

History at Soar Valley

The History Department at Soar Valley College is a highly effective team of imaginative and committed teachers who are dedicated to securing excellent learning outcomes for all students. We have striven over the last few years to develop a curriculum which is varied, innovative, and stretches students in their learning and progress. Our efforts have been rewarded and History maintains a high profile among students and within the college as a whole. This has been demonstrated through student-voice feedback, the high standard of work produced by the students, the very healthy take-up at GCSE and the exam success which those students have enjoyed.

History results compare favourably with other schools nationally; in 2017, 66% gained grades A*-C, and a quarter obtained grades A/A*. History remains an optional subject at key stage 4, largely because many students choose to take it anyway! There are 6 GCSE groups in the current year 10 and it is looking set to be even more popular with next year's year 10 group.

As a team, we have a strong collaborative approach to teaching and learning. We endeavour to draw upon the full range of expertise and enthusiasm of the team in regular collaborative planning meetings, with decisions made for the best interests of the students in consultation with all staff. Our collective choice for the new GCSE specification was a move to Eduqas and all staff are enjoying delivering the content of the new course.



Schemes of Learning and materials are constantly being revised, added to and updated, resulting in an excellent bank of shared resources, for colleagues to personalise, on the school's network. This is inspiring and supportive for both new staff and experienced teachers alike.

Dedicated classrooms in a bright new building offer excellent opportunities for History teachers to enrich the curriculum. All classrooms have interactive whiteboards with access to other hand held technologies; bespoke lessons have been created using iPads and PSPs along with access to dedicated sets of laptops.

The department is committed to fostering positive attitudes towards History. We want our students to grow into confident critical thinkers who are able to explain different historical perspectives, cause and consequence and appreciate the experiences of people living in the past. Our high expectations of students are rewarded with positive attitudes to learning and excellent behaviour.

In common with other subjects in the school, students' experience is enhanced by a rich diet of extra-curricular activities. The History Department is the only department to offer a whole school trip in each year of ks3; year 7 visit Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, year 8 spend a day at the Black Country Museum whilst year 9 travel to Duxford Imperial War Museum.

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