

HISTORY

History is a popular subject throughout the School with consistently excellent results in public examinations. In the first three years we aim to foster interest and enthusiasm in the subject by giving the students a sense of chronology and an understanding of the key developments, themes and issues in Britain and the rest of the world. At GCSE we follow the popular Modern World syllabus.

In the sixth form we study sixteenth century English and seventeenth European History, and focus on Elizabeth I and Louis XIV.

We offer a range of cross-curricular trips. First Year students have the opportunity to visit Normandy and the Fourth Years visit the First World War battlefields of Ypres and the Somme.

We have good links with local universities. This year's revision programme included lectures from Professors William Doyle and Ronald Hutton (Bristol University), Dr Peter Campbell (Sussex University), Dr Mark Bryant (Chichester) Dr Susan Doran (Christ Church, Oxford) and Dr Mark Stoye (Southampton University).

HISTORY IN THE LOWER & MIDDLE SCHOOL (First, Second, & Third Years)

Throughout the first three years we aim to promote interest in and enthusiasm for the past while at the same time developing a wide range of historical concepts and skills. There are strong cross-curricular links with the French, English, Geography and ICT departments.

First Year

Aspects of Medieval England from 1050–1450

Topics include: the Norman invasion, the Battle of Hastings, the feudal system, castles, cathedrals, the Black Death, the Peasants' Revolt, the Crusades, our own city of Salisbury, and Eleanor of Aquitaine, who spent some time in this area.

A variety of teaching strategies are employed to develop historical knowledge and skills. There are opportunities for local visits and there is a cross-curricular visit to Bayeux in the Summer Term.

Second Year

Aspects of English, European and World History 1450-1700

Topics include: the Renaissance, Voyages of Discovery, the Aztecs, the Tudors.

Teaching methods are designed to foster enthusiasm and build on the skills acquired in the First Year. There are opportunities for individual and group projects in liaison with the ICT Department.

Third Year

Revolution and Wars 1700-1914

As GCSE approaches, the focus in the Third Year is on skills and evidence-based activities. Topics include the Stuarts, the American Revolution, the French Revolution, the causes of World War I;

HISTORY IN THE UPPER SCHOOL (Fourth & Fifth Years)

Syllabus *OCR Modern World History*

This very exciting course is designed to give students the opportunity to study some of the key themes, political events and ideas of the twentieth century. There is also the opportunity to explore some topics in detail and to acquire the skills of the historian through evaluating source material. There are two examination papers, and students undertake two pieces of coursework.

Content *Paper 1 International Relations (45%)*

- Paris Peace Treaties
- League of Nations and International Relations in the 1920s
- Appeasement and the rise of the Dictators
- The Cold War

and a Depth Study on Germany 1918-1945

Paper 2 Source Based Investigation Britain 1906- 1918 (30%)

- The Liberal Reforms
- Votes for women
- The Home Front during the First World War

Coursework (25%)

- The First World War
- The Russian Revolutions of 1917

Fieldwork/courses The girls will be offered the chance to visit the First World War Battlefields (Ypres and the Somme) at the beginning of the course.

A revision course, 'Hitler on trial' is also available to Fifth Year students.

HISTORY IN THE SIXTH FORM

A level History offers a wide range of topics, enabling students to study History in length and breadth as well as in depth, to develop expertise in a variety of skills (general as well as historical), and to acquire and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the events and issues studied.

There are five papers and, in addition, a particularly valuable coursework option, encouraging individual research and generally attracting high grades. Alternatively, students may opt for six papers, rather than five.

History is a popular and well-respected A level, and it is clear that this syllabus is designed to maintain that tradition.

			AS	A2
Unit 1	Document study	(1 hour)	40%	20%
Unit 2	English History	(45 minutes)	30%	15%
Unit 3	European History	(45 minutes)	30%	15%
Unit 4	Historical Investigation	(1½ hours)		15%
Unit 5	Themes in History	(1½ hours)		20%
Unit 6	Independent Investigation (coursework)		15%	
or Unit 6	Extended Essay (examination)	(1½ hours)		15%

The programme for the Lower Sixth is:

Louis XIV (Document Topic)
English History 1547 - 1587
European History 1660 - 1725

Students are encouraged to start preparation for their Independent Investigation during the summer holiday between the Lower and Upper Sixth. They are strongly advised to choose an aspect of either Louis XIV or Elizabeth 1 for their research, as they will already have a sound basis from which to develop their own investigation.

In the Upper Sixth the students cover

Elizabeth 1
Limited Monarchy 1558 – 1689

and complete their Independent Investigation/coursework.

If you like finding out about people, reading about the past, discussion, analysis and debate, you will certainly enjoy A level History. The course is demanding though, and you should have good GCSE grades in the core areas and, ideally, in History too.

During the course you will be offered the opportunity to visit Hatfield House (£25 approx), London and Paris/Versailles (£300 approx) (in conjunction with the Art and French Departments). There will also be a series of guest speakers to help with revision.

Use of History

History A level is generally respected as a good qualification for university courses in the humanities, law, politics and economics. It is useful in a wide range of careers, and historians are to be found frequently in business, industry, the Civil Service, the Foreign/Diplomatic Service and the Armed Services to name but a few of the many opportunities available to them.