

History

Welcome to the History Department!

Our department consists of several historians with a range of specialisms, but a common passion for our subject. Through a combination of our skills, we offer our students a varied and engaging experience of Secondary-History.

Studying History provides a student with attributes that aren't only confined to the study of the past. Skills of analysis are invaluable in many industries, and the ability to analyse and then prioritise information is vital in developing someone's leadership abilities. This varied skills-set will not only assist students in their other subjects, but it will also enable them to keep their career options open.

We actively work to tackle the stigma that is sometimes attached to History; that it is based entirely in the distant past. In order to make sense of most current affairs it is important to study the past, as everything which is happening around us has been influenced by those events which have preceded it. In this way, the study of History is relevant to all of us as citizens of the world.

In addition to raising cultural awareness, History also endorses independence in young people. It enables students to lead their own inquiries into the past, through the testing and challenging of the hypotheses of others. Furthermore, knowledge of the past cannot simply be handed over; it requires hard work. As a subject dominated by reading, students inevitably develop a sense of self-sufficiency and become increasingly independent.

Our Vision

Whilst we of course strive to ensure our students achieve the best possible History qualifications, this is not our only aim. Our principles are firmly rooted in the belief that passion produces academic success and not the opposite. It is for this reason that our vision is to ensure the continuation of our subject by creating the budding historians of tomorrow.

Our Curriculum

At Key Stage 3 all students study History for three hours per fortnight. Our curriculum begins with the fall of Roman Britain and ends with the 1995 Oslo Peace Accords between Israel and the PLO. Lessons are taught chronologically, however every half term there is a particular focus on one of the following historical skills:

- Cause and Consequence.
- Change and Continuity.
- Significance.
- Interpretations and Representations.
- Source Analysis.

All lessons are tailored towards this particular skill and conclude with an assessment that involves at least one piece of extended writing.

At Key Stage 4 students who opt for History have 3 hours of lessons per week, which increases to 7 per fortnight in Y11. Students who opt for GCSE History (along with a language) are able to achieve the English Baccalaureate. More importantly, GCSE History enables students to translate their keen interest in the past, into structured and well written arguments. Our students follow the Edexcel syllabus and take the following options (see below). There are three exams at the end of the course which range from 1 hour and 15 minutes to 1 hour and 45 minutes.

- Paper 1 (30%) -Warfare and British Society c.1250 -The Present Day
- Paper 2 (40%) - Saxon and Norman England; c.1060-1088 and the Cold War; 1941-1991
- Paper 3 (30%) -Weimar and Nazi Germany c.1918-1939

At Key Stage 5 students have four hours of lessons per week. There are four units covering over 200 years of content and the History of several countries. There are three exams ranging from 1 hour and 30 minutes, to 2 hours and 15 minutes. There is also a coursework option which accounts for 20% of the final grade. These are the four units that all students study at A Level:

- Paper 1 (30%) -The Growth of Parliamentary Democracy: c.1785-c.1860.
- Paper 2 (20%) -The Unification of Germany c.1840-1871.
- Paper 3 (30%) - Race Relations and Civil Rights in the USA c.1860 - 2009.
- Unit 4 (20%) [Coursework Option] The Extent of Stalin's Involvement in causing the Cold War.

Enrichment and Extracurricular Activities

The History Department offers two annual residential trips. The first is open to all Y9 students and is a four- day trip to the First World War battlefields in Belgium and France. The second is open to all GCSE students and visits Berlin, again for four days. The department has also run residential trips to Washington DC, with the Government and Politics Departments, as well as Normandy. We also offer several day visits to sites such as Mountfitchet Castle, the RAF Museum, the Imperial War Museum, the Cabinet War Rooms, HMS Belfast, the National Archives, amongst several other sites.

Awards and Recognitions

The History Department made a significant contribution to the school being an officially recognized UCL Holocaust Beacon Centre. Furthermore, our students have taken part in national commemorations such as the Centenary Vigil for the Battle of the Somme and even appeared on the BBC Breakfast sofa!

Destinations

Several of our students go on to university to study History at degree level. In 2014 over 25% of our A-Level cohort successfully gained a place at a UK university to study History. The school's last two Oxbridge applications were both for students wishing to study History.

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