

Dear A-level Historians,

Everything happening around us today has been influenced by and is a result of what has happened in the past. History can help us predict what could happen in the future.

History is one of the Russell Group universities' 'facilitating' subjects — so called because choosing them at A-level allows a wide range of options for degree study. One of the most flexible of qualifications, History provides an excellent pathway to degrees such as History, Law, English and Philosophy, and beyond that to a range of interesting careers including the civil service, teaching, librarianship, banking and commerce, the law, publishing, museums and art galleries and a wide variety of social work.

You will have 4 hours of history lessons a week, whilst at HGSS, History lessons at HGSS are a blend of written, evaluative and discussion-based learning.

In advance of your start to Sixth Form, please complete the list of bridging work found on the school website. If you have any questions, please contact kinghorne@holmer.org.uk

Sincerely,

Miss E Kinghorn
Head of History

A-Level Overview

At Key Stage 5 A-level Historians study the OCR A-level specification.

In Year 12 students' study Y106 The Early Tudors 1485 - 1558 (Paper 1) and Y319 Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1992 (Paper 3)

In Year 13 students' study Y223 The Cold War in Europe 1941–1995 (Paper 2) and complete their individual Non-Examined Assessment, coursework essay.

Course textbooks:

Early Tudors (Y12)

OCR A Level History: England 1485– 1603 by Nicholas Fellows and Mary Dicken ISBN -10: 147183669X OCR A Level

Civil Rights in the USA (Y12)

OCR A Level History A: Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992 - ISBN-10 : 0435312669

The Cold War in Europe (Y13)

OCR A Level History: The Cold War in Asia 1945-1993 and the Cold War in Europe 1941-1995 by Macfarlane, Fellows, Holland, and Wells: ISBN 978-1-5104-1653-6

Optional/recommended texts:

- Access to History: Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1992 for OCR Second Edition
- My Revision Notes: OCR AS/Alevel History: England 1485- 1558: The Early Tudors by Nicholas Fellows
- My Revision Notes: OCR AS/A-level History: The Cold War in Europe 1941–1995 by Nicholas Fellows, Mike Wells
- My Revision Notes: OCR A-level History: Civil Rights in the USA 1865-1992 by Mike Wells, Nicholas Fellows

To get ahead:

- Follow Historians / Historical Associations on Twitter.
- Listen to Historical Podcasts
- Watch relevant documentaries.
- Read a variety of historical literature / online articles. V
- Visit relevant museums over the summer break.

Expectations of your first lesson

- You are expected to arrive at this lesson with a copy of the Course textbooks noted above.
- Please purchase and bring with you 2 A4 Project Books with dividers (one for Tudors, one for Civil Rights). See example here: [Project Books Amazon](#) – you will need 1 of these for each of your topics of study.
- You are also **expected to bring a handwritten or typed completed copy of the Bridging Work tasks** that have been emailed to you.

Bridging work:

- Your bridging work can be typed or handwritten.
- Please remember to answer all tasks in full sentences.
- Your A-level teacher will use your bridging work to judge your suitability for the course; this is your chance to work hard and make a good first impression.
- Bring all bridging work with you to your first History lesson in September.