

## **Dane Court Grammar School History department**

The history department at Dane Court plays a significant role in the life of the school. Taught from year 7 through to year 13, the subject has a reputation for challenge and academic rigour. Examination results, at GCSE and sixth form level, have been good and improving over recent years. Each year, sixth form students go on to study history at prestigious universities. The department enjoys the use of a suite of teaching rooms radiating from a central plaza. Each room has an interactive whiteboard. The subject has shared access to computing facilities through trolleys of lap-top computers and Chromebooks, and bookable use of the school's IT suites.

History teachers are based in the humanities office with our geography colleagues, giving opportunities for collaboration, although the two departments are distinct from each other and the subjects are taught discretely at all levels. History teachers and students take a keen interest in current affairs and there is scope for the department to increase its contribution to whole school initiatives such as the programme of Independent Cultural Enrichment (ICE), as well as the development of character education. A keen interest in student democracy is evident at the school, including debates, a mock referendum on EU membership, a student-wide General Election which included a hustings event attended by the parliamentary candidates, and over 1000 Dane Court students voting in the Kent Youth County Council elections, the highest turn-out in East Kent.

We follow the national curriculum for history at key stage 3, focusing on the medieval period in year 7, Tudors, Stuarts and the industrial revolution in year 8, and Britain, Europe and the wider world from 1901 to the present day in year 9, as well as a module on the British Empire. A particular highlight is the annual medieval banquet for the whole of year 7, organised as a joint project with the food technology department. We also take up to half of year 9 each year to the First World War battlefield sites around Ypres.

At GCSE we take the new AQA course. For Paper 1 students study Germany 1890-1945 as well as conflict and tension in Asia 1950-75 (focusing on the Korean and Vietnam Wars). For paper 2 the thematic study is 'Migration, empires and the people c790 to the present day' and the depth study is Elizabethan England. We like to take our GCSE students to a conference whilst they are studying the course. Last year this was the 'Hitler on Trial' conference.

Sixth Form students study International Baccalaureate History, offered at higher and standard level.