### The Department: History

The History Department is a very successful department within the school and plays a significant role in the intellectual and social development of the pupils and students. The subject has achieved strong examination results at GCSE and at A-Level over a number of years. Pupils in Years 7-9 have two fifty minute periods a week, three at in Year 10 and 11, five at A Level. We have a good uptake rate at GCSE and at A Level and the Government and Politics course has grown in popularity over the last three years. The Department also works closely with the Social Sciences Department to share best practice and ideas.

At A-Level History students study the OCR syllabus. We have created a course that responds to university concerns about disproportionate focus on modern history and covers a broad chronological period. In Year 12 students study The Later Tudors, 1547-1603 and The American Revolution, c1740-1796. In Year 13 we study Russia and its Rulers, 1855-1964 and a Historical Enquiry based on one of the topics taught in Year 12. For Government and Politics we currently study the Edexcel course covering the UK government in Year 12 and American politics in Year 13. The department is well stocked with appropriate text books, videos and lesson activities.

At GCSE we study the Edexcel Modern History course (1H10). For Paper 1 we study Medicine Through Time, Paper 2 Henry VIII and his Ministers, 1509-1540 and Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991. For the depth unit in Paper 3 we study Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939. The department is well resourced with detailed resources for all lessons, a range of text books, videos and worksheets. The aim of these choices is to provide an interlinked syllabus allowing comparisons between nations and to develop an understanding of the state of the modern world.

In Year 7-9 we follow a broadly chronological curriculum that also is based on a range of enquiry questions. For example in year 7 we study the Anglo Saxons, the Norman Conquest and subsequent ways of exercising control, the mediaeval church and life in the mediaeval village. We also study Islamic States and contrast their development with that in western Europe. In year 8 we investigate cultural and scientific developments in the Renaissance followed by the Protestant Reformation. We study the Tudors and Stuarts in some depth alongside a source based focus on London. Finally we commence our studies on Black History by looking at slavery’s history and then, particularly, the black experience of slavery in Africa and the Americas. In year 9 we study a range of explanations for slavery’s abolition and subsequent black experience particularly in Britain and in South Africa. We also study the Industrial Revolution before commencing our focus on the Twentieth Century, particularly the two World Wars and genocide.

We have developed a range of visits to support these activities. For example, in KS3 we have taken year 7 to Rochester castles as part of the Norman Conquest unit. In year 9 we have successfully taken the large majority of pupils on a day visit to the cemeteries and trenches at Ypres, Belgium. At GCSE we have developed a week’s residential visit to Berlin where we have combined visits to sites reflecting Germany’s cultural contribution alongside sites and memorials to those who suffered under the Nazis and the GDR. We are looking to develop a trip to America to support our studies in both History and Politics.

The Department has three main teaching rooms, which are situated next to each other. They all have IWBs, white boards, stock cupboards and are well sized for KS3, etc. classes. Sociology and Psychology have their own teaching base. There are currently four full-time teachers and one part-time teacher in the Social Sciences Department.