The Wilnecote School: Our Curriculum

The Wilnecote School
ENSURING EXCELLENCE

Key Stage 4

Year group:	Topics covered:
Year 10	The course starts with Medicine, which is designed to give students an overview of change and continuity over time. This unit starts in the Middle Ages (building on year 9) and then traces the development of Medicine through the Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution to the modern day. Students examine what people believed caused disease and as a result how they tried to prevent and treat it. By studying topics like the Black Death, the cholera epidemics of the 1800s, the discovery of anaesthetics and antiseptics, and the development of the antibiotics and the NHS, students compare what has changed and why. A case study of the challenges faced by medics in the First world war and how medicine developed as a result rounds of this first unit. (In time it is hoped to link one or two trips to this unit – one to London to visit the Victorian sewers, the pre-anaesthetic surgery, Nightingale museum and Globe theatre (see below); the second to Ypres to support the medicine in WWI unit. The second unit in year 10 is on Elizabeth I. Students examine the problems that Elizabeth faced when she came to the throne – the potential threat from abroad, the religious division in the country and the difficulties caused by her perceived illegitimacy and the fact that she was a female ruler – and then try to judge which was her greatest problem. They then see how threats to her reign developed with the plots of Mary Queen of Scots and the Spanish Armada. The unit ends by looking at Elizabethan society – the sports Elizabethans played, how they treated the homeless and why they went exploring.
Year 11	In year 11 we start with a more modern, political topic – The Cold War. The reasons for this are analysed and then the course investigates how the Cold War developed – with events such as the Hungarian Revolution, the division of Germany and the Berlin wall and the Cuban Missile Crisis. Why The Cold war ended and Communism suddenly collapsed are the key questions that end the unit. The final topic is USA conflict at Home and Abroad. This focuses first on the struggle for Black civil rights in USA, tracing the campaign from events like the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1950s through to the Washington March and Freedom Summer of 1960s. The different tactics of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X are compared and analysed. The focus then shifts to conflict abroad with America's involvement in Vietnam. Why America got involved and why ultimately they lost the war are the central questions.
Assessment:	**How Will I be assessed at Key Stage 4?**
	Assessment is obviously focused round the exam questions and markschemes. Each unit has formative opportunities to practise the question types for that paper. There are then summative assessments at the end of each unit within a topic (so in Medicine one at the end of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, 18th/19th Century and Modern periods as well as one after the Medicine in WWI section). Class and/or homework is used to follow these up/improve on them where needed/time allows. The assessments allow for core exam skills to be constantly revisited and overlearnt. There are also end of year 10 exams and mock exams in year 11.