THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM

History Department

Information for Applicants

March 2026

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

AT THOMAS MILLS HIGH SCHOOL

INTRODUCTION

The History Department is a thriving and innovative department which makes an impressive contribution to the education of students at Thomas Mills High School. The department offers a wide range of well-resourced courses which provide students with an imaginative insight into history and the historical skills necessary to understand the past. It is also responsible for teaching Politics at A-Level.

The department places a strong emphasis on developing academic skills alongside a greater appreciation and understanding of historical periods. It has high expectations of pupils and encourages them to be self-reliant, self-disciplined and to develop critical analytical skills. Due to this ethos and approach, History has consistently achieved impressive GCSE and A-Level results putting it above the school average and well above the national average.

It is also important to the school and department, that History and Politics plays a big role in the enrichment of all students including those not studying the subject. The department will regularly run whole school events such as school elections to mirror general elections and create tutor-based activities for all year groups around topics such as Black History Month.

There is a strong collegial ethos among staff which reflects the overall success of the school in general. The school is deeply committed to the professional development of staff and runs an excellent induction programme for new staff and ongoing INSET.

THE HISTORY TEAM

Alex Pope	Head of History
Matt Anthony	Deputy Head of Sixth Form
Izzy Colver	Teacher of History
Judy Moore	Teacher of History

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

CURRICULUM

Key Stage 3

Each class is taught History at Key Stage 3 for 2 x 50 minute periods weekly. All classes are mixed ability. The department follows National Curriculum guidelines, and below is an overview of some of the topics taught in each year:

Year 7

- Introduction to History and the formation of Medieval Britain.
- A connected medieval world
- Reform, Renaissance and Revolt 1485-1601
- The Stuart era - A time of conflict, division and fear.
- A study of Framlingham Castle through time
- Origins of Empire and Atlantic Slave Trade

Year 8

- Introduction to the 20th century
- WW1
- Fight for Suffrage
- WW2 – impact on Britian
- WW2 – impact on wider world
- Civil Rights movement in America
- Cold War

Key Stage 4

History is one of the most popular options at GCSE and there are currently three mixed ability groups per year group studying the subject. The subject is taught for 2 periods a week, in years 9 and 10 and 3 periods a week in year 11. The department currently studies the '**OCR History B (Schools History Project) - J411'** course. The specific units studied are:

- The People's Health c.1250-present
- The Elizabethans 1580-1603
- History Around Us – An exploration of Framlingham Castle
- Making of America 1789-1900
- Living Under Nazi Rule 1933-1945

History in the Sixth Form

We currently have 4 teaching groups in the sixth form, 2 per year group. The department follows the '**OCR History A'** exam syllabus.

In Year 12 students currently study:

- England 1485-1558: The Early Tudors (*enquiry: Mid Tudor Crises 1547-1558)*
- The French Revolution and the rule Napoleon 1774-1815

In Year 13 students currently study:

- Coursework (Topic based essay)
- Russia and its rulers 1855 - 1964

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

EXAM RESULTS

History A Level Results 2025												
Subject	**A***	**A**	**B**	**C**	**D**	**E**	**U**	**Entries**	**%age A*-A**	**%age A/B**	**%age A-C**	**%age A-E**
History	0	3	8	3	2	1	0	17	17.6	64.7	82.4	100.0

History GCSE RESULTS 2025														
Subject	**9**	**8**	**7**	**6**	**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**U**	**Entries**	**9-7 %**	**9-5%**	**9-4%**
History	4	7	16	16	12	8	9	8	4	0	84	32.1	65.5	75