

History at Noel-Baker

“He who controls the past, controls the future; and he who controls the present, controls the past.” George Orwell, 1984

In History we learn about the journey taken through the past to get to the present day. We have adapted our curriculum to shift from a traditional overview of History topics to make it less ‘History’ and more ‘Our-story’. We have done this by changing the narrative of what we teach to make sure that inclusion, equality and diversity is at the heart of what we do. We look to weave this narrative throughout our curriculum to make learning new knowledge about the past have relevance for our students today.

In creating ‘our story’ we want to make sure that previously marginalised groups are represented, so that we can provide the broad and balanced interpretation of the past that our students are entitled to. This includes more focus on women, black people through history and migration. There is also a history of Derby over time, as a theme running across each unit, to give our subject a specific relevance to NBA students and their locality - in order to instil a sense of connection and value for the wider community.

Year 7 History

Topic 1: Anglo-Saxon England; this unit provides the foundation for the study of Medieval Britain at Noel-Baker. They will learn about the arrival of Anglo-Saxons to Britain following the fall of the Roman Empire. They will explore Alfred the Great in detail and the ‘Golden Age’ of the Anglo-Saxons.

Topic 2: Norman England; this unit provides an investigation into the fight for the English throne following the death of Edward the Confessor. Students will explore the contenders to the throne, and the ultimate Norman Conquest following the Battle of Hastings. There is opportunity to explore the development of the Feudal system within England and the Norman monarchs which dominated this period in history. Within this we look at the creation of the Domesday Book and look at how Alvaston was mentioned in this.

Topic 3: Medieval Life; this unit looks at aspects of medieval life, including medieval villages, castles and churches. They will learn about medieval knights and the medieval methods of crime and punishment.

Topic 4: The Crusades; this unit explores the series of religious wars organised by Western European Christians. They will explore the Islamic world, the first Crusade of 1096-1099 and the crusader states. This topic ends with the investigation into the life as a crusader Knight and the end of the Crusades.

Topic 5: Late Medieval England; this unit explores the Black Death, the Great Plague which came to Europe from 1347. Students will examine protest in Late Medieval England, accumulated in the Peasant’s Revolt of 1381. Pupils will study the Wars of the Roses- the series of English civil wars fought between the House of Lancaster and the House of York for control of the English throne. This topic ends with the Battle of Bosworth field, the last significant battle of the Wars of the Roses.

Year 8 History

Topic 1: Henry VIII; this unit provides the beginning of the development of the modern world. This unit explores the rule of Henry VIII from 1509 to 1547. Students will study the Reformation which spread throughout Europe, and the English Reformation under Henry VIII. Pupils will assess the differences between Protestantism and Catholicism, and the rise of the Protestant faith throughout England. Students will learn the importance of leaving behind an heir, and King Henry VIII's 6 wives. This topic concludes with the death of King Henry VIII and the crowning of his son, Edward VI as the new King of England.

Topic 2: The Later Tudors; this unit assess the Later Tudor reign of England. Following the short rule of Edward VI, pupils will learn how Mary I ruled England with her Counter Reformation and how she came to be known as 'Bloody Mary'. The students will learn why the rule of Elizabeth I became known as the 'Golden Age'. They will learn about the Spanish Armada and how both rich and poor lived in Tudor England. This will include looking at 'Bess of Hardwick's' rise to fame and also how Black Tudors were treated at this time.

Topic 3: The British Empire; this unit explores the expansionist nature of the British Empire, establishing control within America, India and Australia. They will learn how wealth and trade developed throughout this period, and the dominant position of the British Empire in the world.

Topic 4: The Americas; this unit explores the history of Early Modern America. They will learn about the American Revolution, and the American War of Independence- a civil war between Britain and America in which America broke away from the British Empire's control and power. Students will learn about the Atlantic Slave Trade and what life was like for a slave and looks at examples of how slaves fought against their treatment as they looked to change their futures, with examples such as the rebellion of Nanny and the Maroons as well as more typical examples. This topic concludes with the abolition of slavery throughout America under Abraham Lincoln.

Topic 5: The Industrial Revolution and Age of Reform; this topic looks at the revolutionary nature of the Industrial Revolution. Students will learn about important developments such as the steam engine and cotton textiles. They will learn how transport was revolutionised, including the age of the railway. This topic also offers an investigation into how society changed following the Industrial Revolution with a focus on the impact on Derby. Students will understand the mass demographic shift through urbanisation. During this period, people moved in to the cities to work in industry. Students will learn what life was like for factory workers and what social and political reform followed. They will also learn how law and order was carried out in these densely populated areas and be introduced to women's fight for right to vote.

Year 9 History Topic 1: First World War; this unit explores the long term and short term causes of WWI. They will learn about the Western Front, a stretch of land between France and Belgium, and the allied victory of Britain, France and Russia. This topic concludes with an overview of how the war impacted a range of different people and groups such as women, black soldiers from America and even how the war affected the people of Alvaston in Derby.

Topic 2: Rise of the Dictators; this unit uncovers the period in time between the end of WWI and the beginning of WWII. They will learn how the Marxist ideology developed within Russia and the creation of the USSR. They will explore the rise of Hitler and Nazi Germany and compare this to the rise of Fascism in Britain under the guidance of Oswald Moseley, as well as looking at how Fascism was received in elections held in Derby during the 1930s. Pupils will learn the importance of these dictators in the road to the Second World War.

Topic 3: Second World War; this topic looks at the war in Europe which caused mass destruction. They will learn about the British home front, and the role women played in entering the workforce to support their nation. Reference will be made to the role played by Rolls-Royce in Derby to help the war effort. Students will learn about the atrocities of the Holocaust and the war in Asia. This topic concludes with the conclusion of the Second World War.

Topic 4: Decolonisation; this topic assess the breaking down of the British Empire, with the decolonisation of India, the Middle East and Africa. They will learn about the Irish troubles, the IRA and Irish Republicanism. This topic concludes with the wars of Vietnam.

Topic 5: Civil Rights in America; this unit builds on their knowledge of America from the previous year. This topic begins with the American Civil war, and the subsequent victory by the Unionists. They will learn how the end of slavery did not lead to equality. Rather, the period of reconstruction was dominated by segregation and the development of the civil rights movement in America. Students will learn how the 1960s was a decade of achievements for this movement with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. This will be compared and contrasted with the experiences that people migrating to Britain experienced during a similar time frame, with consideration of 'The Empire Windrush' and subsequent migration into British society. Whilst there was achievements, this topic concludes with the persistence of prejudice in society.

Topic 6: Postwar Europe; this unit explores the end of the Second World War and the Iron Curtain which divided Europe. They will learn about the ideological divide between East and West, with the ongoing Cold War between the US and the USSR. Students will learn about the differences between both sides of the Iron curtain, and what life was like living with the Cold War. They will learn of social Democracy and its Eastern critics. The topic concludes with the collapse of communism and the expansion of European Integration.

Key stage 4

History Pupils will sit AQA GCSE History at the end of year 11. The GCSE courses provide pupils with access to four units of learning before they sit two 2 hour exams –

Unit 1: (British Depth Study) Norman England 1066- c.1100: this unit looks at how after the death of Edward the Confessor, the English throne was fought for by Viking, Saxon and Norman claimants to the throne. The key battles of Fulford Gate, Stamford Bridge and the Battle of Hastings ensured Norman Conquest and control. They will investigate how the Normans established and maintained control through the Harrying of the North, King William's leadership and government and William II and his inheritance. This depth study will look at the life under the Normans, including the development of the Feudal system and the economic and social changes and their consequences. Students will learn about the church, the reform of the English church and its organisation. They will, in depth, analyse the Norman reforms, their building of abbeys and monasteries and Latin usage. Students during this module will also investigate the historic environment of Norman England. In depth, students will learn a specific site in depth in preparation for their exam, this site changes annually.

Unit 2: (Thematic Study) Britain: Migration, empires and the People c.790 to present day. This thematic study will enable students to gain an understanding of how the identity of the people of Britain has been shaped by their interaction with the wider world. It will consider invasions and conquests. It will also study the country's relationship with Europe and the wider world. It will consider the ebb and flow of peoples into and out of Britain and evaluate their motives and achievements. It considers the causes, impact and legacy of Empire upon the ruled and the ruling in the context of Britain's acquisition and retreat from Empire.

Unit 3: (Period Study) Germany 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship; this period study focuses on the development and collapse of democracy and the rise and fall of Nazism following the end of WWII. Students will study the political, economic, social and cultural aspects of these two developments. They will begin this module with Germany and the growth of democracy. They will learn of the difficulties of ruling Germany, the impact of the First World War and Weimar Democracy. Students will investigate the impact the Depression had on the growing support for Nazis and the establishment of Hitler's dictatorship. This module concludes with an investigation into the experiences of Germans under the Nazis. This includes economic changes, social policy and practices, and the use of control.

Unit 4: (Wider World Depth Study) Conflict and Tension: the inter-war years 1918-1939; This wider world depth study enables students to look at concepts such as national self-determination and the complex interests of different individuals and states during this time. Students will learn of peace making, notably the armistice and the Versailles settlement. They will learn about the formation of the League of Nations, diplomacy outside the League and the collapse of the League. Students will look into the origins and the outbreak of the Second World War. They will analyse how tension developed and escalated with the remilitarisation of the Rhineland, Mussolini and the ending of appeasement. The module concludes with the outbreak of the Second World War.

History Enrichment activities:

History, as part of the Humanities Faculty, is involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme which students are able to participate in. Covid permitting, there is also a trip running alongside R.E that goes to Beth Shalom to gain a further insight (alongside the school based learning) into how the

Holocaust impacted peoples' lives. Further trips to a castle site and one with links to the English Civil War are currently being organised (details to follow).

Further studies and career progression:

Universities look favourably on the A Level qualification in History, particularly for the study of subjects such as politics, history, law and economics. Students with A Levels in History can access a wide variety of careers, including journalism, law, museum based studies and communications and consulting. History can also be an enabling qualification to complement students pursuing a science or medicine-related degree. It provides a strong foundation for further study, especially for students