



Teacher of history from September 2024

The study of history plays a central and highly valued place in our curriculum at all ages and for all students. Our vision for the subject is for it to contribute even more fully to the rounded academic development of all our students and for it to be an increasingly popular option, building on existing high levels of success, at both GCSE and A Level, and becoming an ever more popular choice for degree level study.

In our vision for the curriculum, history has a unique contribution to make as a subject which equips students with a detailed knowledge of the past. History offers students a deeper and wider perspective on our own role and place in the world. A wide-ranging knowledge of history also enables students to interpret and contextualise world events, and, in our information-rich world, evaluate sources critically and discerningly. Above all, it equips students with vital cultural knowledge. It plays an important part in promoting intellectual development by directly teaching analysis and evaluation, while fostering curiosity. It is a subject which promotes literacy and good argument; skills which are of greater importance than ever in the competitive world into which our students will move. We expect our students to be confident and able to think independently. History is a pivotal subject in fostering such qualities and will enable them to fulfil their potential once they leave Bennett whatever their chosen field of speciality.

It is for these reasons that we accord an important place to history in our curriculum and why we would like now to appoint an inspirational historian to join our outstanding team. History is taught to all in discrete curriculum time in Years 7-9. From Year 10 onwards, the process of selecting subjects for GCSE begins, and all students are required to take either geography or history through to GCSE. Many students study both. At A level history is a very strong subject indeed, and many students move on to university courses in history or related areas.

The school's exceptional examination outcomes speak for themselves, and we suggest that prospective applicants are familiar with the school's profile in recent examination results by reading the information available on and through the school's website. These achievements have been secured because of our uncompromising stance on aspiration, and our rejection of limiting or self-limiting attitudes. We expect the historian we appoint to be a teacher who shares this stance, believes in high standards for all, and is committed to the unique importance of history in the development of the intellect and consciousness of every young person.

Alongside high aspiration for all, our results are achieved through outstanding teaching. The school has high expectations of its teaching staff, who work hard and are committed and focussed; teaching is very strong in all areas.

In Years 7-9 the history course currently covers themes of political, economic, social and cultural change. The course runs from the Anglo-Saxon invasion in Year 7 through to the end of the Second World War at the end of Year 9. The course for Year 7 looks at invaders and settlers prior to the Norman Conquest, the development of monarchy from the Norman Conquest, the Islamic World, developments in late medieval England and early modern encounters with the New World. The Year 8 course covers the English Reformation and English Civil War, the Commonwealth and Restoration and the British Empire and the effects that this had across the world. In Year 9, students study America from colonisation to independence, providing a context for the study of slavery and abolition, the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution and the Age of Reform in Britain, including the extension of the vote to women. They go on to study Britain's relationship with Europe and the challenges it faced in the twentieth century world.

At GCSE and A Level we follow the Edexcel specifications, studying Medicine through Time and then Elizabethan England up to 1588 in Year 10 and Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917-1941 and Conflict in the Middle East, 1945-95 in Year 11. At A level we study Germany and West Germany, 1918-89 and Italy c.1911-46 in Year 12 and Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603 alongside the extent to which the Russians replaced one authoritarian regime with another by 1924 for the coursework in Year 13.

The subject is housed in its own building, with five specialist classrooms, and teachers teach all lessons in their own rooms.

Bennett is strongly committed to developing teachers professionally, and believes that all staff should have an active and positive role to play in the development of policy and practice. This generates great enthusiasm and a strong sense of teamwork. As the designated Teaching School Hub for Kent we offer a wide range of professional development opportunities both within Bennett and our network of secondary schools. These include the full suite of National Professional Qualifications as well as a fully integrated Early Career Framework programme.

Bennett is a Church of England school, and it is expected that all staff support the school's distinctive ethos in their professional role.