

HISTORY

Are you an inquisitive person who likes a challenge? Do you enjoy finding out about people's lives in the past? Do you want to discover what events shaped the world we live in today?

We follow the Edexcel IGCSE in History at Queenswood. It is a fascinating and rewarding subject which deals with the creation of the modern world and events that will help you understand what is going on in the world today. You will be able to study in more depth some of the most famous or infamous characters from history: Martin Luther King and Malcolm X, Kennedy, Nixon, Stalin and Hitler. You'll discover how ordinary people's lives were shaped and changed by the decisions of those in power. The course concentrates on understanding the modern world and is concerned with changes in the twentieth century. There are two written papers and include units on the development of dictatorship in Germany, Russian history from 1917-1924, the history of Civil Rights in the USA from 1945-1974, and China from 1900-1989. There is no controlled assessment in the IGCSE. Examination is by two set exams at the end of Year 11.

In lessons a range of source material is explored, from propaganda posters and films to diary accounts and official documents. Discussion, debate, research and presentations are used to help interpret the material and share our ideas with each other.

The department usually organises trips in every year. Recently we have been to the British Library for a Propaganda exhibition, trips to the Imperial War Museum and an interactive theatre revision day for Nazi Germany. The History department has a variety of subscriptions to numerous History magazines, a growing video resource library to allow and encourage research around topics we study and we run a Humanities magazine to encourage research skills. GCSE pupils are also encouraged to develop an editable digital catalogue and encyclopaedia of their work across the two years. The GCSE course builds on the Year 9 work at Queenswood but new students will not be at a disadvantage.

In the longer term, the skills gained by studying History are particularly useful in the fields of law, journalism, the media, government and similar professions but historians' skills are valued in a huge range of fields.