

The History Department

In addition to the Head of Department, there are four other specialist teachers, including the Head of Sixth Form who also line manages the Head of Department. Behaviour in the school is excellent and impressive by any standard. There are some challenging classes and individuals, but NTS is a place where, with solid classroom management, you will really enjoy your teaching. It is a place where pupils and students respect the staff and where strong professional relationships are built.

The department staff are highly qualified and are all regularly graded as 'outstanding' in formal observations. Above all, this is a department where the art of teaching is paramount. The History staff all have their own style, but are united by core principles seen as non-negotiables, especially the outstanding use of AfL, differentiation, and feedback and feedforward. The department does not produce lesson-by-lesson schemes of work for any Key Stage, but broad specifications (with core content descriptors and required assessments). The rest is down to the individual teacher (following the mantra 'tight for good, loose for outstanding'). Ultimately, the department's leaders avoid approaches involving tightly prescriptive pedagogy and instead use observation, student voice and assessment/exam results to judge the effectiveness of the different strategies and approaches taken by individuals. In short, this is an opportunity designed for a great professional who wants the freedom to express themselves, who enjoys planning and teaching, and who wants the opportunity to stretch themselves and their students. The successful candidate will be able to choose their own teaching style, but will be expected to deliver the results, foster a love of learning and genuinely inspire. You will not find cynics here and any successful candidate will need to be a team player who has the dynamism and work ethic to keep up with the department. If you want to teach using an 'off the peg' set of prescribed resources, then this is probably not the department for you.

The department is based in an attractive teaching block shared with R.E. All rooms are equipped with a data projector, traditional whiteboard, the facility to play DVDs and excellent storage. The department also shares a teaching assistant with the R.E. department. She splits her time between classroom and administrative support. Her responsibilities include departmental data management, photocopying, correspondence with parents, the administration of trips and the maintenance of resources. Her work with pupils involves both one-to-one support with individual pupils and working more widely within classes where there are additional learning needs.

At Key stage 3, pupils receive two one-hour lessons in History per week. In Year 7, the Medieval World 1066-1500 is covered. In Year 8, pupils study the period 1500-1900 and in Year 9, the Twentieth Century. History is a popular choice at Key Stage 4. The current Year 10 and 11 have approximately 80 pupils each which means there are three History classes in each year. Year 10 and Year 11 receive three hours a week in both years. At GCSE, the exam board is AQA and the following topics are studied: Unit 1 (Year 10) pupils study *Conflict in Asia: the Korean and Vietnam War* and *USA, 1920-1973*. In Unit 2 (Year 11) the focus is on *The Normans* and *Health and the People*. The Department has a strong success rate at GCSE. Statistics from the exam board show that NTS History pupils achieve significantly higher than the percentage of pupils nationally and at 'similar' schools. In 2019, 71% of pupils achieved a grade 9-4, with 40% of pupils receiving grades 9-7 compared to 29% national average. A significant number of pupils exceed their target grade each year and, in 2019, nine pupils achieved a Grade 9, more than any other department in that year.

The OCR specification is followed at A Level. Year 12 students study *Russia 1894-1941* and *From Pitt to Peel – British government in the age of revolution 1783-1832*. In Year 13, students study *Civil Rights in America 1865-1992*, whilst also completing a personal study of their own choice. The school library is well-resourced for A-Level study and students are taught undergraduate level research skills in Year 13. Numbers at A Level remain steady. There are usually two classes for Year 12 and Year 13, with each class having two teachers and five hours in total (3-2 split). There is a comprehensive intake to Sixth Form and results are very good. In 2019, 93% of our students achieved grades A*-C and for the past 7 years we have had a 100% pass rate, with 25-35% achieving an A or A*. The History Department has a reputation for academic success; many of the school's Oxbridge students, including the Scientists and Engineers, take History. Every year, several students go on to read History at university. The department has also produced several history teachers, and each year at least one former student comes back during university holidays to gain experience in the classroom. Indeed, two of the department are former students of the school, both with first class degrees (from Oxford and Liverpool respectively).

The school prides itself on prioritising Teaching and Learning and the History Department is a leading department here. Members of this department enjoy using the facility of the 'observation room' to refine their practice and work together to improve the quality of lessons experienced by pupils. The school provides opportunities to continue developing teaching skills through CPD sessions, and through our specialised team of Professional Development Tutors.