

GCSE History

Why study History?

Have you ever wondered if it's true that the Vikings were all bloodthirsty warriors or how people risked their lives to oppose the Nazi regime? This course deals with a variety of fascinating topics including a study of the grisly history of crime and punishment in Britain from the brutal executions of the Middle Ages to the terrorist crimes of the Twentieth Century. You will also have the opportunity to discover how life was altered for people living under the Nazi regime and evaluate the reign of Elizabeth I, the last of the Tudors. The course also features a local history study of Skipton Castle including a trip to the castle. If you want the chance to study some of the most intriguing and turbulent periods of history then History is for you.

What will you be learning?

OCR History B (Schools History Project) 9-1

1. Crime and Punishment through Time, c.1200 to present day
2. The Elizabethans, 1580 to 1603
3. History around Us: Skipton Castle Site Study
4. The Viking Expansion, c.750 to c.1050
5. Living under Nazi Rule, 1933 to 1945

What are the lessons like?

GCSE History lessons are made up of a variety of engaging approaches to studying the past. Lessons range from creating case studies of criminals to hands-on visits at historical sites. In addition to Skipton Castle, we plan to offer a trip to Berlin. We use a variety of sources to learn about the past ranging from artefacts to documentaries. There are opportunities to work both in groups and to carry out independent research. History lessons encourage you to think creatively and come to your own conclusions about key individuals and events.

What can it lead to?

Apart from a range of History courses at A-Level and university, History GCSE is well regarded by employers for the skills it provides. The ability to look at both sides of an argument, to write from a reasoned point of view, and the skills of individual research that you develop are highly valued. So too is the ability to analyse and interpret information and reach your own conclusions based on evidence, not just opinion. History would also be an excellent subject for individuals with interests in law, politics, religion, literature and drama.

Want to know more?

Ask your History teacher or see Mrs Burkitt, Mrs Robinson, or Mr Barker in the History Office.