



ST IVO SCHOOL

Details about the History Department

The history department is a successful, lively and caring team of six committed and passionate historians. It is very well resourced with a designated cluster of teaching rooms, including a smartboard in each classroom. All history teachers are committed to ensure history lessons are inclusive, challenging, and engaging, thereby maintaining the strong popularity of the subject amongst students from Year 7 to Year 13. Teachers share all resources they produce, and are prepared to go that extra mile, for example in delivering after-school revision sessions to exam groups. Improvement is constantly encouraged within a framework of strong teamwork and mutual support, thereby seeking to ensure every student gets an equal opportunity to fulfil their potential. A positive 'can-do' nature, and a sense of humour is welcomed!

A strong focus exists on the quality of teaching and learning. A key consequence has been the outstanding exam performance over many years across the key stages. For example, GCSE results over the past 10 years are typically over 74% A*-C and often above, with over 35% of students gaining A*/A grades, and significant value-added being achieved from large cohorts of mixed ability students. An outcome is the popularity and high take-up of history at A level which also achieves strong results.

The department constantly seeks to achieve progress for all students across the ability range and wishes to continue raising achievement above an already strong track record of results. A strong focus for the department is also the development of literacy to help students access resources, improve understanding, and raise results even higher. Furthermore, the department has developed linking activities with the local community and museum, and possesses a reputation for successful and popular trips across the year groups. Recent and current trips include visits to Mountfitchet and Hedingham Castles, The Black Country Museum, the Somme Battlefields, Berlin, Dublin and Vietnam.

In Years 7, 8, and 9 we follow the National Curriculum, building an enthusiasm for history and the skills required to tackle the subject later at GCSE. For GCSE we follow the Edexcel syllabus. The course is very popular, with approximately 60% to 70% of Year 9s choosing to study history for GCSE every year. Modules for the new 9-1 GCSE include Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-91, USA 1954-75 (including the Vietnam War), Early Elizabethan England 1558-88 and Medicine in Britain 1250-present (including the Western Front 1914-18).

At A level, history is also a very popular subject. This year there are nearly 50 students studying History post-16. We follow the OCR syllabus, currently studying the Cold War in Europe 1945-95 Pitt to Peel in Britain 1783-1853 and Ireland 1791-1921.

Overall, this successful history department, within a large school, offers an ambitious teacher plenty of experience both in teaching, departmental responsibilities, and professional career development. We can assure the person appointed of a warm welcome both within the department and the school.

This job would suit a range of historians at different career stages. This includes those seeking their first post, or those currently teaching history who are seeking to broaden their experience and take advantage of opportunities for professional career development in a large department and school with a strong reputation in humanities that also possesses links with the Cambridge area and respected universities.

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