

Head of Department: Miss S Whatford

History encourages learners to be curious, to develop their own opinions based on a respect for evidence, and to build a deeper understanding of the present world by engaging with and questioning the past. The study of history brings together people, events and issues in a variety of ways which learners will find fascinating, and stimulates students' desire to explore the similarities and differences between people's lives in the past and their own lives now.

Key Stage 3

Key Stage 3 students at Phoenix Academy study a rigorous historical curriculum, specially designed by our sponsor, Future Academies. This scheme of study has been built around a core structure of historical knowledge and disciplinary concepts that students will utilise at Key Stage 3, GCSE and beyond. Using a chronological framework, students explore not just British history, but also global history, such as the Holocaust, the American and French Revolutions and the Islamic Golden Age. At the end of Year 9, we hope that students will have fostered a passion for the subject, and we expect them to have developed a wide-ranging and in-depth knowledge of the last thousand years of history, both of their local area and of the wider world.

In Year 7, students study the development of England, exploring how it developed from an insignificant Roman colony into a European power. They will explore medieval kingship, warfare, revolt and development up until the Wars of the Roses and the start of the early modern period.

In Year 8, students begin with a 'breadth study' focusing on sanitation through time, before delving into the Stuarts and the Civil War, evaluating why France and America had revolutions but England did not. The year culminates with an evaluation of the successes and failures of the Industrial Revolution and the British Empire.

In Year 9, students begin with a local site study of Wormwood Scrubs Prison, bridging the gap between the 19th and 20th centuries. They then explore the First World War, the rise of dictatorships, and the genocides of the 20th century, and question the extent to which the 20th century has been a century of expanding freedom for marginalised groups.

Key Stage 4

At GCSE, history is an optional subject, following the OCR specification. This highly engaging course enables students to explore 'breadth' concepts, such as migration, as well as 'depth' studies, including Nazi rule, the Moghul Empire and the Elizabethans. They will learn how to critically analyse sources and ask deep, probing questions about events of the past.