

# **Saint Aidan's Church of England High School**

## **History Department: Curriculum Statement**

In line with our whole school curriculum statement, Saint Aidan's Church of England vision is:

- ✓ We **aspire** to be a school where life is lived in "all its fullness" (John 10:10).
- ✓ We **believe** in the God-given potential of every one of our students.
- ✓ We **succeed** by working together as a school where all can thrive and where excellence is valued.

The History curriculum is created to reflect this vision, in lessons and within the wider school experience of students.

### **Aims: Through the teaching of History we:**

- Aim to inspire student's curiosity to know more about the past and foster a life-long interest in History.
- Aim to provide a high-quality history education which helps students gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider World.
- Aim to equip students with the skills to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement.
- Aim to help students understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity, within the study of the past
- Aim to develop students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, so they are prepared to be reflective about and responsible for, their actions as good citizens.
- Aim to give students the opportunity to participate in and contribute to, the life of the History department and thereby to develop a sense of ownership, service and responsibility.

### **Objectives**

- To plan, teach and assess the programme of study in KS3 and the GCSE Edexcel syllabus
- To enable students of all ages and abilities to make progress across KS3 and KS4 and achieve at least their minimum target grade in History.
- To develop students' ability to identify, explain, analyse and synthesise their knowledge and understanding of the topics studied in class, as well as the historical skills which underpin this.
- To use a wide variety of teaching and learning styles to ensure engagement and progression
- To develop students' literacy skills so they are able to access the History curriculum and in turn support their literacy skills in other subjects and in post-16 education and employment.
- To regularly evaluate schemes of learning, assessment for learning, and teaching and learning to ensure all are fit for purpose.

### **Key Stage 3**

From the beginning of KS3, students are taught in broadly based ability groups, according to their EOKS2 test scores. In Year 7 students study British History, 1066-1500. In Year 8 students study British History 1500-1900. In Year 9 students study World History, with the main focus on WW1 and post-1918 European History. The focus is to developing a coherent knowledge and understanding of the period of study, whilst developing and embedding skills relevant to KS3 and GCSE. Students in Years 7 and 9 have three, one hour lessons a week per half-term, operating on a roundabout system with Geography. In Year 8 students have two one hour lessons per week.

## **Key Stage 4**

Students study Edexcel GCSE History. In Year 10, students study: the History of Medicine c1250-present day; the British Sector of the Western Front, 1914-18; Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c1060-c1088. In Year 11 students study: the American West c1835-c1895; Germany c1918-39. Students have either two hours in Year 10 and three hours in Year 11.

## **Assessment**

- All students are regularly assessed throughout KS3 and KS4
- In KS3 students are assessed via formal exam at the end of each half-term. In addition students complete assessed skills based written answers as part of the department's commitment to preparing students for the requirements of GCSE and ensuring that all students have the opportunity to access KS3 grading system
- In GCSE students are regularly assessed through GCSE essay based questions. In addition students complete end of unit exams in each of the module for each of the three GCSE exam papers

## **Beyond the formal History curriculum**

- The department has been involved in the 'Classics for All' programme (in partnership with Blackpool Sixth Form, Ancient History Department). This is delivered to Year 8 students as part of our 'Stretch and Challenge' programme
- The History Department has a programme of revision classes in Year 11, catch-up sessions and essays 'clinics' for Years 10 and 11 students
- The department runs a fieldwork visit to the Battlefields of the Western Front. This is aimed at Years 9, 10 and 11 students who are studying WW1 (Y9) and GCSE (The British Sector of the Western Front)
- Each autumn term Year 7 students design and make a Battle of Hastings shield. This forms the basis of 're-enactment' activity. Photographs of this are on the department's Twitter account.

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