



KING JAMES'S
SCHOOL
KNARESBOROUGH

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

HISTORY

2021/22

At KJS we believe that History is an absolutely critical subject for students to learn. History is not only the story of our predecessors- it is also our story. It helps us to make sense of the world around us and understand current developments and their context. History explains the unexplainable. History gives reason to the unreasonable and this is so important for young people growing up in a world which is often confusing. History teaches so much more than just facts and dates, History is about people- it teaches us about difference and diversity. It helps us to understand how other people live. How other cultures have developed and have lived in the past and present.

Our aim is to help young people to shape their own views and opinions on the world but to be more tolerant and understanding of lives which are different to their own. We believe in a world where people have been unfairly discriminated against and persecuted for their race, identity, ethnicity, sex or sexuality, it is our duty to try and help students understand the perils of making assumptions, of listening to propaganda and in general to form more balanced opinions, rooted in facts. In the History department we have a diverse curriculum which has many crossovers and parallels with other subjects such as English, RS/ Ethics, Geography, Science, Philosophy, Economics and Politics.

In an era of "fake news" and interference in communication and news from different sources, it is even more important that we teach students how to formulate independent judgments and most of all to question rather than accepting a narrative from the media. Young people spend a lot of time on their phones and on social media which potentially makes them vulnerable to half-truths or misleading information. History is an investigative discipline with a focus on critical analysis and evaluation of source material. This will support young people as they navigate through so many conflicting accounts of our society, politics and the world around them.

In History, we also strongly encourage students to consider empathy and why people in the past may have acted the way they did based on their situation. Rather than apportion blame, to understand the bigger picture. Every character from our past is potentially a complex and multi-dimensional personality with strengths and flaws, just as we are. History teaches students to dig deeper, ask more questions and look for contrasts and connections they never knew existed.

History also teaches a vast range of skills which are critically important in life. It teaches research, evidence gathering, explanation and description as well as higher level questioning, analysis and evaluation skills. History teaches students to scrutinise, criticise, weigh up and challenge, debate, decipher and deliberate. History empowers us to communicate and to express our feelings and views about what we discover and to ask questions and challenge accepted narratives. History encourages above all, the desire to know more.