



History

Aims

- To enable pupils to have a stronger sense of their own identity in place and time and so to become well-rounded Jewish citizens, capable of making objective decisions about contemporary and past events.

Objectives

- To develop skills such as analysis and evaluation and to help pupils distinguish between fact and opinion.
- To promote pupils' enjoyment of the process of acquiring knowledge for its own sake.
- To develop in pupils an understanding of different cultures and traditions, while assisting them to appreciate their own heritage and customs.

Organisation

The department comprises the Head of History and three specialist teachers who work as a team in delivering the curriculum. Groups are organised on a mixed-ability basis. Every effort is made to develop the potential of each individual and to cater for pupils' needs as they progress through the various stages of the curriculum.

Pupils are encouraged to read widely as well as to use information technology in order to research and present material. Opportunities are provided for pupils to learn in stimulating environments beyond the classroom, by participating in field trips such as the Year 7 school journey to York.

Who studies what and when?

Years 7-9

In Years 7 and 8, pupils study the major features of England's medieval and Early Modern past, loosely following the guidelines of the National Curriculum. In these years pupils are taught to write analytically using writing frames and sentence starters. All pupils are encouraged to become independent learners. In Year 8, pupils undertake the Morebath project where they have to write their own historical fiction based on the changes that affected England during the English Reformation. The department seeks to interweave elements of Jewish history where appropriate, as in the study on whether Jews were always in danger in medieval England in Year 7.

In Year 9, the History Department follows its own programme of study. Pupils undertake an enquiry into the impact of migration on British society and research their own family history. Some pupils will either study in depth the French Revolution or Medicine Through Time.

Years 10-11

The IGCSE course concentrates on the 20th-century world, including studies of international relations between the wars, the Cold War and the US policy of containment. Pupils will also study two Depth Studies on Germany 1918-1945 and USA 1919-1941. It is a popular and internationally regarded course provided by the University of Cambridge and consists of three examinations.

LVI and UVI

The History option at AS comprises elements which allow the student breadth of study and the opportunity for wide-ranging discussion and background reading. It is a study of three very different regimes: the early Modern English monarchy, with a focus on Henry VIII and the Reformation, the 20th-century American Civil Rights movement, and Mao's China. This course is provided by the Edexcel examination board and consists of two papers.

The A2 option provides an opportunity for students to explore further examples of political regimes which have produced dramatic change: Germany 1900-1945, with a focus on historiography, and Ireland and its relations with the British government in the 19th and 20th centuries. In respect of the latter, students are expected to produce their own individual study after extensive reading and guided research.

Benefits

The study of History develops skills, such as the investigation of evidence and the selection and deployment of relevant information on which to base an argument, which prove very useful in later life. The academic rigour it requires ensures that it is highly regarded by the universities and many professions, including law and journalism. It offers an invaluable perspective from which to make sense of the actions of previous generations and from which to contemplate the events of the present day.