

History Curriculum Statement

History at Wykham Park Academy is delivered at a high standard every lesson, from year 7 through to Year 13. We aim to make historians who are knowledgeable, resilient and self-sufficient, who recognise the value and importance of history and can transfer their skills to understand reliability in the world, recognising trends and engaging in the wider community, as well as achieving and progressing in History

The curriculum is engaging, with links to the modern day, and making sure that there is something for everyone – e.g. a wide variety of history covered at KS3, KS4 and KS5, and ensuring that they appreciate the skills that they learn in History can help them, both in other subjects (e.g. English, Geography) and in their own lives (source analysis/fake news).

The History curriculum at Wykham Park Academy is logically shaped to help encourage linking of knowledge from one period to the next, looking at History thematically in Year 7 (in order to best link with the No Limits Curriculum) and then chronologically in Year 8/9 (in order to best demonstrate what it is like at GCSE). Alongside this, each topic has been chosen to touch upon key areas of the GCSE curriculum (Medicine, Elizabeth, Germany and the Cold War) whilst also maintaining interest and ensuring students have learnt about those important areas of History (e.g. slavery, Holocaust, British Values) as well as finding out more about their local area and examining the views of academics, like Miranda Kaufmann and Ian Kershaw. Skills will be taught from the first lesson of Year 7, including chronology, cause and consequence, significance, and change and continuity, as well as the practical skills like source analysis and interpretation analysis, meaning that these skills will be built up to GCSE standard.

We aim to overcome social disadvantage by ensuring that all materials are accessible to all students – using Google Classroom etc. We will also have a lending library of historical texts to help those students who wish to borrow them, and will be running trips and providing the opportunities to experience History outside of the classroom.

Wykham Park Academy follows the ATL course for Year 7 and 8, and as a result of this, the History curriculum is intrinsically linked to the projects – it takes a thematic look at the power of the monarchy, the changing nature of warfare and the shifting landscape of British society throughout the period 1066-the modern day. Throughout this the curriculum also begins to equip students with the critical thinking skills and historical processes that they need for GCSE and A-Level. Students will experience different cultures via films and trips out – with students going to Banbury Museum.

Towards the end of Y8 and in Y9, History shifts to a focus on to historical enquiry, where we focus more on looking at shorter time periods in more detail. This enables students to experience a wide range of history from a wide range of places and draw links to other cultures and the modern day. They also build upon the skills started in Year 7 for consolidation and expertise ready for the step up to GCSE. To enhance their learning, students will use the VR suite and films to experience what life was like elsewhere.

At GCSE, students focus their studies on four distinct topics; one thematic study – Health and the People c1000-modern period, one British depth study – Elizabethan England, and two world studies – Germany, 1895-1945 and Conflict and Tension between East and West, 1945-1972. These are

taught according to the strengths of the students, with the thematic study done at the start of Y10 to embed the key historical processes. Following this, we move on to Germany, which we finish by the end of Y10, before moving on to the Conflict and Tension topic, before finishing with Elizabeth I. Students will become experts at knowledge retention and revision techniques, for example, interleaving and knowledge organisers used to ensure that by the end of Y11 they are able to answer exam questions to the best of their ability. Students will experience the case study for the Elizabeth module – visiting Kenilworth Castle, or the Globe Theatre, as per the AQA specification – cultural capital will also be enhanced by providing them opportunities to experience documentaries and discussions with historians about specific topics – for example, we have had a lecture from Dr Glyn Redworth about Elizabeth I's use of portraits.

At A-Level, we build upon knowledge gained in Y10 and 11 with a focus on Communism and its impact on the USSR and East Germany. These two topics feed into one another, which enables a deeper understanding of the topics. By Y13, students will then study the theme of the Changing Nature of Warfare, and then focus on coursework which looks at the outbreak of World War One. Throughout the A-Level topic, students are encouraged to engage in wider reading, which also links to their coursework. Cultural capital will be further enhanced by visiting lectures and working closely with the Oxford University PGCE programme to teach students how to approach university essays.