



## **History Department Information for candidates**

History is an established and very successful department made up of two specialist and two part time staff this year. For many years, History has been the most popular opted KS4 subject and currently has four GCSE groups in Year 10 and three in Year 11. This year over 100 pupils have chosen to follow GCSE history. Our results are always something to be celebrated and last year 84.8% of year 11 pupils achieved a level 4 or above (30% gained levels 7-9). For us, a central element of History is investigation; and we expect all pupils to be questioning and inquisitive about the lives of others. We have high expectations of our pupils and aim to inspire all our learners to think hard and enjoy investigating our past. We have good links with many organisations to promote the use of local history, such as English Heritage and Worcester archaeology.

### **Curriculum overview**

#### **Key Stage 3:**

Pupils have 3 lessons of History per fortnight, of one hour. Pupils are taught in mixed ability groups and investigate themed enquiries based on the development studies. 'Who Are We?' for Year 7, 'Power and Protest' in Year 8 and 'Conflict and Cooperation' for Year 9. Two field visits are offered to 7 and 8 (Goodrich and Kenilworth castles). Local History is prominent in 7 and 8 with the study of Medieval Worcester and the Visit of Elizabeth I in 1575. We plan to expand this local bias with some more investigation of Worcestershire during the Civil War. Assessment is guided by the four school devised thresholds which the department was prominent in developing. Tasks take place twice in each of three cycles assessing set objectives. Pupil work is kept in pupil folders to encourage an ethic of excellence.

#### **Key Stage 4:**

Pupils have 5 lessons of History per fortnight. Pupils follow OCR SHP 9-1 History and study the following units: People's Health c1250-present, The Norman Conquest, Living under Nazi Rule and the Making of America 1789-1900. We visit Kenilworth castle for our HAU unit. We are well resourced with texts, revision materials and online resources to support all pupils to achieve their best. Results are significantly above the national average especially for levels 7-9. The department has a reputation for developing many different resources to support retrieval and exam preparation.

#### **Resources and rooming:**

We have three dedicated large classrooms in a recently built Humanities block both of which have interactive C-Touch wireless screens. We use a wide variety of texts and resources to support the investigation of the past.