



History Department Details

January 2018

The History Department consists of 6 staff with 3 full time members including 2 staff with responsibilities outside of the department. The department is housed in a suite of 5 classrooms. In addition we have a small conference room which is used as a department office. All classrooms benefit from a networked computer and an interactive whiteboard.

Key Stage 3

The curriculum at KS3 follows a broadly chronological framework, beginning in Year 7 with a focus on Medieval and Early Modern History. In Year 7 students are taught in predominantly mixed ability form groups but with a bottom set determined by the English Department. Students are then placed into sets in Year 8. Rather than the old National Curriculum levels the department now assess students in KS3 against GCSE standards and award GCSE equivalent grades in assessments throughout the year.

The school operates a two week timetable with the time allocation per fortnight for History as follows:

Year 7 - 3 x 1 hour lessons
Year 8 - 3 x 1 hour lessons

Students are given opportunities to extend their learning outside of the classroom with a range of visits to places of interest including a trip to Fountains Abbey in Year 7. Other trips for Years, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 have been organised to various destinations including, Washington, Berlin and London. We also regularly organise theatre trips for the students when historical plays are available.

Key Stage 4

At KS4 History is a popular choice with the students and there are currently 5 groups in Year 11, 5 groups in Year 10 and 4 in Year 9. Students are taught in ability sets where this is possible but most are taught in mixed ability classes. We are teaching the new AQA GCSE and all students taking GCSE will take a 3 year course. The content we cover includes a breadth study of 'Power and the People' in the UK; Twentieth Century America and the Cold War. Finally there will be a depth study on Norman England. The emphasis on active and accessible learning is continued at KS4.

Results are consistently good, as can be seen below,

Year	% A*-C
2009	92%
2010	95%
2011	87%
2012	86%
2013	80%
2014	74%
2015	82%
2016	88%
2017	87%

Key Stage 5

At KS5 the Department offers courses in both History and Government and Politics. Both courses have proved to be popular and successful. We study the AQA A level course covering Tudor and Modern Russian History. History is a popular choice with two classes currently in Y12 and Y13.

The department is well resourced and is well placed to make use of the resources of the University of York.

The results at A2 are some of the best in the school and, in line with whole school achievement, are well above the national average.

A2	A*-C %
2008	100%
2009	95%
2010	90%
2011	96%
2012	100%
2013	82%
2014	89%
2015	100%
2016	100%
2017	90%

Politics follows the Edexcel specification covering UK politics in the AS course and US politics in A2. The course is a popular choice with students and has also achieved excellent results. At present there is one group in Year 12 and one group in Year 13. Many students continue to study politics or related subjects at degree level.

A2	A*-C %
2008	80%
2009	96%
2010	100%
2011	92%
2012	100%
2013	93%
2014	75%
2015	100%
2016	100%
2017	94%

The History department is lively and enthusiastic and is committed to achieving high standards. Staff in the department are experienced but are also open to change and are willing to embrace new strategies to fully engage students in the study of History.

