

KS3 Curriculum INTENT

The History Department aims to give every student, whatever their starting point, a secure and connected knowledge of the past and the confidence to think, argue and write like a historian. We encourage students to become successful learners and confident young people by:

- **Enjoying History** and engaging with it with curiosity about the people and events that shaped the world they live in.
- **Knowing the past:** building a secure chronological understanding of British, local and world history from 1066 to the present.
- **Thinking historically:** using evidence, interpretations and historical concepts to analyse the past and understand how it is debated and constructed.
- **Communicating as historians:** explaining, justifying and evaluating with precision in both speech and writing.

Our curriculum is ambitious for all. Students meet the experiences of ordinary people as well as rulers and governments, and encounter a wide range of cultures, faiths and perspectives.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

Overarching principles

The curriculum is taught chronologically, moving from the foundations of power and belief in Year 7, through change and challenge in Year 8, to ideology and conflict in the modern world in Year 9. During each year, students tackle History in a variety of ways in order to build their knowledge, confidence and skills:

- **Knowing the past** (substantive knowledge). Key concepts such as monarchy, church, parliament, empire, revolution, democracy, migration and dictatorship recur across the Key Stage, so that students deepen their understanding each time they meet them again.
- **Historical Concepts Study** (cause and consequence, change and continuity, similarity and difference, and significance). For instance, we consider the causes and impact of the Norman Conquest in Year 7, the English Civil War in Year 8 and the First World War in Year 9.
- **Source and Interpretation Study** (evaluating contemporary evidence and historians' views). Examples include contemporary sources on the Black Death in Year 7, interpretations of the suffragettes in Year 8, and interpretations of the Atlantic Slave Trade and the Holocaust in Year 9.
- **Depth Study** (in-depth study of a relatively short period, such as the 1832 and 1867 Reform Acts in our Year 8 Road to Democracy unit).
- **Enquiry/Research Project** (weighing evidence and testing competing explanations). Each year ends with an extended investigation: the Princes in the Tower in Year 7, the Jack the Ripper case in Year 8 and the assassination of John F. Kennedy in Year 9.
- **Communicating as historians.** We explicitly teach the vocabulary, sentence structures and forms of writing historians use. Reading of historical texts, oral rehearsal and modelled extended writing are built into every unit.

This deliberately lays the foundations for GCSE and A Level. The Norman Conquest prepares students for Anglo-Saxon and Norman England. Medieval Life and the Black Death introduce ideas central to Medicine in Britain. The Rise of Hitler and Conflict in the 20th Century lead directly into Weimar and Nazi Germany and Superpower Relations and the Cold War.

Assessment structure designed to underpin progress:

The format of assessments is standardised across the Key Stage so that students practise, and see progress in, the same core skills over three years while preparing for GCSE:

- Source analysis and interpretation tasks.
- Structured (essay) writing that requires a justified judgement supported by specific and precise knowledge.

- Research and enquiry tasks.
- Drafting and redrafting in response to feedback.
- Formal examination tasks in timed conditions.

Regular retrieval practice helps students remember key knowledge over time, and each unit is supported by a project-based homework in which students research, create and present.

In **Year 7** the units studied are:

Power and belief

The Norman Conquest, 1066–1088
The Islamic World and the Crusades
Medieval Life and the Black Death
The Power of the Church and the Monarchy
Migration in History
The Princes in the Tower

In **Year 8** students undertake:

Change and challenge

The Tudors
The English Civil War
The British Empire
The Industrial Revolution
The Road to Democracy
The Jack the Ripper Investigation

In **Year 9** we look at:

Ideology and conflict

The Atlantic Slave Trade and its Legacy
The Era of the Great War
The Rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party
Conflict in the 20th Century
The Holocaust
The Assassination of John F. Kennedy

Local History is studied throughout the main units, so that students see national and international events played out in their own region. Here are some examples:

Year 7: Carlisle Castle and Cathedral in the Norman Conquest unit; Edward I at Lanercost Priory in the Power of the Church and the Monarchy unit.

Year 8: The Siege of Carlisle in the English Civil War unit.

Year 9: Frederick Douglass's visit to Carlisle in the Atlantic Slave Trade unit; HM Factory Gretna, Eastriggs and the State Management Scheme in Carlisle in the Great War unit.

Impact

By the end of Key Stage 3, students will have a secure chronological understanding of British, local and world history from 1066 to the present. They will be able to use historical concepts to analyse the past, evaluate sources and interpretations, and communicate well-supported judgements clearly in speech and writing. Above all, we want them to leave with a lasting curiosity about the past and an understanding of how it shapes the present.