



St Mary's Catholic School

## History Department

The History department currently occupies a suite of 4 classrooms. Each classroom is equipped with state of the art Smartboards linked to desktop computers and to a classroom speaker system. There is also a standard whiteboard in each room. There are currently six members of staff in the History department. Five are full time and one is part-time. There is one member of staff on the SLT.

The History Department offers a vibrant programme of activities outside of lessons that students can get involved in. Every year it holds an "Anne Frank Exhibition" where students are trained as guides to lead classes through the exhibition. The department is also responsible for our Remembrance Day display, which takes centre stage in the school Atrium and forms the backdrop for the Remembrance Day Liturgy which is attended by the whole school. The display never fails to capture the attention of students and visitors to the school.

Regarding residential visits, in March every year 40 Year 10 students take part in our Battlefields visit to Belgium and France. This is a wonderful experience for all who participate, significantly enhancing their understanding of the First World War. Other opportunities outside the classroom include a 'Horrible Histories' club for KS3, a debate club and a reading group aimed at encouraging the skills of younger students.



## **Setting Arrangements**

In Year 7 students are taught in mixed ability classes and in Years 8 and 9 they are grouped by ability. For the GCSE programmes in Key Stage 4, the students are taught in a mixture of ability and mixed ability groupings.

Class sizes in KS3 are typically 30 pupils in sets 1 and 2 and 25 in lower sets. GCSE classes follow the same pattern.

There is currently one A Level History group in Year 12, with 11 students, and one group of 15 students in Year 13, though we expect class sizes to increase as the Sixth Form continues to grow and more students opt for History. History is currently one of the most popular options in our growing Sixth Form.

## **KS3**

Key Stage 3 provision is currently 3 x 1 hour lessons per 2-week cycle. There are comprehensive schemes of work and resources for all topics covered. Each scheme of work provides for structured learning and regular assessment. Students are encouraged to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of History using varied approaches to learning.

In Y7 students study: the Romans, the Normans, Medieval Society and the early Tudors.

In Year 8 students study: the Tudors, the Stuarts, the Industrial Revolution, Votes for Women, Slavery and Civil Rights.

Year 9 students study: the British Empire, the Causes and Events of the First World War, the Causes and Events of the Second World War, 1920s America, Germany in the 1920s and 1930s, the Holocaust and the Post-War World.

At the end of topics students complete an end of unit test and are given a percentage. Effort and homework grades are also awarded at points throughout the year and reported home.

## **KS4**

Key Stage 4 provision is currently 5 lessons per two week cycle. Students follow the AQA GCSE specification. The topics studied are:

Democracy and Dictatorship, 1890-1945

Conflict and Tension, 1918-1939

Power and the People, 1170 - Present

Elizabethan England, 1568-1603

Assessment is on-going throughout the course with students sitting mock exams in year 10 and 11 with grades reported home. Regular tracking and monitoring of student performance takes place using an online mark book.

**KS5** In Key Stage 5 the department offers A Level History and provision is currently 10 x 1 hour lessons per 2-week cycle. We follow the AQA exam board course and the topics chosen are the Breadth Study, 'The Quest for Political Stability: Germany, 1871-1991', and the Depth Study, 'Wars and Welfare: Britain in Transition, 1906-1957'. Students also complete a Historical Investigation focused on 'Russia 1762-1881: the last years of Tsarism'. Assessment is on-going with students sitting a mock exam in years 12 and 13 with grades reported home. Regular tracking and monitoring of student performance takes place using an online mark book.