



HISTORY

Intent – What do we learn and why?

The core purpose of History at Chosen Hill is to help students understand the complexity of the past whilst developing the ability to weigh up evidence and interpretations. Students are also taught how to write like historians, reach judgements based on well-selected evidence and argument and verbalise their historical thinking.

'History is so many things: the material culture of the past; understanding lost communities; charting the rise and fall of civilisations. Yet history also provides us with a collective memory; it gives us a sense of connection to place, time and community'

Tristram Hunt

The curriculum is largely informed by the National Curriculum for History so that students:

- Know and understand the history of these islands as a coherent, chronological narrative, from the earliest times to the present day: how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world.
- Gain and deploy a historically grounded understanding of abstract terms e.g. parliament, empire and nationalism.
- Understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically-valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses.
- Understand the methods of historical enquiry, including how evidence is used rigorously to make historical claims, and discern how and why contrasting arguments and interpretations of the gain historical perspective by placing their growing knowledge into different contexts, understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history; between cultural, economic, military, political, religious and social history; and between short- and long-term timescales.

The National Curriculum for History

Implementation – How is the curriculum planned?



In Years 7, 8 and 9, topics have been carefully chosen to allow as broad an understanding of the subject as possible while at the same time providing a sound foundation of knowledge and skills for those progressing to Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History. We ensure that students understand how the church and state developed in the medieval and early modern periods, how empire has shaped our nation and key significant historical moments of the modern age such as the World Wars and Holocaust.

At GCSE and A Level we continue our studies by following the Edexcel GCE History course. At all stages our curriculum gives students exposure to both breadth and depth studies. There is a balance of British and non-British History topics and the opportunity for students to engage in historical investigations and coursework. There is also a strong emphasis on historical concepts at all stages of the curriculum.

Assessment – How do we assess student understanding?

In Years 7 and 8 a range of formative, summative and diagnostic marking and feedback are used to assess student's level of knowledge, understanding and skill. In addition to the work in their books, students complete a range of formal assessments, with a focus on source skills, interpretations and extended writing.

At GCSE and A Level students have regular assessments that are put together using real exam questions and mark schemes to give the best possible practice for the exam style assessment they will face at the end of the course. Mock exams take place in Years 10-13, usually in the main school hall to again replicate the exam experience as closely as possible.

Home Learning

Home learning is an essential element of History study used to support, consolidate and extend work covered in the classroom. It will be set frequently and regularly. In general, KS3 students will have 30 minutes of homework a week, GCSE lessons 1 hour a week, and A Level lessons 5 hours a week in addition to directed study tasks in school. All tasks will be set and monitored through Class Charts. The History Department staff are always available in the department for help and guidance.

