'Could this be the start of a feedback revolution? I believe it is!'

Marie Sweetlove-Smyth, CEO, Fortis Trust



# Feedback Guides



*The Teacher Toolkit Guide to Feedback* (R.M. McGill) excels in helping teachers and academics on how to give feedback and maximise pupils' learning, all while reducing teacher workloads. The book is part of the Teacher Toolkit Guides series which also includes The Teacher Toolkit Guide to Questioning and The Teacher Toolkit Guide to Memory, all written by McGill. Within this book, McGill focuses on nine types of feedback in the categories which are sub categorised Verbal, Non-verbal and Written feedback. These strategies are designed to be practical and research-informed, helping teachers provide effective feedback that enhances student learning while managing their workload efficiently.

McGill also explores three core concepts: feed-up (comparing with the goal), feedback (responding to student progress), and feed-forward (clarifying the instruction) as these concepts help teachers compare student progress with goals, respond to student performance, and clarify future instructions with their students. Furthermore, the inclusion of ready-to-use templates, infographics, and diagrams further enhances its usability for teachers making it easier to explore different ways of giving feedback that will benefit students. The guide also challenges traditional feedback methods, encouraging teachers to adopt more effective and research-informed practices to change how they give their feedback and to see if trying new methods resonates with their students.

*K. Jones's Feedback: Strategies to Support Teacher Workload and Improve Pupil Progress* provides a comprehensive guide that balances theory with practical application, making it accessible and actionable for teachers at all levels. Strategies, techniques and ideas come and go in education, but feedback will always be an important aspect of effective teaching and Jones delves into numerous principles of effective feedback, emphasising its role in supporting pupil progress and learning. Some of the types of feedback Jones looks at include Verbal Feedback (providing immediate, spoken feedback to students during lessons, can be highly effective in addressing misconceptions on the spot) and Self-Assessment (Students evaluate their work against set criteria. This fosters self-reflection and helps students take ownership of their learning) as some examples. She highlights the importance of making feedback specific, actionable, and timely, ensuring that it genuinely aids student development.

Jones also uses numerous case studies as a reference to reveal how classroom teachers and school leaders across primary and secondary are implementing feedback in their settings. Jones argues that "clear that feedback is a crucial element of evidence-based and effective teaching and learning", however, she also adds that "feedback doesn't always land the way teachers hope it will". Feedback should be helpful and actionable, and pupils must embrace it, but the reality is that this doesn't always happen. Jones addresses common challenges teachers face when providing feedback and offers solutions to overcome them so that pupils can accept the feedback.

"Feedback is one of the most powerful influences on learning and achievement. But research has also shown that this impact can be either positive or negative."  
John Hattie and Helen Timperley

Commentarium



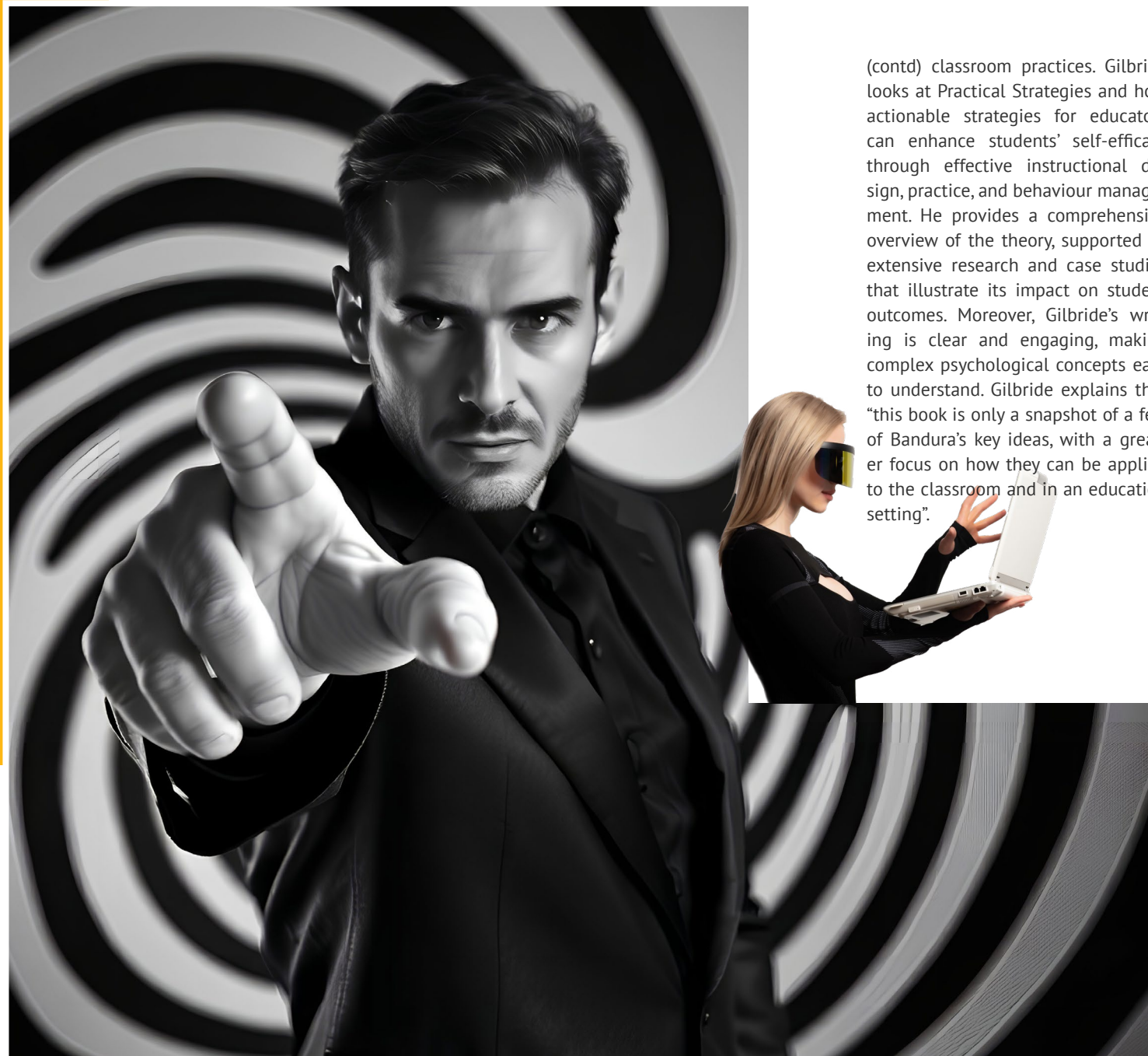
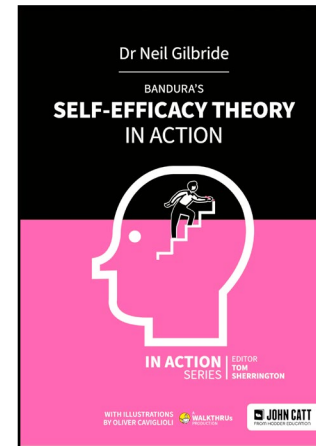
## Masterfully connecting theory to practical application

*Bandura's Self-Efficacy Theory in Action* (N. Gilbride) explores Albert Bandura's influential theory of self-efficacy and explores and analyses the agency that students feel in taking control of their lives and studies. Gilbride explores the application of self-efficacy to three key areas – "how we design our instruction", "how we design practice" and "how we influence the behaviour of pupils within specific settings". While analysing the application of self-efficacy, Gilbride also explores the core principles of self-efficacy, emphasizing its critical role in shaping students' behaviours and attitudes towards learning. He explains how self-efficacy influences students' motivation, resilience, and overall academic performance. He emphasizes the importance of creating a supportive learning environment that fosters students' belief in their abilities to succeed.

Gilbride, a Chartered Psychologist, adeptly bridges the gap between theoretical concepts and real-world (continued next page).

*Self-Efficacy is a person's particular set of beliefs that determine how well one can execute a plan of action in prospective situations (Bandura, 1977). To put it in more simple terms, self-efficacy is a person's belief in their ability to succeed in a particular situation.*

*"My heart sings at the sight of a book that is allowing us to talk and think hard about theory and is doing this in a way that isn't about a vague, unintelligible theory/practice divide. The notion of good 'grand theory' throwing light on our lived experience is spot on, and this is exactly what this book sets out to do. To do this in a bitesize, digestible and enjoyable form means it is likely to achieve the gold standard outcome of impacting directly on practice".*  
- Professor Samantha Twiselton, OBE, Emeritus Professor, Sheffield Hallam University



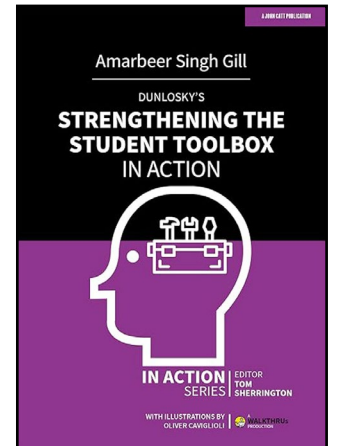
# More from the *IN ACTION* series

(contd) classroom practices. Gilbride looks at Practical Strategies and how actionable strategies for educators can enhance students' self-efficacy through effective instructional design, practice, and behaviour management. He provides a comprehensive overview of the theory, supported by extensive research and case studies that illustrate its impact on student outcomes. Moreover, Gilbride's writing is clear and engaging, making complex psychological concepts easy to understand. Gilbride explains that "this book is only a snapshot of a few of Bandura's key ideas, with a greater focus on how they can be applied to the classroom and in an education setting".

*Dunlosky's Strengthening the Student Toolbox in Action* by A.S Gill looks at ways teachers can use recommendations from Strengthening the Student Toolbox (J.Dunlosky) to consolidate knowledge and enhance learning in classrooms. Gill further extends Dunlosky's influential research on effective learning strategies and explores various strategies recommended by Dunlosky, such as Practice testing (self-testing or taking practice tests on the material to be learned which helps reinforce knowledge and improve long-term retention) and Distributed Practice (spreading out study activities over time rather than cramming which allows for better retention and understanding of the material). Gill analyses each strategy in detail, delving into the conditions needed to help the strategies work, how they might look in classrooms, and things to be mindful of when translating re

search into practice.

In the first chapter, Gill goes about and explores what makes Dunlosky's paper unique and how he classified each strategy. In the second chapter, Gill uses those ideas by Dunlosky to unpack the strategies and the theory behind why they work, ideas for classroom usage and potential limitations to bear in mind. In the final chapter, Gill looks at those examples of classroom practice that have been categorised as less effective by Dunlosky not because they are in and of themselves "bad", but because they are generally not as good as the other strategies. He also includes case studies from current teachers who have successfully integrated these techniques into their teaching practices and these real-life examples provide readers with a clear roadmap for implementation in the classroom.



*"If simple techniques were available that teachers and students could use to improve student learning and achievement, would you be surprised if teachers were not being told about these techniques and if many students were not using them?"*  
Dunlosky, J., Rawson, K., Marsh, E., Nathan, M. & Willingham, D. (2013) "Improving students' learning with effective learning techniques: promising directions from cognitive and educational psychology".



Critica Reconsionem

# SAGE QUEST

LRC MEDIA CLUB



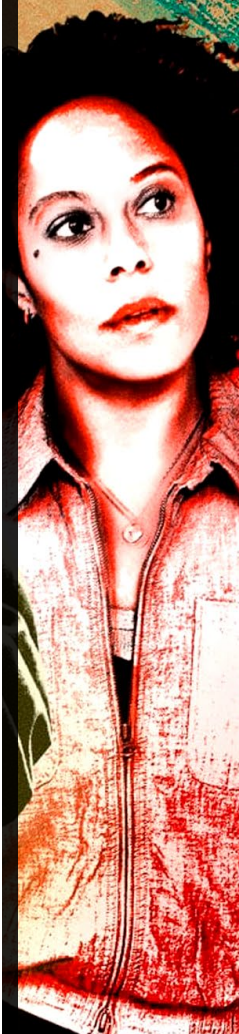


**'Slow Horses'** on Apple TV+ is a gripping spy drama that is not only clever and compelling it is witty, and the acting is phenomenal. The series, based on Mick Herron's novel, follows a group of MI5 misfits relegated to Slough House, a dumping ground for failed agents. The outcasts find themselves embroiled in high stake operations. The team is led by the Jackson Lamb, played by the brilliant Gary Oldman.

The show is full of action and dark humour, and you really get to love the characters and their quirky personalities. Jack Lowden plays River Cartwright, a young agent seeking redemption after a mistake that has damaged his career as a successful agent. The cast also includes Kristin Scott Thomas and Jonathan Pryce, who bring another level of depth and dark humour to the show.

Slow Horses humanises the world of espionage. The characters are relatable, and often hilarious, making their wins and failures even more engaging. The plot twists are unpredictable, and the dialogue is razor-sharp, reminding us of classic spy thrillers but with a very modern twist.

Slow Horses is a must-watch for fans who enjoy character-driven dramas. There have been four series so far, each one keeps you engaged with its blend of wit, action and stellar performances. A standout show, binge watch and enjoy.



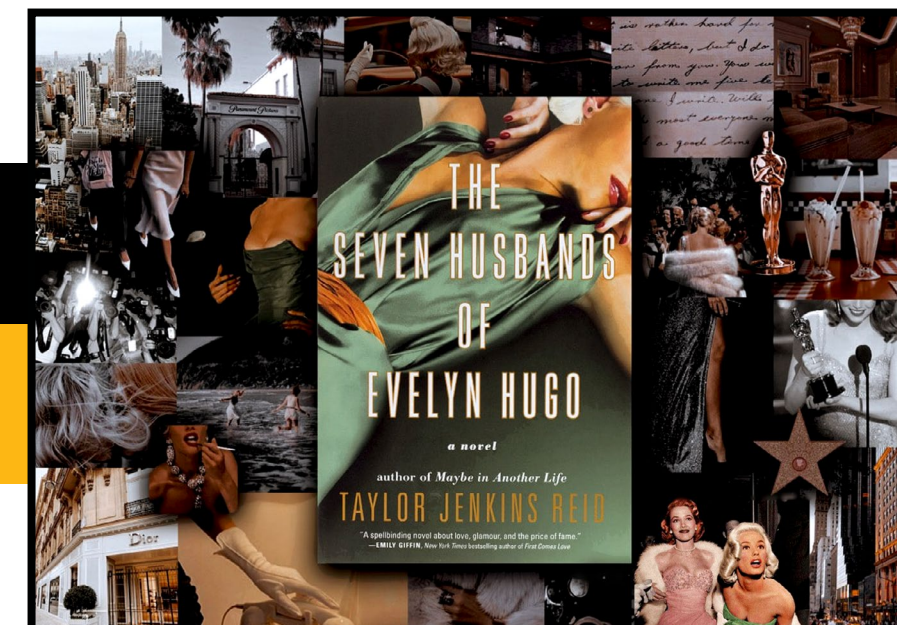
## Sage Quest

STAFF & STUDENTS INSPIRATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS  
(OR NOT) - TELL US WHAT YOU ARE READING AND WATCHING.  
PART 1- SOFIA REID



**'The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid'** is a wonderful novel that takes readers on an emotional journey through the life of a fictional Hollywood star, Evelyn Hugo. The book is so captivating that you would believe it to be real. The story is narrated by Monique Grant, a relatively unknown journalist who is hand-picked by Evelyn to write her biography. This is such an amazing opportunity for Monique and her part in the novel is so much more important than you are led to believe. Evelyn Hugo is a reclusive actress, who decides after years of being asked is finally ready to tell her story. The novel is structured around Evelyn's recounting of her seven marriages, each of which reveals different aspects of her character and the sacrifices she made in her pursuit of fame and success. Through these marriages, we gain an insight into the difficulties Evelyn's has faced and how much she has sacrificed in the name of fame. One of the most relatable aspects of the novel is its exploration of identity and self-acceptance.

+ "Come for the glam Old Hollywood vibes; stay for a touching tale of a young reporter and a silver-screen legend."  
- Cosmopolitan



The most profound relationship in the book is with fellow actress Celia St. James. Celia is the love of Evelyn's life, and their relationship is full of passion and heartbreak. In a world where same-sex couples were not publicly accepted Evelyn and Celia cannot openly be together. Evelyn therefore marries seven times, and her relationships are often strategic rather than romantic. The first husband, Ernie Diaz, is a means to escape her humble beginnings and enter the world of Hollywood. The second, Don Adler, is a powerful actor whose abusive behaviour forces Evelyn to make difficult decisions about her career and personal life. The third husband, Mick Riva, is a brief and impulsive marriage that serves as a publicity stunt. The fourth, Rex North, is a mutually beneficial arrangement that helps both their careers. The fifth husband, Harry Cameron, is perhaps the most significant, as he is not only her closest friend but also shares a deep and abiding love with her. The sixth husband, Max Girard, is a director who helps her achieve critical acclaim, but their relationship is ultimately unfulfilling. The seventh and final husband, Robert Jamison, is a marriage of convenience that provides stability in her later years.

The authors writing, as with many of her books is so engaging, drawing the readers into the world of old Hollywood.

The novel's structure creates a sense of suspense and keeps readers invested in the story. The twists and turns throughout the book reveal many secrets and surprises that keep you captivated.

Not only does The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo look at identity and self-acceptance it delves deep into one's need for ambition, power, and the cost of fame. Evelyn wants to be famous and successful, and this comes at a high cost of her personal life. The novel is delightful, fun and glamorous but it does not shy away from examining the darker side of Hollywood. The pressures and expectations placed on women in the industry are laid bare, highlighting the sacrifices and compromises that are often required to achieve and maintain stardom.

The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo is a compelling and thought-provoking novel with a fascinating and charismatic main character. It is not only entertaining, completely believable but is what only can be described as a loveable read. Whether you are a fan of historical fiction or romance, this novel is sure to captivate you and leave a lasting impression.



+ "I spent half my time loving her and the other half hiding how much I loved her."





STAFF & STUDENTS INSPIRA-  
TIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS  
(OR NOT) - TELL US WHAT YOU  
ARE READING AND WATCHING.  
PART 2- JASMINE DUNN-LEE

sweetpea

## Sage Quest

The dark Sky series *'Sweetpea'* follows aspiring reporter Rhiannon Lewis as she loses control of her murderous rage after the tragic death of her father. Rhiannon is initially meek and unassuming, overlooked and ignored by everyone in her life apart from her caring father who urges her to stick up for herself. Her inner monologue however allows the audience to see her true feelings of intense anger and frustration as she wishes to be seen in a world that rarely acknowledges her existence. What at first seems merely as a murderous revenge fantasy begins exploring how Rhiannon's relationship to victimhood, black and white thinking, and false sense righteousness that is sure to pull in any viewer and keep them wanting more.

*'In Bruges'* is a 2008 film following two hit-man who are sent to Bruges (Belgium) after a botched job on a priest where a young boy was accidentally killed. Ray is ridden with guilt in which he attempts to cover up through inappropriate humour and cynicism whilst his older, more experienced associate Ken is tasked with murdering Ray by their boss Har-

ry as punishment for the boy's death. The film expertly explores themes of morality and redemption as the characters' ideologies clash in this Belgian purgatory. Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson's onscreen chemistry, the moody atmosphere, atmospheric soundtrack, and breath-taking setting are just a few elements that push this film into being a dark, dramatic comedy for the ages.

In contrast Wes Anderson's 2014 film *'The Grand Budapest Hotel'* is full of silly, endearing charm, similar to the majority of his filmography. His characteristically vibrant colours and his highly stylised, intricately choreographed frames take this loveable comedy to new heights. We follow the adventures of a lobby boy played by Tony Revolori and a concierge played by Ralph Fiennes (who also appears as 'Harry' in *'In Bruges'*) who work at a famous European hotel during a vague conflict between neighbouring nations. After eccentric concierge Gustave H is framed for the murder of a rich, older woman who frequented the hotel, he and his loyal lobby boy must go on a journey to absolve his crimes whilst being



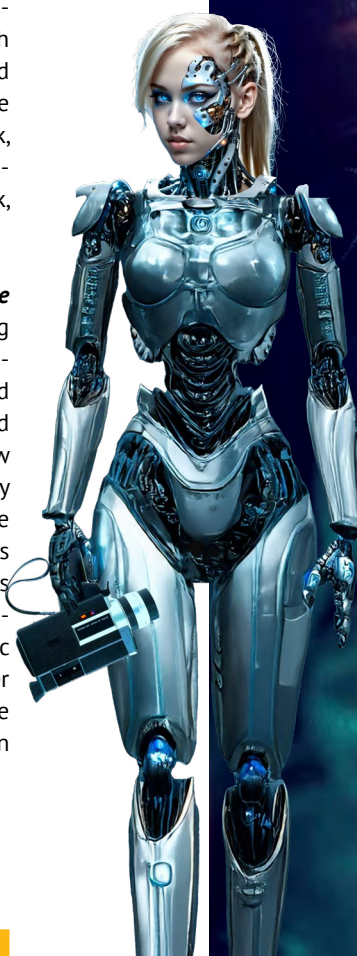
hunted by the hilariously evil Willem Dafoe. The witty humour, charming characters and setting is sure to warm anyone's heart.

Getting into reading as a teenager means I missed lots of potential childhood book series, so to rectify that I have set out to read all the beloved *Percy Jackson* by Rick Riordan books and its continuations and currently ten books in I can say that this modern take on Greek mythology has been an eye opening look into the world of children's literature. It consistently balances immature charm with heavy hitting real world issues that reading adolescents could find relatable, most obviously the complicated family dynamics many of the demigods must navigate due to having an absentee godly parent. With fantastical quests, ominous prophecies, and unique twists on ancient mythology, I believe this legendary series has something to offer people of any age group.



"The small screen version serves as a prequel or origin story of sorts to the book series, of which there are six in total. It is part thriller, part rom-com, part fantasy -- undefinable in genre, but simply brilliant TV."

The London Evening Standard



For the prospect of having your reviews published here in future issues, then join the *LRC Media club* on the back page of this issue.



FOCUS ON COLLEGE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

*Simon Dobson*

# Magnify



 **hachette**  
LEARNING

**Help give your students the edge they need to achieve their best grades with subject expertise at A-level.**

Hodder Education, including its imprint John Catt Educational, now operates under the new name **Hachette Learning**. The business name change aligns with its long-standing parent company, Hachette UK, and reflects its ambition to deliver education and learning solutions that meet the needs of institutions worldwide.

A trusted leader in educational solutions since 1868, Hodder Education will mark this significant milestone in its journey towards global educational impact with a revamped identity and more consolidated approach in January 2025. Its commitment to delivering innovative, accessible, and pedagogically robust educational solutions will be in operation immediately.

Seshni Jacobs, CEO of Hodder Education said: "This name change represents a pivotal step as we focus on becoming a digital-first, global business, with our customers always front and centre. We remain the home of Hodder Education, but with offices spanning the globe and a network of international partners, Hachette Learning will offer unparalleled global reach, ensuring educators and learners worldwide have access to high-quality educational materials and services. Aligning our identity with Hachette UK now lays a strong foundation for future growth and recognition, and I am truly excited to embark on this new chapter."

David Shelley, CEO of Hachette UK and Hachette Book Group said: "Education is changing fast, as technology drives more personalised learning and greater global collaboration. While Hodder Education's overall name may change, our trusted brand remains in the UK, along with its dedication to providing high-quality products and services. Its legacy of excellence will continue to be reflected in Hachette Learning's offerings. I am so impressed by Seshni's leadership, which is taking our education business across the world and to greater heights. Hachette Learning, the home of Hodder Education, is an exciting next step in our hugely successful education business."

**David Shelley** - Chief Executive Officer, Hachette UK and Hachette Book Group







### Discover Hachette Hodder Magazines: Your Path to Educational Excellence

Hachette Hodder Magazines, now part of Hachette Learning, provide a unique collection of educational resources aimed at supporting both students and educators. These magazines cover a broad range of subjects, offering detailed articles, cutting-edge research, and case studies tailored for GCSE and A-Level students. By incorporating these resources into their study routines, students can gain a deeper understanding of complex topics and stay updated with the latest advancements in their subjects.

#### A Variety of Subjects

Hachette Hodder Magazines span various categories, ensuring students have access to content that meets their academic needs. The magazines key subjects include:

- *Biological Sciences Review*: Latest discoveries and research in biology, including genetics, ecology, and biotechnology.
- *Business Review*: Insights into modern business practices, economic theories, and case studies on successful enterprises.
- *Chemistry Review*: Exploration of chemical phenomena, advancements in materials science, and innovative research in chemistry.
- *Economic Review*: Analysis of

economic data, trends, and their real-world applications, including policy impacts and market dynamics.

- *English Review*: Examination of literary works, critical theories, and contemporary interpretations of classic and modern literature.
- *Geography Review*: Investigation of geographical issues, environmental studies, and the impact of human activities on the planet.

- *Modern History Review*: Historical analysis and perspectives on significant events, movements, and figures that have shaped the modern world.
- *PE Review*: Discussions on physical education, sports science, and the latest research in health and fitness.
- *Physics Review*: Coverage of fundamental and advanced physics concepts, including quantum mechanics, astrophysics, and applied physics.
- *Politics Review*: Analysis of po-

litical systems, theories, current events, and their implications on global and local scales.

- *Psychology Review*: Exploration of psychological theories, mental health research, and their applications in everyday life.
- *Sociology Review*: Examination of societal structures, social behaviour, and the dynamics of communities and cultures.



### Enhancing Learning Experiences

These magazines are designed to enrich the learning overall experience by providing students with current information and engaging and exciting content. Each issue features articles written by experts, ensuring accuracy and relevance. Additionally, the magazines often include case studies and real-world examples to help students connect knowledge with practical applications. For example, the Biological Sciences Review might feature articles on the latest genetic research, while the Business Review could include case studies on successful business start-ups. This approach makes learning more interesting and demonstrates the practical relevance of their studies.



### Supporting College Staff

Hachette Hodder Magazines are also valuable resources for College Staff, offering teaching ideas, sample content, and subscription options to integrate these magazines into their curriculum. By subscribing, staff can provide students with the tools needed to excel academically and gain a deeper understanding of their subjects. For instance, the English Review might offer critical essays on classic literature for classroom discussions, while the Geography Review could provide detailed maps and data for lessons on climate change or urban development. Staff can also benefit from the professional development resources included in the magazines, such as articles on the latest teaching methodologies, classroom management strategies, and insights into educational trends. These resources help teachers stay informed and continuously improve their instructional practices.

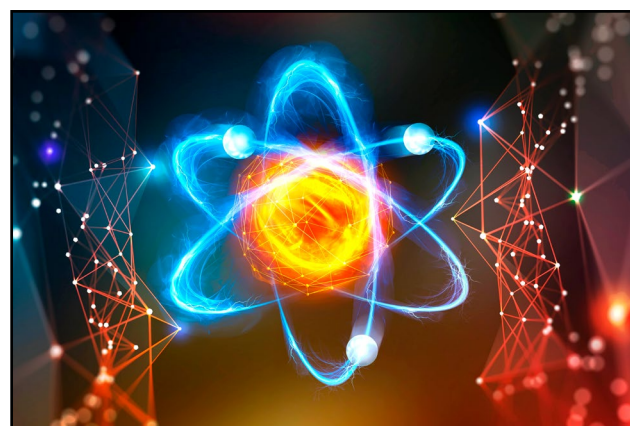


The magazines incorporate interactive elements such as quizzes, discussion prompts, and project ideas that encourage active learning and critical thinking. By engaging with these resources, students can develop a more complete understanding of their subjects and enhance their analysis skills.

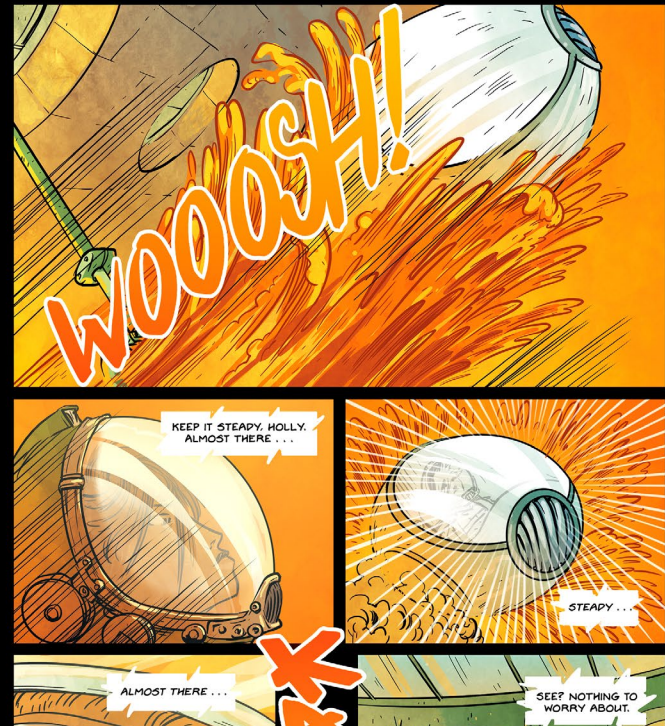
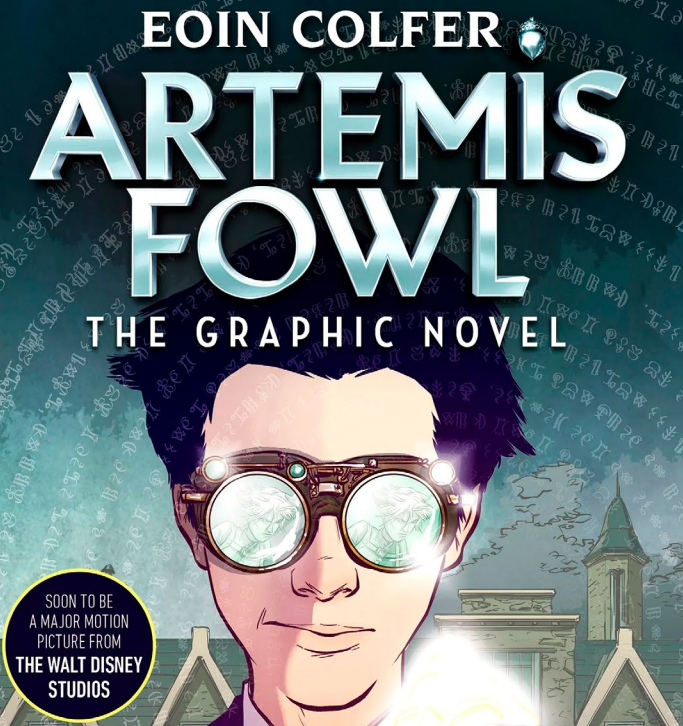
### In Conclusion

Hachette Magazines are essential resources for both students and educators, offering a wealth of information across a wide range of subjects. By delivering high-quality, specialised content, these magazines help students achieve their best grades and College Staff in creating effective and engaging lessons. Whether used as supplementary materials or integrated into the curriculum, Hachette Hodder Magazines provide invaluable support for academic success and lifelong learning.

QR link – How to access Hachette online magazines video







'THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER SEEN MARTIAN LIFE CAN SCARCELY IMAGINE THE HORROR.'

Blue Sky Through the Window of a Moving Car is must-read.

*'The kind of book you want to pass around to all of your friends to make sure they've read it' - Jack Edwards'*

**Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel by Eoin Colfer, adapted by Michael Moreci and illustrated by Stephen Gilpin**

Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel brings the beloved fantasy series to life in a visually stunning format. This story follows the adventures of twelve-year-old criminal mastermind Artemis Fowl as he discovers the existence of fairies and concocts a daring plan to exploit their magic for his own gain. Both long-time fans of the series and newcomers alike can enjoy this title. It provides a fast-paced, engaging experience that retains the humour and wit of the original books. If you're a fantasy enthusiast, or someone looking for an exciting read, take a look.

**Chris Mould's War of the Worlds**

This adaptation breathes new life into H.G. Wells' classic sci-fi tale. This stunning full-colour adaptation captures the original story while adding a fresh visual dimension that is both captivating and immersive.

Set in 1894, the story follows the terrifying invasion of Earth by Martians. Mould's exquisite illustrations bring to life the horror and excitement of Wells' original descriptions, making it accessible to a new generation of readers. The detailed artwork conveys as much emotion as the words, creating a truly remarkable re-imagining of this timeless story. This title offers a unique blend of classic literature and modern illustration; it is an engaging read for students, sci-fi enthusiasts and anyone who appreciates beautifully crafted graphic novels.



## Lectio Libri

# BOOKSPHERE

Lucy Abbott takes a regular look at the ever popular and growing set of fictional books available at the college. This edition focuses specifically on *graphic novels*.

*Are you a fan of graphic novels? Our Riverside and Cronton LRCs have recently added an exciting new collection that you won't want to miss! The selection covers a variety of genres, including thrilling adventures, expressive stories and thought-provoking narratives, all brought to life with stunning artwork. In this edition of Booksphere, you'll see some of the titles and the stories behind them.*

**Vincent: A Graphic Biography by Simon Elliott** This title offers a visually engaging look at Vincent Van Gogh's life. This graphic novel captures his journey from obscurity to posthumous fame, highlighting his artistic achievements and personal struggles. Van Gogh faced numerous challenges, including mental health issues, financial instability and constant rejection by the art community during his lifetime. Despite these obstacles, his groundbreaking use of colour and brushwork has left a lasting impact on the art world behind great works of art. Explore Van Gogh's extraordinary life and enduring legacy. This biography is perfect for

art enthusiasts and anyone interested in the human stories through this compelling and beautifully illustrated graphic biography.

**Blue Sky Through the Window of a Moving Car by Jordan Bolton** is a moving collection of comics that beautifully capture the essence of everyday life. This graphic novel explores universal experiences and emotions through a blend of art and poetry, making it both heart-warming and heart-breaking. Bolton's work shines a spotlight on the fleeting details that often go unnoticed. The comics are divided into sections reflecting where we spend most of our time: In Public, In Transit and At Home. Each section delves into moments of love, heartbreak, embarrassment, hope and disappointment, offering a gentle reminder that everything is connected. This graphic novel is for anyone who appreciates the beauty in the mundane. It's a thoughtful and relatable exploration of what it means to be human, capturing both the subtleties and complexities of our daily lives. Whether you're a student, an art enthusiast, or simply someone who enjoys reflective storytelling,



“

I WOULD LOVE TO HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT... TO BE ON A TEAM WITH SOMEONE... AND TO BE BETTER TOGETHER THAN YOU EVER COULD BE ALONE.

- HECTOR

- KEVIN PANETTA, BLOOM

”

(BLOOM, 1)

**Bloom by Kevin Panetta and illustrated by Savanna Ganucheau**

A delightful graphic novel that combines the themes of love, self-discovery, and baking. This coming-of-age story follows Ari, a young man eager to leave his family's bakery and pursue his dreams, and Hector, a passionate baker who enters Ari's life at just the right moment.

Set against the backdrop of a small-town bakery, Bloom beautifully portrays young love and the challenges of finding one's path. The story is brought to life with Ganucheau's illustrations, which use delicate pastel colours to create a warm and inviting atmosphere. Suited to young adults, Bloom has a relatable and heartwarming plot that explores the complexities of relationships and personal growth. It's an ideal read for anyone who enjoys stories about love, friendship, and the journey to self-discovery.

*Graphic novels offer a unique and engaging way to experience reading, blending visual art with storytelling in a way that appeals to a wide range of readers. From heartwarming tales like Bloom to thrilling adventures like Artemis Fowl and reimagined classics like War of the Worlds, there's something for everyone in this diverse genre.*



*'I know for sure that I have an instinct for colour, and painting is in the very marrow of my bones'*





FOCUS ON EDI & SOCIAL ISSUES  
**THINKIGNITE**



# Environmental Resources

In our section “ThinkIgnite” we take a look at resources specific to equality, diversity & inclusion, as well as social issues, that are available at the college. We also recommend other titles further a field that you may find of interest.  
*Jorge Atherton*

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY IS THE BIGGEST INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. OBSERVED ANNUALLY ON JUNE 5TH, THIS UN DAY BRINGS TOGETHER MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ACROSS THE GLOBE IN A SHARED MISSION TO SAFEGUARD AND RESTORE OUR PLANET, EMPOWERING GOVERNMENTS, BUSINESSES, COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS TO DRIVE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE.**

**WALL-E**  
**Directed by Andrew Stanton**

Disney Pixar’s Wall-E may be about two robots falling in love on a surface level. However, it’s more about the human race’s lack of responsibility and attitudes towards the climate and waste, but also humans’ relationship with technology. Set in the far future of the 29th century, humans have abandoned the planet due to the large build-up of trash and waste and headed to space while robots clean the planet up ready for their return.

The idea was sold to humans that they would travel on a space cruise for a number of years while the planet was cleaned up, however, the powers that be knew that humans were never returning to Earth due to the damage they caused through pollution. Then there’s the reliance on technology, humans are trapped in hovering chairs as they roam around the ship blissfully unaware of their surroundings with constant flashing screens in their faces being told what to wear and what to consume.

It’s only when accidentally Wall-e knocks a human out of their chair that they realise what is going on and begin to reconnect with their humanity. As humans became more engrossed in technology, they forgot to look away from their screens and realise the damage they had done to the planet before it was too late and instead of trying to stay and turn things around, they jetted off into the stars and left it to be someone else’s problem forever leaving Earth damaged and polluted beyond repair. Wall-E is a critique of consumerism and it is here that our small actions can have the strongest positive impacts for the environment.



“I’M OFTEN ASKED WHETHER I BELIEVE IN GLOBAL WARMING. I NOW JUST REPLY WITH THE QUESTION: DO YOU BELIEVE IN GRAVITY?”

– NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON,  
AMERICAN ASTROPHYSICIST, AUTHOR, AND SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR.

**Seaspiracy Directed by Ali Tabrizi**

An award-winning documentary which examines human impacts on marine life and advocates for ending fish consumption while further exploring the dark side of the global fishing industry. The film exposes the environmental destruction caused by industrial fishing practices, including overfishing and argues that eliminating seafood from our diets is crucial to protecting the oceans and ensuring their recovery. The documentary also explores habitat destruction, and the corruption behind so-called sustainable seafood labels. The documentary starts by celebrating the ocean and all the creatures in it but quickly shifts to uncovering the alarming truths about the damaging human impact on marine life. The film rejects the concept of sustainable fishing and criticises several marine conservation organisations as well as criticising efforts by organisations to reduce household plastic, contrasting their impact with that of ghost nets. Despite its powerful message, Seaspiracy has faced criticism for its perceived bias and the validity of some claims. However, it remains a significant work that challenges viewers to reconsider their relationship with the ocean and the seafood industry.



**The Day after Tomorrow**  
**Directed by Roland Emmerich**

From the ‘Master of Disaster’ filmmaker Roland Emmerich, The Day After Tomorrow may look like your average Hollywood disaster blockbuster at first, but as the audience watch it becomes clear what some of the film’s deeper messages about climate change and the threat of a global catastrophe. The film effectively uses visual effects to depict the devastating impact of climate change and shows various iconic locations being destroyed by various extreme weather phenomena, including tornadoes in Los Angeles, massive hailstorms in Tokyo, and a tsunami that floods New York. These scenes are both thrilling and terrifying, highlighting the potential consequences of unchecked global warming. One of the most striking aspects of the film is its

portrayal of the rapid onset of a new ice age via the complete shut down of the North Atlantic current which lead to significant changes in the global climate and weather patterns. The super storm brings freezing temperatures and blizzards, freezing entire cities and oceans and causing widespread destruction across the globe. This scenario, while exaggerated for dramatic effect, serves as a reminder of the potential severity of climate change. The movie also touches on the social and political implications of climate change. It shows how governments and individuals struggle to respond to the crisis, emphasising the importance of global cooperation and proactive measures to mitigate the effects of climate change.

**FACT**  
Whales are known for being the largest and most intelligent creatures in the ocean. Now, marine biologists have discovered that they also capture tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere, a service with an economic value of US\$1 trillion for all the great whales, according to a study published by the International Monetary Fund.





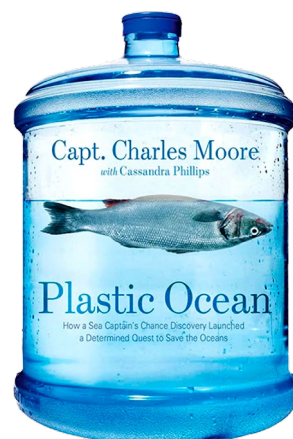


## World Environment Day 2025: #BeatPlasticPollution

THIS YEAR'S WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY ON JUNE 5TH COMES EXACTLY TWO MONTHS BEFORE COUNTRIES MEET AGAIN TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATING A GLOBAL TREATY TO END PLASTIC POLLUTION.



◀◀ Captain Charles Moore holds up a sample of seawater from the Pacific Ocean, his expression as he eyes the glass jar sitting on a rolling boat, coupled with the hat that shades him from the burning sun, tells us all we need to know.



**PLASTIC OCEAN: HOW A SEA CAPTAIN'S CHANCE DISCOVERY LAUNCHED A DETERMINED QUEST TO SAVE THE OCEAN** In 1997, Captain Charles Moore discovered the world's largest collection of floating trash--the Great Pacific Garbage Patch ("GPGP") while sailing from Hawaii to California. Seeing this amount of plastic and waste spurred Moore on to make changes and raise awareness of what is truly happening in our oceans. From milk jugs and abandoned fishing gear to polymer molecules small enough to penetrate human skin and be unknowingly inhaled, plastic is now suspected of contributing to a host of ailments, including infertility, autism, thyroid dysfunction, and certain cancers. Moore's book steers clear of simply piling on the doom and gloom. The book follows Moore from his initial "discovery" of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, along his voyages to sample the debris, through to his bold efforts to set up a respected marine con-

servation organisation pushing the boundaries of science's understanding of the problem. What Moore does best is introduce audiences to the different types of plastic such as PS and PVC for examples and explains how there are thousands of different plastic variations in circulation, and most are yet to undergo toxicity testing. Moore further explains that testing typically begins once the damage is already done. Meanwhile recycling such diverse materials is unprofitable, so into landfill and ocean they go. Moore's message to the reader is clear as well, while beach-cleaning presents perhaps the only reasonable chance of removing debris from our oceans, it will never be enough while we are producing and trashing an ever-increasing amount of plastic. We have to address the problem at source, putting pressure on legislatures and producers to eliminate single-use, un-recyclable plastics.

### THE NEW CLIMATE WAR: THE FIGHT TO TAKE BACK OUR PLANET

Michael E. Mann's book discusses the actions of the fossil fuel industry to delay action on climate change and how he considers the responses to climate change to be inadequate. Mann argues that seventy-one per cent of global emissions come from the same hundred companies, but fossil-fuel companies have taken no responsibility themselves. Instead, they have waged a thirty-year campaign to blame individuals for climate change. The result has been disastrous for our planet. Between the people and the polluters - fossil-fuel companies, right-wing plutocrats, and Petro-states, Mann outlines a plan for forcing governments and corporations to wake up and make real changes. Mann shows that corporations have been successful in convincing us that climate change will be fine, if we just recycle our bottles and turn out the lights then we can slow down global warming and even

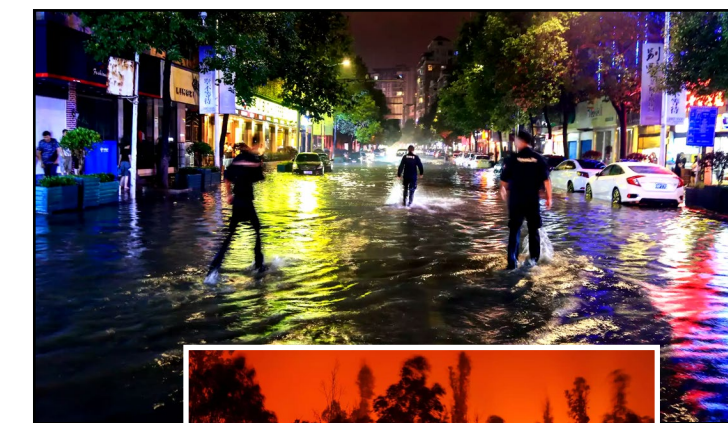
reverse it. Instead, he says, global warming is a problem way too hot for any one person to handle and that large corporations need to do their part as well as the everyday person. He also shares his personal experiences, including facing online abuse during the "Climategate" controversy, in which he received death threats and other forms of abuse from climate deniers determined to prove that global warming was and still is a myth. Mann emphasizes the importance of combating "doomism" (the belief that catastrophic events are inevitable and that effective mitigation is impossible) which can lead to inaction and despair and instead promotes a message of cautious optimism that large corporations can play their part in climate change.

### The New Climate War

the fight to take back our planet

Shows us how we can take the bold steps we must all take together to win the battle to save this planet. GUYA THE SIBERG

Michael E. Mann



### MITIGATION APPROACH OF PLASTIC AND MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION THROUGH RECYCLING OF FISHING NETS AT THE END OF LIFE

From the journal "Process Safety and Environmental Protection" within volume 182 is the article all about microplastic pollution and how to properly dispose of fishing nets when they're in need of replacement. The Journal article is all about exploring how plastic and microplastic pollution in the marine environment is a global issue and how lost or discarded fishing nets represent a relevant part of the marine waste. Written by members of the Italian National Research Council, the writers come up with numerous ways of finding cost effective and technological approaches which aim at finding the right ways to recycle nylon fishing nets. The article also explores how fishing net waste is very harmful to marine organisms due to ghost fishing and microplastics release. Furthermore, nets are difficult to dispose because they take up a lot of space at landfill sites and are expensive to transport. Therefore, the development of recovery and recycling strategies represents one of the solutions for this problem.



Top Right: This shot taken on July 8th 2017 shows a flooded street in Anshun, Guizhou province in China after a month of severe rainfall left 83 people dead or missing.  
Middle Right: Extreme, extended heat is dangerous to life on earth for many reasons, among them the drought and changing weather conditions that have led to an increase in catastrophic wildfires (like this 2023 one in Chile).  
Bottom Right: This image taken on November 27th 2017 depicts a thick layer of smog hovering over Almaty, Kazakhstan.



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