

The History Department

The History Department at Nicholas Chamberlaine School aims to provide a stimulating and vibrant educational experience in which all students can reach their full potential. There is a strong team ethos within the department and teachers and leaders work hard to provide a curriculum rich in opportunities for students to develop a passion for History both inside and outside of the classroom.

The Department currently consists of four History specialists, each with their own areas of interest across the subject. All departmental members have responsibility for teaching across all key stages and to all abilities. The History accommodation comprises of a suite of four classrooms and a departmental office. Each classroom is equipped with its own projector and all teachers have their own laptop computer. In addition to this, the department is well resourced with a wide range of textbooks and DVDs and there is easy access to IT rooms.

At all Key Stages the History department is a very popular and highly regarded subject amongst students. This is demonstrated by the high number of students who opt to take the subject both at GCSE and 'A'-Level.

At Key Stage 3 the curriculum is being overhauled to provide a more appropriate programme of study for our students' needs. Our focus is on developing an approach to Key Stage 3 that will provide a strong foundation in the key concepts and historical skills needed to be successful in the subject and improve student progression from Key Stage 2 to 4. A particular focus for our department has been on producing an 'Assessment for Learning' framework for our subject that will aid this progression through skills based assessments and regular marking and feedback to improve student achievement and progress.

Key Stage 4 teaching starts in Year 9 and the GCSE currently being followed is the OCR Modern World B History course. Topics followed as part of this course include: International Relations, 1945-75; Britain, 1890-1918; and, Germany, 1918-45. In addition to these examination topics students also study the First World War for their Controlled Assessment study. Results at GCSE are strongly improving and predictions this year are for results to be above the National Average.

In light of the current A Level reforms, the specification to be followed at A Level is still to be determined, however, it will reflect the strengths in the Department and interests of the students.

The opportunity for students to develop a passion for History through enrichment activities outside of the classroom is something that all members of the Department are keen to promote. It is through such activities that students can really appreciate the impact that historical events and people have had on the world. Trips to places of interest such as The Cabinet War Rooms in London, and the Battlefields of WWI in Belgium and France highlight our commitment to this belief.