

Curriculum Purpose Statement – History

The central objective of the **Humanities faculty** is to educate students for membership in a political, social, and economic global community by providing **historical, geographical and spiritual** understanding of many different world cultures.

The History department at Hanley Castle High School have a profound belief in the importance of history both as an academic discipline and as an important footing for living a successful life beyond compulsory education. The specific aims of the History department at Hanley Castle High School are simple:

Firstly, we hope that students will view history as a fun and interesting subject. All teachers within the department love and value the subject, and we want students to share in this passion, creating an interest in the past that will remain with them for life. We have always had double national take up rates at GCSE and believe that the majority of the students in the school benefit from greater understanding of world events.

Secondly, we wish to convey knowledge and understanding of the past, both within the United Kingdom and the wider world. Students should understand how the world we live in has been shaped by the past and its people. Students should not acquire the ability to simply judge people, but to try and empathise with people so that we can understand them in the correct context. Students should feel emotions when studying slavery, the Holocaust or learning about why some women in the last century gave their lives in order to have the right to vote. Students should have an appreciation that the past is not just a number of events that happened to other people, but events that would have happened to us had we been born in a different place in a different time.

Finally, it is our aim that students continuously develop skills such as, evaluating, analysing, empathizing and communicating to equip them for short term success in exams but also longer-term success in the world of employment; there are very few jobs that do not require these skills. We want our students to have the confidence to think for themselves and make their own judgments from a position of knowledge. Simply knowing that events happened is not enough, having opinions about these events in paramount. As a department, therefore, we want our students to understand the past through empathising and critically assessing events so that they can develop their own views about which explanations they think seem most convincing. In this way they develop their own critical thinking and ability to argue both logically and lucidly.

By the end of KS3 students will:

- Have studied the National Curriculum for history gaining knowledge of Britain's place in the wider world and how events from the past have shaped our modern world. To this end, we study the national curriculum in Key Stage Three and due to generous time allocation, we are able to study many of the fundamentally important events from Britain's past, in a chronological structure, e.g. Magna Carta, Civil War, Industrialisation and Britain's role in World War One and World War Two.
- Acquire the vital skills needed to be a student of history such as evaluation, explanation and interpretation which will equip them for success in external exams.
- Have had a positive and enjoyable experience that will result in many opting to study GCSE history.

- Develop their ability and confidence to critically assess events to make their own judgments.
- Have experienced history in the real world through visiting historical sites and furthering their cultural understanding.

By the end of KS4 students will:

- Have studied elements of history from the past 1000 years and gained understanding of complex political, economic and social developments which have impacted on world events.
- Develop the vital skills needed to gain the best grade possible, for their individual ability and used these skills in a structured and analytical manner to produce high quality answers.
- Have had a positive experience and built confident and professional relationships with staff which enables them to communicate with adults in a confident manner.
- Start to make insightful and qualified judgments in their writing which enables them to critically assess historical events and interpretations.
- Develop trust in the staff, fostering positive relationships, resulting in a good number opting to study history at A Level.

By the end of KS5 students will:

- Have studied elements of history from a variety of countries, predominantly in the 19th and 20th centuries, and gained understanding of complex political, economic and social developments, which have impacted on world events.
- Have taken the opportunity to choose a topic of personal interest in their coursework and developed independent research skills to equip them for university.
- Develop the vital skills needed to gain the best grade possible, for their individual ability and used these skills in a structured and analytical manner to produce high quality answers.
- Have had a positive experience and built confident and professional relationships with staff which enables them to communicate with adults in a confident manner. This hopefully will equip them for the demands of university or the world of work.
- Be able make insightful and qualified judgments in their writing which enables them to critically assess complex historical events and interpretations.
- Seen the value in the subject which may result in them studying history at university, including Russell Group Universities.

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We want our students to have the confidence to think for themselves and make their own judgments from a position of knowledge. We want students to develop their own critical thinking and ability to argue both logically and lucidly.