

Bourne

Community College

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Welcome to Humanities (History)



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General Overview

The Humanities Department is comprised of the subject disciplines of Geography, History and Religious Education. The experienced staff have a fantastic reputation with the students for dynamic lessons, challenging learning and stimulating discussions.

Aims

The aim of Humanities is to encourage students to gain and develop knowledge, conceptual understanding, research skills, analytical and interpretive skills, and communication skills, contributing to the development of the student as a whole. Humanities aims to encourage students to respect and understand the world around them, and to provide a skills base to facilitate further study. This is achieved through the study of individuals, societies and environments in a wide context: historical, contemporary, geographical, political, social, economic, religious, technological and cultural.

Our Curriculum

In History students study local, British and world history. This includes learning about significant events, people and changes from the recent and more distant past.

At Key 3 students will gain a sound understanding of chronology and the use of time lines. They will undertake a series of history mysteries, using evidence to work out what happened in the past, focusing on the Anglo-Saxon era. We will also examine some objects from this era on loan from the Novium Museum in Chichester. They will study various aspects of life during the Middle Ages, such as the Battle of Hastings and the Black Death. As we move in to the Tudor period students will focus on why this period was considered to be a “religious roller coaster”, due to the constant changes in religion at this time and the issues that this caused. There will also be a unit focusing on the Black Tudors.

Continuing with this theme into the Stuart era to look at the causes and effects of the English Civil War. There will be an extended unit in Year 8 on world history, looking at the ancient Kingdom of Benin, in Africa. We will then move on to look at the Empire and the Industrial Revolution which includes a look at the resistance of enslaved people of the Empire and the eventual abolition of the slave trade.

We will then move forward in time to the era of the Suffragettes and the struggle for votes for women. This leads onto our study of conflict in the 20th Century, starting with the First World War. This will lead us into looking at the rise of dictators in Europe and how WWI was relatively quickly, in historical terms, followed by the Second World War and Cold War.

Whilst studying these topics students begin to develop their skills as historians. Understanding the causes and consequences of events, change and continuity over time and the significance of key events and people. Students learn to work with primary evidence to work out for themselves what happened in the past. They also compare their opinions with interpretations from renowned historians.

GCSE History

During year 10, students utilise their knowledge and skills in history to study medicine in Britain from the medieval times to the present day. This includes an in-depth look at the historic environment of the Western Front and how medicine was developed to treat soldiers during the First World War.

We then move on to Elizabethan England, discovering how Elizabeth tried to solve the issue of religion, how she dealt with threats to her throne and her life from Catholics, at home and abroad, including the invasion of the Spanish Armada. We will learn how exploration in the New World developed as well as how issues such as poverty were dealt with by Elizabeth.

In year 11, students study the American West from 1836-1895. Looking at how the Native Americans lived and then how their lifestyle was devastated by the arrival of European settlers. We will then stay in America looking at conflict between 1954 and 1975. We study the struggle for equality by black Americans with the Civil Rights Movement and the involvement of the USA in the Vietnam War.

In years 10 and 11 we follow the Pearson Edexcel exam syllabus.
Specifications: 1H10.

Exams: Paper 1 (Medicines) 1 hour 15 minutes (30%)
 Paper 2 (Elizabeth + American West) 1 hour 45 minutes (40%)
 Paper 3 (USA Conflict) 1 hour 20 minutes (30%)

Trips & Activities

- Year 7 Humanities visit to Chichester to extend thinking and enquiry skills
- Year 9 and 10 History residential trip to World War I Battlefields in Belgium and France.
- Year 9 and 10 History/RE residential trip to Auschwitz
- Links to specific events such as Black History Month and Holocaust Memorial Day
- History Book Club in the Library with Theatre and Cinema visits.

Staff

Mrs R James BA (Hons) MA (Ed) - Leader of Humanities and Teacher of Geography

Mr T Masson BA (Hons) - Teacher of Geography

Mr M Burns BSc (Hons) - Teacher of History, RE & Geography

Mrs McGarry BA (Hons) - Leader of History

Mr Harper - BA (Hons) - Leader of RE

Mrs Twinn - BA (Hons) - Teacher of History, RE & Geography