**A- Level History**

**Overview**

**Are you thinking of studying History at A-Level? If you love to find out about past events and how they all fit into a massive jigsaw puzzle, then choosing A Level History is perfect for you!**

Our A-Level course will help you develop your knowledge about key political, social and economic features of Industrial Britain, you will discover how the political system we take for granted today (being able to vote at 18, secret ballot, democracy etc.) all originated from this era. Ever wondered who thought education was an essential key to a successful life? We look at that, as well as other things we just assume were always there; health care, working condition laws, pavements? If you thought Brexit was a big political drama, wait until you find out about Peel the Great Betrayer and the murder of an MP in the House of Commons.

For the Russia Paper you look at the similarities and differences of the Tsar and Communist rule and the impact on the peasantry of the main economic changes throughout the period: The nature of Tsarist rule in Russia, 1856-1917, The structure of the Soviet system, The attempt to reform Stalin’s Russia to 1964. You will compare between dictators, leaders and Tsars.

**Gain Transferable skills:**

Studying A-Level History not only helps improve your knowledge of the past, but it also helps you gain skills that are invaluable in many jobs. Some of these skills include analysing, researching, communication and problem solving. You will also gain the ability to prioritise information and learn how to make vital decisions.

**Whilst there will be some specific ‘bridging work’ set on the school website before the end of term, developing an understanding of the following prior to this would be useful:**

**Industrialisation and the people: Britain c1783-1885:**

**Read a novel:** *These books are set in Britain during these turbulent times these help with empathy for those living and working in these times:*

North and South by Elizabeth Gaskell

Hard Times or Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens

**Films or miniseries to help set the scene:**

Sharp (ITV) miniseries

Hornblower (ITV) miniseries

North and South (BBC)3 part miniseries

Oliver Twist - why not sing along!

Peterloo (Amazon prime) 2019 film

**Russian history from 1917-1953.**

**Read a novel:** *You could read one of the following novels which are set in Russia either before or during the period that we are studying; they will help engage you in the topic in an entertaining fashion:*

A Winter Palace by Eva Stachnicik

Midnight in St. Petersburg by Vanora Bennett

Sashenka by Simon Sebag Montefiore

The Whisperers by Orlando Figes

Doctor Zhivago by Boris Pasternak

**Films to help set the scene and get your teeth into:**

Netflix The Last Czar 6 part series with historians' comments

The Death of Stalin (2017 film rated 15);

Enemy at the Gates (2001 film also a 15);

and of course the epic Dr Zhivago.