



History Department Profile

The History Department at Coloma Convent Girls' School currently has two full-time teachers and one part-time teacher. It is a very experienced department with teachers who promote and inspire excellence in teaching and learning and have a passion for the subject and are always updating their knowledge. It is a popular option at GCSE and A Level and a good number of students opt to study History at university. We have Sixth Form History Ambassadors who are in their final year of their A Level History who promote the subject across the school with competitions and hosting a weekly society where discussion and debate is encouraged on historical topics outside of the curriculum.

The department is housed in three classrooms which are equipped with interactive whiteboards and a well-resourced library. There is a small office for the History teachers with computer facilities with access to the school network where electronic teaching resources are created and shared amongst the team and each teacher in the department is assigned a year group to manage the assessments and the resources.

Key Stage 3

Key Stage 3 is taught in mixed ability groups. Pupils have two 50 minute lessons per week and we ensure that these lessons are rigorous, purposeful and engaging. A wide variety of political, social, economic and military history from 1066 through to 1945 is taught and pupils are assessed at the end of each topic. The newly updated curriculum provides the opportunity for students to learn more about world history but also deepen their understanding of British history, looking particularly at pre-1066 England and key skills in the first term of Year 7.

Key Stage 4

History is a popular option at GCSE and students are taught in mixed ability groups. There are currently over 90 students taking the subject in Year 10 & 11, and in 2018 92% of students achieved a Level 4 or higher, with 43% getting a Level 7 or higher. The new 9-1 GCSE includes four topics examined in three examinations at the end of Year 11. The students study two modern history units, Russia 1917-1941 and the Cold War 1941-1991, in addition to the medieval study of King Richard and King John, completing their studies with the thematic unit on Crime & Punishment across the ages, with their case study being on the Jack the Ripper murders in Whitechapel. Edexcel is the examination board for these topics.

Key Stage 5

The new A Level consists of three units, two examined units worth 40% each on the Tudors 1485-1603 and Germany 1918-1945 and their third unit being one 3000 word essay on American Civil Rights Movements undertaken in an independent fashion, worth 20% of their overall grade. AQA is the examination board for these units. In 2018 95% of students achieved a C or higher and 30% achieving an A or A*.

Trips

Students in Year 7 enjoy a summer trip to a medieval castle and Year 9 visit Ypres to experience the trenches and the battlefields of WWI. A Level students are given the opportunity to attend A Level conferences in London on their three examined units.