



# Queen Elizabeth School

Scholarship & Care since 1591

An 11-18 academy in Kirkby Lonsdale,  
between the Lakes & the Dales



## Department Details

### History

History at QES is exciting, vibrant, and successful with excellent student numbers and exam results at both GCSE and A Level.

We have a rich mixture of experience and specialisms within the department which means we can share good practice and bounce strategies off one other in our staff office. We are also supportive and friendly, with a pragmatic attitude to teaching and learning that makes us open to new ideas.

Colleagues within the department are:

- **Toby Barker**

Toby was appointed Head of Department in September 2014 but his association with the school goes back to 2009 when he came here on his first PGCE teaching placement.

- **Heather Burkitt**

Heather has been at QES since 1997 and as well as teaching full time has an important pastoral role as the Deputy Head of Year 8.

- **Mike Brooks**

Mike has been with us for over 20 years and is also the lead in school for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme and all things outdoors.

- **John Stanley**

Our resident History expert who is planning to retire in the summer of 2018.

- **Paul Johnston**

Paul has been seconded to the department this year and also teaches Technology.

History is taught in mixed ability groups in four dedicated and well-equipped classrooms. In Year 7 students are taught in their forms and in Year 8 and Year 9 they are divided into 2 populations, each population having 4 mixed ability groups (one of which is smaller to cater for those pupils who require additional support). Starting with the Romans, KS3 History is mainly studied chronologically with opportunities for thematic topics such as the development of democracy.

At KS4, History is a very popular subject with approximately half the year group opting for one of the two History GCSEs available. Students are motivated to learn History from their positive experience at KS3 and are encouraged to opt for it as part of the EBacc suite of subjects. The two GCSE options are as follows:

<b>Modern History (Option A)</b>	<b>History (Option B)</b>
<i>Edexcel</i>	<i>OCR B</i>
Medicine in Britain, 1250-present	Crime & Punishment, 1250-present
The British Sector of the Western Front	The Elizabethans, 1580-1603
Anglo Saxon & Norman England	Skipton Castle, 1090-present
Superpower Relations & the Cold War	Viking Expansion, 750-1050
Weimar and Nazi Germany	Living in Nazi Germany

History also has a very healthy uptake at A Level and again we are fortunate to offer two separate options, both from the AQA exam board. History is a more traditional study of Stuart England, Peter the Great & Catherine the Great of Russia, and the French Revolution (NEA). Modern History concentrates on the politics, economics, and foreign policy of modern America and post-war Britain, with the causes of the Russian Revolution as coursework.

We run an annual trip to Beamish Museum for the whole of Year 7 and our GCSE students have the opportunity to visit Skipton Castle or Leeds as part of their studies. We also organise a biennial foreign trip to the First World War battlefields for Year 8 & 9 where we visit the graves of some former pupils and the Department has long had additional links to the local community through the popular QES History & Archives Club. We see ourselves very much as the guardians of “respecting the past and its traditions” here and an integral part of promoting literacy, higher order thinking skills, and “British” values across the whole school.