

Westcliff High School for Girls

The History Department

We are a vibrant and committed department of specialist teachers. The department has good facilities, including a suite of 3 History rooms all of which have interactive whiteboards and an Assessment for Learning toolkit. The office has a separate working area for each teacher. We have high academic expectations of our students and as a department willingly embrace new ideas and experiment with different teaching strategies as well as working very collaboratively to produce detailed schemes of work and assessments and we are committed to teaching a diverse range of histories with links to current scholarship.

KS3 History is taught in two years. Year 7 study the Middle Ages, changes in religion and the changing nature of power, the Early Modern Era and they end the year with a Local History unit, which is accompanied by a trip. Year 8 study Empire and Impact, the Industrial Revolution, the growth of democracy, 20th century warfare and change and protest in Britain in the 20th century. They go on a trip to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford.

We are a popular department and approximately two thirds of our students choose to study History for GCSE. We follow the Pearson (Edexcel) specification and cover the Cold War, 1941-91, the USA, conflict at home and abroad, 1954-75, Crime and Punishment c1000-present day and Elizabethan England. At present, we average approximately 40 students at A-Level and they study Russia, 1917-91, Mao's China and Lancastrians, Yorkists and Henry VII, 1399-1509, also following the Pearson (Edexcel) specification. We achieve outstanding results with 88% of our GCSE students gaining a grade 7 or above in 2019 and 100% of our A-Level students achieving grades A*- C in 2019.