



HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: Miss L Gray

History is a popular and well-established subject at King Edward VI School, with seven groups of students currently in Key Stage 4 and three groups in the Sixth Form. The Department has been highly successful for several years and has enjoyed a high level of examination success. The Department is very collaborative in style, has high professional standards and great enthusiasm for the subject. Students love history and recognise that they are very well taught.

ACCOMMODATION AND RESOURCES

The department recently moved into new purpose-built accommodation, providing an excellent environment to develop a love of History. All four rooms have interactive whiteboards and displays are all new, creating a vibrant place for students to learn. Schemes of work at all levels have been recently developed or redesigned and staff are using lessons that are shared as a team. At GCSE students study the Edexcel History GCSE and there are many resources available for shared access.

TEACHING GROUPS

Students in years 7 and 9 have three one-hour periods a fortnight and students in Year 8 have two hours a fortnight. Key Stage 3 classes are taught in mixed ability groups of up to 30 students. At GCSE groups are usually mixed ability and group sizes can go up to 30 but more recently group sizes are at approximately 20 students. The number of A-level groups varies year on year, but 1 or 2 groups is expected and class sizes average 15 students but can go up to 20.

RESULTS

In 2023 the Department achieved a 69% 9 to 4 pass rate at GCSE. Lots of work has been done over the last year to raise this through intervention strategies and additional resources as well as the introduction of a brand-new specification that was taught through for the first time. A-level results have been of a consistently high standard with 50% achieving an A* to B grade and 85% of the cohort obtaining an A*- C grade in 2023. We have an inclusive ethos which supports all enthusiastic historians to pass the course at the full range of grades.

SYLLABUS DETAILS

At present students cover the following units of work:

| | |
|------------|---|
| Year 7 | Power and control: Monarchy, State and Church |
| Year 8 | Power and Control: Ordinary People |
| Year 9 | Britain and the World: Conflict and Tension in the 20 th Century |
| Year 10-11 | Edexcel History 9-1 Course: Medicine through Time, Elizabethan England, Superpower Relations and Weimar and Nazi Germany. |
| Year 12-13 | AQA (England under the Tudors; The American Dream 1945-80 and The British Empire (NEA)) |

The Department also organises a range of visits and activities including a Year 10 visit to Ypres and the Somme. A Year 7 visit to Warwick Castle and a Year 8 visit to the Black Country Living Museum.