



## **HISTORY DEPARTMENT**

### **Overview**

As a department we are passionate about our subject. Our main aim is to foster a genuine interest and curiosity in the past among students. We encourage students to reflect deeply on the past and empathise with those who peopled it. We try to make History as interactive and exciting as possible by employing a variety of teaching and learning strategies including group work, drama and role play, re-enactments and the encouragement of historical discussions and debates. Throughout their time at the Coleshill School, students will be given the opportunity to really experience the past by visiting places of Historical interest and importance. We believe that ICT has a genuine role to play in helping our students to understand the past and in bringing it alive. We feel strongly that if our students are to succeed in History and gain a genuine interest in it they must be able to identify with the past and view it as meaningful and relevant in the context of their lives. It must have something to teach them today. The department offers a broad and varied curriculum which is relevant, meaningful and accessible to students and which is constantly evolving. We aim to create a supportive environment for staff and students alike. We share our ideas, expertise and experience. The opportunity to develop individual interests is encouraged. Everyone is also encouraged to contribute to the development of the department.

As a department we are determined to ensure that:

- We maintain high standards of teaching and learning in the classroom.
- The Curriculum at all key stages is vibrant, innovative and constantly evolving.
- Students of all abilities are given the opportunity to make progress in History and fulfil their potential.
- We maintain high standards of classroom management and students work within an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect which is conducive to learning.
- All lessons have a clear structure, and incorporate a variety of teaching and learning styles to ensure full class participation and ensure all students fulfil their potential.
- We create a supportive environment for staff and students alike.

### **Curriculum**

At The Coleshill School we believe in offering a personalised pathway to ensure students are able to make progress and fulfil their potential.

## Key Stage 3

The topics studied include:

- 'What is History', an introduction to the skills which lie at the heart of the subject
- Medieval Realms-including an exploration of life in medieval Birmingham
- Crusades
- Early Modern Britain
- International Conflicts 1914-1975
- Slavery

Each unit promotes the use of SPIRIT with a wide range of activities completed to promote the independence required to achieve each students' full potential. Levelled assessments are completed every half term together with an end of year test in Year 8.

In KS3 we are using the PiXL model to assess our students and facilitate the delivery 'life beyond levels' within our subject. Students are assessed formally once a term. The PiXL approach of Diagnosis, Therapy, Testing is increasing the level of challenge at Key Stage 3 and ensuring more rapid progress.

## Key Stage 4

We begin GCSE History in Year 9 with a very popular skills based unit to prepare students for their GCSE examinations. The unit is divided into a number of historical enquiries that give students the chance to explore a range of fascinating and controversial issues. These allow the students to develop their historical skills including inference, source evaluation and critical thinking and to explore new interpretations of key historical events. Topics studied include the Gunpowder Plot, Jack the Ripper, The Sinking of the Titanic and the Murder of the Romanovs. Students then move on to study towards their GCSE specification.

## GCSE

Our GCSE students follow the AQA History specification (8145)

### **Paper I Understanding the Modern World:**

America 1890—1895: Expansion and consolidation

Conflict and Tension 1894—1895

### **Paper II Shaping the Nation**

Britain: Health and the People c1000 to the present day.

Elizabethan England c1568—1603

## Post 16

At Post 16, we are following the AQA syllabus and study the following units:

**Breadth Study:** The Tudors: England, 1485-1603

**Depth Study:** Democracy and Nazism: Germany, 1918-45

**Historical Investigation:** American Civil Rights

**May 2017**