



# Year 7 History



What have students at St. Crispin's been taught to understand and be able to do?

## Core Knowledge

**Chronology:** Know the difference between AD and BC and different eras of time.

**Primary & Secondary sources:** Know the differences between them and be able to identify them.

**Empire:** Define what an empire is and what motivates rulers to have one. Understand why they decline.

**Civilization:** Consider what makes a society 'civilized' and apply their criteria to an investigation of the Roman Empire.'

**Monarchy:** Looking at succession and why people challenge the right to rule. Understanding the power of the monarchy and how it dictated and influenced the lives of people in the past.

**Feudal systems:** Looking at how society was structured and why.

**Medieval church:** Looking at what people's hopes and beliefs were at the time to enable students' to understand why people acted as they did. Looking at beliefs about the afterlife and how it impacted lives.

**Warfare:** Looking at the tactics used in warfare and how these adapted over time.

**Black Death:** looking at symptoms and spread to be able to analyse the impact it had and how it changed lives.

**Protest:** Looking at what people protested about and why.

**Taxes and Tithes:** Looking at how people were taxed and how they responded.

## Core Skills

**Causation:** The ability to look at a range of factors and explain how they lead to a certain outcome. A conclusion is then made where factors are compared and final judgements made on what factor was most significant/important.

**Interpretations:** Students will be able to look at a range of opinions on the same historical event/person and understand and explain why they are seen in differently by different people, or how the assessment of an individual can change over time. They will understand how external factors can influence our judgements.

**Source Utility:** Students will be able to critically evaluate where information comes from. They will be able to engage with material from a range of time periods and evaluate how valuable it is.



## Year 7 History continued



### How has learning been assessed?

There are three formal assessments over the year. These assessments will be delivered after a programme of study to teach the content. Pupils will then be given preparation lessons and personal study time before being expected to sit the assessments in timed conditions in class.

- Were the Romans really rotten? (Interpretations)
- Why did William win the Battle of Hasting? (Causation)
- How good a king was King John? (Source Utility)

Students will also complete short subject knowledge tests at the end of each unit.

### What is coming up in the following year?

- What happened to the Tollund Man?
- A short investigation to practice and test their historical skills. Students sift through evidence to determine what happened to the body of a man discovered in a bog in Denmark dating back to 350BC.
- Were the Romans really rotten?
- Students are thrust back into the Roman era and look at how the Romans were able to conquer so much of the world. They then investigate the lives of the Romans looking at their culture, pastimes and army to gain an understanding of life before making judgements on how rotten it was to live in this time period.
- Why did William win the Battle of Hastings?
- In this module we look at the changes Britain underwent between the Romans and the Normans before establishing the events of 1066. We look at how the throne came to be contested and who those fighting for the crown were. We study the battle in detail to gain a better understanding of causality and why William was able to take the throne. We then look at what he did to the country once he had taken over. Just because you win the battle, does not mean the fight is over.
- Was it vile to be a villein? (Measly Middle Ages)
- We follow the story of one peasant as he tries to evaluate where the best place to be a medieval peasant was. Students study the lives of those in the villages, towns and even the streets of London. We consider what the life of the ordinary person was like before deciding where a medieval peasant was likely to have the best lifestyle.
- Why did the King whip himself? (Murder of Thomas Becket)
- Students delve into the power of the medieval church and look at the control it wielded over the lives. The case study of Thomas Becket demonstrates how even the most powerful man in the country was under the influence of the church.
- Was King John really a bad ruler?
- An investigation into how we remember those in the past. King John has a terrible reputation and students will look at all the different ways that King John has been remembered and why this view has changed over time. They will then make their own assessment as to how John should be remembered.



## Year 7 History continued



### What is coming up in the following year?

- How big an impact did the Black Death have?
- A deadly disease that rampaged the world and changed society forever. Students will understand how pandemics are able to spread and how they alter society. However, we will also see the lessons that have been learnt and how society has grown because of it.
- Why did castles change over time?
- A key aspect of any medieval society was its castles. The English landscape is still dotted with them today - but, why don't we use these ancient ruins for their true purpose anymore? Students will look at the earliest castles and see how their design have changed and why.
- How terrible were the Tudors?
- To finish the year we will bring students out of the medieval period and into the early modern period with the Tudors. They will look at different aspects of society to see how life was changing.

#### **TRIP:**

To complement our study of medieval castles, students get the opportunity to visit Warwick Castle and explore the castle defences. Student's imagination is captured as they witness over 1,100 years of history which comes vividly to life, in one of Britain's finest medieval fortresses. Students clamber up the defensive mound of the original castle, before ascending the spiral staircase to the top of the guard's tower. Once the coast is clear of enemy soldiers they walk the castle walls before heading back to firm ground to watch the birds of prey. Inside the castle, they can admire the grand luxury and discover the history behind the fortress. Of course no castle visit is complete without an archery show or watching the great Trebuchet fire! An amazing trip that brings history to life.