



Gordon's School History Department

Introduction

The History Department consists of 3 teachers, including the Head of Department. The Department teaches across 3 dedicated classrooms, all with interactive whiteboards. History is a very popular subject at GCSE with many pupils opting to continue their historical studies post-16.

GCSE/A Level Courses

We use the AQA board at GCSE (specification 8145). In Paper 1, 'Understanding the Modern World', our chosen topics are: 'Russia 1894 – 1945' and 'Conflict and Tension between East and West 1945 – 1972'. Whilst for Paper 2, 'Shaping the nation', we have chosen; 'Option 2C Britain: Migration, Empires and People c.790 to present day', and 'Elizabethan England c.1568-1603'.

At A Level we follow Option 1C of the Edexcel syllabus. The chosen breadth study is 'Britain from 1625-1701' and the title of the depth study is 'France in revolution, 1774-99'. In the second year of A Level the topic of study for paper 3 is 'Germany, 1871-1990'. We also offer an Independent Investigation as the fourth part of the A Level for which students are required to research and produce a piece of original writing on a topic of their choice.

Examination results

The History Department is one of the most successful in the country and scored ALPS 1 for the summer 2016 A Level results. In recent years there has been a significant improvement in GCSE results with 89% of entries scoring a grade B or better with 100% of pupils scoring more than a C in the summer of 2016.

Extra-curricular activities

Each year, a variety of history based activities take place. Year 9 are taken to the First World War battlefields in Belgium, whilst a Reading Trip to Berlin is offered to Year 13 pupils to complement their studies. There are also numerous trips throughout the year to local Historical Association lectures for our GCSE students as well as professionally delivered lectures in London for our A Level candidates.

The History Department is also an Associate member of The Prince's Teaching Institute and both staff and students are given the opportunity to attend academically stimulating and challenging lecture days on a variety of topics.