



Ministerium Tuum Imple Love | Serve | Do the best that is possible

ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HISTORY

The History Department, at St Paul's, aims to make a significant contribution to fulfilling the school's mission statement. We hope to enable all pupils "to do the best that is possible" within a caring learning environment. The History department has three key aims. Firstly, students should view history as a fun, interesting and high status subject. All teachers within the department love and value the study of the past, and we want students to match this passion, generating an interest in the past that will remain with them for life. Secondly, we wish to transmit knowledge and understanding of the past, both within the United Kingdom and of the wider world so that students will have an informed understanding of how the world we live in has been shaped by the past. Finally, it is our aim that students continuously develop life skills such as thinking, analysing, evaluating, empathising and communicating as there are very few careers in the modern world that do not require these skills.

The department has six members of staff, three of whom are full time and three who are part time. Through a weekly department meeting and frequent informal discussions, we work as a team, collaboratively planning, sharing ideas and good practice, contributing to decision-making in the department and supporting each other as necessary. Between us we deliver History to all pupils at KS3 and to those many pupils who opt to study History at KS4 and KS5. We also teach A-Level Politics.

At KS3 we have one 1 hour 20 minute lesson per week. Teaching groups are mixed ability, with 'teaching to the top' at the core of our planning. Pupils investigate a range of Historical periods ranging from 1066 to the present day.

At KS4 we have 2 hours per week. We are teaching the AQA GCSE (8145) course, which enables students to study different aspects of the past, so they can engage with key issues such as conflict, understand what drives change and how the past influences the present. Topics include America 1920-1973: Opportunity and equality, Conflict in Asia between 1950-1975, Health and the British People: c1000 to the present day and Norman England, c1066-1100. The course is assessed by two exams.

At KS5 we teach the AQA A-Level History specification (7042) and we have 4 hours per week. Components at A level are 1C: The Tudors: England, 1485-1603 and 2O: Democracy and Nazism: Germany, 1919-1945. Pupils also complete an NEA (non-examined assessment) based on a question set by the department and agreed by AQA. We also have 4 hours per week to deliver A-Level Politics and we teach the AQA Politics specification (7152). There are three components to this course: UK politics, USA Politics and Political ideologies.

The department is fortunate to be located in K-block, a purpose built environment with excellent ICT facilities to enhance learning. There are four dedicated classrooms, as well as two laptop trolleys. The History workroom is a very supportive and friendly environment. The person appointed will join a well-established and innovative History department, and will have a real opportunity to enhance the further development of this successful department.