

History

“Inspiring pupils’ curiosity to explore the past in order to understand the present and prepare for the future”

Our History Curriculum intends to:

- Inspire pupils to become curious about the past and equip them to ask perceptive questions, think critically, evaluate arguments and develop perspective and judgement.
- Enable pupils to gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain’s past and that of the wider world.
- Help pupils to understand the complexity of people’s lives, the process of change and the diversity of societies, as well as exploring their own identity and the challenges of their time.

Year 9 course content:

The First World War:

This is a study of the First World War from 1890-1918. It is an important unit which gives pupils the context of a changing world at the end of the 19th century and into the beginning of the 20th century. In it we explore the causes of WWI, what we can learn from soldiers’ letters, and how interpretations of the WWI generals like Sir Douglas Haig have changed and why.

The Russian Revolution:

This is an enquiry into how the Bolsheviks in Russia managed to overthrow one of the oldest regimes in Europe and how it transformed Russian society. This is a vital study to understand later 20th century events that we study in Year 9, 10 and 11.

The Inter-War Years

The Interwar Years 1918-39 helps pupils to see how the world tried to rebuild itself after WWI and how war still came along 21 years later in 1939. In these enquiries the pupils will study how dictators rose, how international organisations failed and how WWII broke out.

The Post-WWII World:

The world from 1945 to the present can help to explain our own world. We will explore themes such as the Cold War, communism, terrorism and integration around the world.

Year 10 course content (GCSE Starts):

Britain, Migration, Empires and the People: A Thematic British Study

This topic allows pupils to explore the theme of migration in British History over a thousand years. We look at Viking invasions, Alfred the Great, wars with France, the birth of Atlantic Slavery, the British Empire, the Industrial Revolution and mass migration in the 20th century, all the way up to Britain leaving the EU. The History of Migration is crucial to understanding Britain today and providing context to British issues today and will truly help pupils to become global citizens.

Restoration Britain, 1660-1685, a British Depth Study.

This topic enables pupils to study a British topic in depth around the extravagant reign of King Charles II. His reign is marked by assassination attempts, wars with the Dutch, exploration of the New World but also the Great Plague and Great Fire. How did he deal with these issues? How did parliament work with the king? We will look at all these questions as we seek to understand this transition from Britain as an ancient kingdom into the modern country we have today.

A study of the historic environment. This study is incorporated into the Restoration Britain unit and changes each year. The study of the historic environment focuses on a particular site in its historical context and enables pupils to study the relationship between a place and historical events. Previous environments have been: The Royal Observatory, St. Paul’s Cathedral, and Theatre Royal Drury Lane.

Year 11 course content:

Germany 1890-1945, a non-British Period study.

This topic enables pupils to explore Germany as it grew as an empire at the end of the 19th century, collapsed during WWI, rose as the most democratic country in the world but ultimately fell to Nazism under Hitler. How did all this happen and how did it change the lives of ordinary Germans? These questions are always at the forefront of our enquiries into this topic. Nazi Germany has remained a cornerstone of History Education for 75 years because it enables pupils to see the vulnerabilities of democracy and how we need to learn from the mistakes in the past.

Conflict & Tension, 1918-1939, Wider World Depth Study

This study allows pupils to gain a better understanding of the modern world through looking at a period of conflict and tension. We will look at how the peace made after WWI shaped the 20th century? Was the League of Nations any good at stopping wars? Was Hitler solely to blame for the outbreak of WWII? These questions help pupils to understand global politics and society to better understand today. Some topics are similar to the Germany course which allows for an interleaved GCSE curriculum in parts that helps pupils revise as we learn.

Fieldwork:

Pupils have the opportunity to go on a residential fieldwork visiting one of the deadliest battlefields of the First World War – the Ypres Salient. On this residential we explore the reconstructed trench systems, the beautiful city of Ypres and world-class museums.

Assessment: Exam Board – AQA - 8145

Over the course there will be regular assessments to test acquired skills. The History GCSE has two exams at the end of Year 11. Both exams are worth 50% of the course mark.

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world	Germany 1890-1945 Conflict and Tension 1918-39
Paper 2: Shaping the nation	Britain: Migration, Empires and the People 790-2020 Restoration Britain, 1660-85 (inc. Historic Environment)

