



Year 8

Department of History

OVERVIEW

Skills Developed

Students will develop a variety of historical skills in Year 8. We expect that all students will understand the basic chronology of history. With this they can better orientate themselves in time and understand aspects of change and continuity throughout history. Students will also be taught to understand the contested nature of history and the importance of using evidence, and discerning the value of that evidence, to develop interpretations of the past. The nature of history demands that students engage in the debate around the topics we study. As such we aim to improve their speaking and listening skills in debates and discussions.

Topics covered

Our Year 8 curriculum takes in a study of Britain and the world between 1603AD-1900AD. Our KS3 curriculum focuses upon six core strands or threads: the journey towards democracy, our lives and how they have changed, the nature of religion in Britain, immigration and race and their impact on Britain and the wider world, the lives of women and the impact of empire. Year 8 builds upon these threads, aiming to develop what students have learnt in Year 7. We will examine the changing power of the monarchy throughout the seventeenth century including the English Civil War, the interregnum and the restoration. Students will also learn about the nature of the British empire and the contested nature of its impact on the world. Later in the year we will examine the horrors of the Transatlantic Slave Trade with a particular focus on the impact upon our local area. As the year draws to a close, students will study the changes wrought by the Industrial Revolution and then we conclude the year by looking at the suffrage movement.

How we assess your daughter's progress

Students will be assessed continually in history. This will take the form of short quizzes at the start of each lesson as well as in class written pieces. More formally, students will sit three key assessments throughout the year. These assessments will comprise of a series of multiple-choice questions on topics learnt throughout the year and an essay style question. These formal assessments will form the basis of the colour grade that we report home.

How we support and develop your daughter

Your daughter will receive regular feedback, both written and verbal, from her History teacher. All written feedback is designed to include a positive comment about what she is doing well (WWW) as well as and 'next steps' (NS) which will offer her practical and individual advice on how to develop her skills further. She will track her progress in her tracking sheet at the beginning of her exercise book so that she can see what she needs to do to improve.

Guidance will also be given in class by their teacher and students can make an appointment to see their teacher outside of class if she needs any further support.

Both a History and Politics and an International History Society are run by the Sixth Form which she can attend and the library is full of books and resources which she can access to improve her knowledge.

How you can help your daughter

Students are given booklets for each unit that they study in Y8. These booklets will act as mini textbooks and we encourage parents to engage with the work that their child is completing in these booklets, talking to them about what they are learning and providing their own knowledge and insight into the subject.

Moreover, we would encourage all parents to engage their child in history. This might be in the form of watching historical movies together, reading together and listening to podcasts. We are also fortunate to be so close to places of historical interest and we would love to hear from students about the trips they have taken and the history they have learnt as a result.

Some Great Podcasts to Listen to:

- The Rest is History
- BBC History Extra
- History Hit

07/24