



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 and the humanities department has a set of portable netbooks available to staff on a booking basis. There are currently six members of staff in the History department. Four 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 two years 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.



With regard to residential visits, in March of this year, Year 10 students took part in our Battlefields visit to Belgium and France. This was a wonderful experience for all who participated, significantly enhancing their understanding of the First World War. Planning is already in place for next year's visit. Other opportunities outside the classroom include a History society for KS3 and a debate club 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 around 20 students and two groups of 10 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 option choices 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 4 topics, namely What Is History?, the Romans, the Normans and Medieval Society. In Year 8 students study 5 topics, namely the Tudors, the Stuarts, Votes for Women, Slavery and Civil Rights. Year 9 students study 4 topics: the British Empire, the Causes and Events of the First World War, the Causes and Events of the Second World War and 1920s America. They then begin the GCSE course with the topic Democracy and Dictatorship 1890-1945.

History Explorers KS3 club



This club is a KS3 History club and would be greatly enjoyed by any students who relish learning about different events and people from History. This is an interactive and practical group, involving making lots of crafts and artefacts with a historical theme.

At the end of each topic students complete an end of unit test and are given a percentage. Throughout the year there is a formal assessment which is marked and reported home.

History Ambassadors KS4 group



This group is for GCSE and A Level History students. The students represent the History department and help lead whole-school History events, as well as contributing to and leading 'History' sessions for both younger students in our school and in our primary feeder schools. The students complete a range of Historical projects and this is an ideal opportunity to make a worthwhile contribution to the wider life of the school.

KS4

Key Stage 4 provision is currently 5 lessons per two week cycle. Students follow the AQA new 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.



Remembrance Commemorations at St Mary's