St Benedict's Sixth Form

A Level History

Course Description

Historians are always focussed on the big "why" questions, and as such gain a wide range of knowledge and skills. History is the study of people, their relationships to each other, how we are influenced by concepts and institutions, how culture shapes minds and the factors behind change and continuity. Our course includes a breadth study of Stuart Britain 1603—1702. We learn about the changing power of parliament and how modern day Britain has its roots in the 17th Century. We learn about one of Britain's bloodiest conflicts, the English Civil War. We look at England as a Republic, and when it returns to monarchy, giving us an understanding of how today's political system operates. We also have a depth study, looking at Russia 1917—1953. We look at the world's first Communist state. We explore how 300 years of monarchy collapsed, and how a small band of revolutionaries took over and controlled Russia. This leads into Year 13, where we study one of the 20th Century's most notorious dictators, Joseph Stalin.

Skills Attained

Historians develop skills in assessing information, weighing up evidence, identifying accurate and inaccurate information, interpreting sources, analysing the arguments of others, and assembling our own. Historians develop very excellent communication skills, to communicate often complex and sophisticated ideas. Historians develop a disciplined mind, but still open to the views of others and one that is aware of the importance of debate. Historians become independent thinkers, who can prioritise and can solve intellectual problems.

Assessment

Both the Depth study, Russia 1917—1953, and the Breadth study, Britain 1603—1702 are assessed at the end of Year 13 by written exam. Both exams are worth 40%, with the remaining 20% assessed by coursework, in the form of a historical research paper. This is a 4,500 word essay on a topic of the students own choice although we provide support for students interested in Civil Rights in America.










Progression

History combines well with almost any other set of 'A' Levels. History is a well respected subject that is highly regarded amongst Universities. History, and the skills learnt studying it, is of great benefit to those applying to any university, particularly Russell Group universities.

Beyond college, the intellectual demands of History, and the need to form judgements, to sift and assess evidence, to analyse the views of others and to communicate effectively creates a set of very marketable job skills.

Historians work in wide range of professional and managerial roles, in employment areas such as law, civil service, human resources, public relations, journalism, accountancy, finance, banking, marketing, the list is almost endless. Many of these jobs are both interesting and financially promising

Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE History

Exam Board: AQA

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