History

CURRICULUM INTENT

STOCKSBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

"Those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat it. There are times when we must remember the past, to understand the present and improve our future."

George Santayana- 1863-1952. Spanish novelist, philosopher and poet.

History is the story of humans through time. Studying History however, is so much more. To study the past, is to draw understanding of the present and future from that story. History at its heart is about asking questions, and acknowledging that there is often more than one answer. It is not just to learn facts, but to inquire, analyse and draw conclusions based on the different versions of History presented. At Stocksbridge we do not want students to leave us with simply a list of names and dates. We want students to leave us as people who question what they read, and understand that much of History, and indeed life, is nuanced. By understanding the events and experiences which have shaped the present, they are in a position to build on the great achievements, and not repeat the sometimes-terrible mistakes.

The History curriculum at SHS aspires to teach students the context of British History, enabling them to understand how people's lives have shaped this nation and how Britain has either influenced or been influenced by events in the wider world. Alongside this, we teach significant aspects of the History of the wider world. This understanding of British and world History is supported by the use of local studies throughout the curriculum which serve to highlight key concepts. For example, in Y8 students learn about life of workers in local steelworks during the industrial revolution and draw similarities between the working and living conditions of slaves in America. This approach not only makes the learning more interesting and relevant for our students, but also increases their contextual knowledge of the Stocksbridge area.

History helps students to understand the complexity of people's lives and the process of change and continuity. Our curriculum is ordered chronologically to allow students to understand how societies have changed over time and enables them to build their contextual knowledge. The topics cover different time scales and include a variety of significant individuals and events which have impacted people's lives socially, economically and politically. Running throughout these topics are the key Historical themes of slavery and civil rights, religious change, democracy and dictatorships, law and order and every-day culture. The History curriculum also supports the teaching of the key British values of democracy, mutual respect, tolerance and individual liberties.

Students who continue their study of History, into Key Stage 4, will have the opportunity to develop, embed, and consolidate the knowledge and skills that were covered as part of Key Stage 3. Underpinning the factual knowledge acquired, students will also develop a grasp of key skills in History which are interwoven through the curriculum; these skills include assessing significance, explaining similarities and differences, change and continuity. Students are taught to use their contextual knowledge to analyse causation and the consequence of key events, to analyse the wider impact that significant individuals have had, to critically evaluate sources and their provenance and make substantiated judgements of their interpretations.

Students are taught using a range of teaching and learning strategies and which are tailored to make History a fully inclusive subject that all students, regardless of ability, can engage with and develop their knowledge and understanding. When designing the curriculum the key concepts and skills which are essential for success at GCSE have been included at Key Stage 3, to ensure our students make good progress. The sequencing of topics over the course of our 5 year curriculum has been done to support our students in building their contextual knowledge and to actively encourage them to utilise their prior learning.

The History curriculum at SHS builds cultural capital. Through the variety of topics covered students learn about different people, places, religions and cultures. The use of sources throughout our teaching allows students to experience examples of paintings, sculptures, poetry, and books; and also creates opportunities for students to make comparisons between art and culture from the past with more contemporary examples. Away from formal lessons, students are encouraged to read relevant, age appropriate materials and watch films/documentaries which can be linked to the Historical content. In addition to this, students are also set a number of independent learning projects over the course of the curriculum, which not only enhance their Historical knowledge, but also allow for the development of broader study skills which will prove valuable throughout their education and beyond. Finally, the curriculum also provides opportunities for students to experience History through visits to Historical sites and museums.