



The Henrietta Barnett School

History



Authenticity - Kindness - Curiosity
Connection - Endeavour

www.hbschool.org.uk

Key Stage 3

Year 7

In Year 7, we want to provide students with an introduction to serious historical study whilst allowing them to engage with a wide range of periods. Students will encounter key events and themes of Medieval England, through studies of the Norman Conquest and the impact of the Black Death, as well as a local study of Henrietta Barnett School. These studies will complement investigations into the wider world, studying the Islamic Empire and Medieval Mali. They will be making judgements and connections centering on the ideas of authority and religion. Students will develop the ability to use evidence and form explanations in developing their own perspectives about the past. Specifically, Year 7 focuses on key historical concepts -evaluating the causes of important events, appreciating the significance of the past, considering the relative levels of change across time and diversity of experience..

Year 8

In Year 8, students build on their understanding of the Medieval period and explore how authority changed in the transition to empire in the Early Modern world. Across the year, they will continue to develop their global perspective on the past, looking at the interconnections between Britain, Europe and the Wider World. These studies which will take them from Tudor England to Mughal India, and will be grounded in a more forensic use of primary evidence, particularly honed in a case study on the Witchcraze. Students will further strengthen their ability to evaluate the interplay of causes in their analysis of the Transatlantic Slave Trade extending their understanding of authority by focusing on resistance. We conclude the year with an in depth study of the British Empire in 1838, reflecting on the diversity of experience and consolidating their conceptual and thematic progress from Year 7 and 8.

Year 9

In Year 9, students build upon their previous investigations of ideas of authority, empire and resistance, in addition to the concept of nationhood. Students study both European and World history as they develop their skills of historical analysis. Studying the route to Indian Independence and the causes of the First World War provide opportunities to add greater complexity to arguments about causation and through a study of Weimar Germany, they will integrate this into their engagement with academic historical interpretations. Students will develop their confidence in their use of evidence, including their ability to select pertinent evidence to support their independent investigations into the First World War. We conclude the year with a study of the Holocaust which allows students to further their consideration of the diversity of experiences in the past.

Key Stage 4

Those students choosing History as a GCSE subject follow the AQA History course. This allows them to undertake a wide ranging exploration of the modern world. They study the history of Russia during a century of revolution, continuing onto international relations in the later twentieth century. A British synoptic paper allows the students to gain an overview of political change in the last thousand years providing the broader context for an in depth look at life in Elizabethan England. These modules were chosen to provide some excellent context to future study at A-Level and beyond. Our OCR A-Level course requires a good understanding of revolutions (Chinese and French are covered there) which the Russia and Cold War modules help to develop. The study of Power and People is not only intrinsic in student understanding of core British values (Rule of Law, Democracy, Freedom of Speech) but also sound preparation for the British political module of the A-Level course. The Elizabeth paper is well placed to offer insight into developments in society rather than the more political focus of other papers. This helps to develop student's appreciation of the other side to the discipline.

Key Stage 5

Studying History at A level allows students to develop a deep understanding of the past, and to gain real insight into its people and events. There is the opportunity to study a period in detail and on its own terms, often by reading the words of key individuals who shaped historical developments. This allows students to appreciate the rich complexity of past lives, and to move from overview and generalisation to profound understanding. The OCR course allows a study of revolution in China and France, and a depth study of modern British history which allows students to build upon concepts and ideas encountered in the GCSE and KS3 schemes (revolution, influence of ideas, impact of government change on society, challenges and abuses of power). The coursework component is very open in the OCR specification and we use this as an opportunity for students to pursue their own interests, either ones developed through our curriculum or outside. Students have free reign on the choice of topic (subject to our approval) and therefore become proficient in independent research, a key attribute of higher education.