

Curriculum overview – History department



Intent

The overarching aim of the History department at Netherwood is for students to leave knowing the things that matter; to them and to the locality, and to understand how Barnsley has had an impact on the nation and the wider world!

Student will leave in Year 11 with a working knowledge of the events that have shaped the locality to what it is today and be equipped with the skills to be critical thinkers; to understand the narratives of the past; to be able to communicate and justify their thinking and to be fully rounded and tolerant citizens.

KS3 overview

At KS3 students will follow four main themes from Year 7 to Year 9: Social Justice; Revolutionary Ideas; Industrialisation and its consequences and Empire and its consequences.

The curriculum is broadly chronological with thematic studies at the beginning and end of each year, enabling students to understand and reflect on the bigger pictures of History.

Barnsley and its heritage feature firmly within all study units. Students will investigate local people and events and see the impact of these events at a national and international level; looking at events such as the lives of monks at Monk Bretton Priory, the Wars of the Roses, the rise and fall of the coal industry including The Oaks disaster and the World Wars. They will study the lives of Barnsley people, such as James Hudson Taylor; the Earls of Fitzwilliam; the Spencer-Stanhopes; Parkin Jeffcock; Celia Wray and Arthur Scargill.

Throughout the Key Stage there will be opportunities to visit significant places within the local area and invite guest speakers and experts in to enable students to see and hear for themselves and to gain a deep and rich understanding of the part of the past that matter to them!

KS4 overview

At KS4 Netherwood offers the AQA GCSE qualification. This includes a range of thematic and depth studies. The current units followed are: USA: Opportunity & Inequality, 1920-1972; Conflict & Tension between East & West, 1945-1973; Health & the People, c1000 – present day and Norman England, c 1066 – c1100. The design of the course means that there is some overlap in timeframes, enabling students to make links between units to enhance their overall understanding of how events in history interlink.

The course is externally assessed through two terminal exams in Year 11.

Stretch and challenge

Every history student is challenged to reach and exceed their potential. Staff are equipped with individual target data for every student and strive to ensure every student know what they have to do to achieve this. At KS3 enquiry based, open-ended questions allow students to produce expansive responses with no glass ceiling to what they can achieve. Regular, weekly recall testing is used to ensure students have suitable finger-tip knowledge to be able to answer the bigger, thematic questions at the end of each study unit. At KS4 students are broadly set by ability. Regular exam-style questions are set throughout the course to enable student to become accustomed to the terminal exams and to enable intermittent targets to be set and adjusted. Tiered intervention classes are offered on a weekly basis to push students to improve on their current performance.

Enrichment opportunities

Educational visits and/or guest speakers are offered to all students in every year group:

Year 7: Conisbrough Castle & Monk Bretton Priory

Year 8: Elsecar industrial village & Wentworth Woodhouse/Cannon Hall

Year 9: Flanders Battlefields & Experience Barnsley exhibition

Year 10: York Cold War Bunker

Year 11: Thackray Medical Museum