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Year 7

Department of History

OVERVIEW

In History, we aim to build on their positive experiences of History at primary school to instil a love for the subject. We have chosen topics that are both important in shaping Britain and the world. We also believe that the skills of the historian; of understanding and interpreting evidence to develop a picture of the past, are more important than ever in today's world. We hope that in studying history our students can better understand both the past and present.

Skills Developed

Students will develop a variety of historical skills in Year 7. 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 7 curriculum takes in a study of Britain and the world between 435AD-1603AD. 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 7 provides a study of the basis for these threads. We will examine the why so many groups migrated to Britain following the decline of the Roman occupation, the development of monarchy following the Norman Conquest and the changing nature of life in medieval England. Later in the year students will explore world civilisation during the middle ages including the Mughal empire, the Ming Dynasty and the Kingdom of Benin. Towards the end of the year students will explore the reign of the Tudors and how the nature of religion in England was dramatically changed throughout the sixteenth century.

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

Students will receive regular feedback, both written and verbal, from their History teacher. All written feedback is designed to include a positive comment about what they are doing well (WWW) as well as 'next steps' (NS) which will offer them practical and individual advice on how to develop their skills further.

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

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

How you can help your daughter

Students are given booklets for each unit that they study in Y7. 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