



GCSE History

We teach history at St Mary’s Catholic High School, Leyland to engage students to develop a love, passion and desire for the subject. As a history department, the curriculum is structured to encourage resilience and an aspiration in the pupils to *let their light shine* becoming a tolerant independent thinker, who can use their knowledge of the past to understand the issues of the present and how they can shape the future.

At GCSE, learners follow the study a thematic study that includes a historic environment section. They also study a period study and a British depth study. Finally studying a modern depth study. The topics selected ensure that students have a firm understanding of pivotal events in British history in relation to religious, political and scientific developments. The wider world studies ensure that students understand modern developments and the impact that these have had in the world around them. The GCSE course tests students on their ability to explain and analyse historical events, interpret primary sources and critique interpretations of the past.

Extra – Curricular activities and visits

We try to make history come alive for our students and provide a varied range of activities and visits for our students. These include the trips to the battlefields of France and Belgium and our joint History and RE trip to Auschwitz. Our aim is to allow students to walk in the footsteps of those who have gone before them, to feel the history rather than just read about it.

Assessment

In KS4 pupils complete progress questions to demonstrate knowledge and understanding. They also complete sub – topic assessments as they progress through the course. This allows the history staff to have knowledge of students who may need more challenge or more support within lesson.

Topic 1: Medicine in Britain (c1200 to present) and Historic Environment – British Sector of the Western Front (1914 – 1918)	Topic 2: Superpower relations and the Cold War (1941 – 1991)	Topic 3: Early Elizabethan England (1559 – 88)	Topic 4: Weimar and Nazi Germany (1918 – 39)
Topic 1: Medicine in medieval England	Topic 1: Origins of the Cold War	Topic 1: Queen, government and religion	Topic 1: Weimar Republic
Topic 2: The Medical Renaissance in England	Topic 2: Cold war crises 1958 - 1970	Topic 2: Challenges to Elizabeth at home and abroad	Topics 2: Hitler’s rise to power
Topic 3: Medicine in the 18 th and 19 th century	Topic 3: The end of the Cold War	Topic 3: Elizabethan society in the age of exploration	Topic 3: Nazi control and dictatorship
Topic 4: Medicine in Modern Britain			Topic 4: Life in Nazi Germany 1933 - 39