

## Sixth Form History at Dauntsey's School

### *Moving from IGCSE to Advanced Level*

A Level History is great - but in the past new Sixth Formers have said that sometimes they have been surprised by the amount of work - and the difficulty of it - especially during their first term. You'll study two worlds very different from our own.

In one course, you'll encounter the huge sweep of Tudor History. You'll start with the chancer, the rebel, the wily and the finally paranoid and bitter Henry VII as he usurps the usurper and steals the English throne. You'll then witness the huge bulk of Henry VIII hacking his way through history; wives, ministers, foreign soldiers - they all get it in the neck. Literally. You'll see England stumble from crisis to crisis as Henry's children Edward, Mary and 'Good Queen Bess' hold the fort too. It's a world of intrigue, blood, lust and power that takes place in our very own British Isles - but it's a world utterly different - indeed, a world which forges our own - in which the beginnings of the England and Britain we now know take root.

In the other course you'll follow we will travel through both time and space - to one of the world's most thoughtful, introspective, bloody and changeable regimes: that of revolutionary France and the subsequent world of Napoleon Bonaparte. This is a depth course in which France changes hugely from a largely defunct *ancien régime* to one which stumbles and gropes its way through many and varied attempts at settlement only to be held hostage by the fortunes of France's First Consul. It's a path littered with broken dreams and shattered hopes - but one which shapes France, and the western world in profound philosophical ways to this day.

So that you arrive in your September classes feeling (just a little) prepared, we're recommending you read just **ONE** book from the lists on our intranet pages below. Most of these titles are available in our school library and (of course) all good bookshops. Go on - the more you get involved, the more this amazing subject will live for you.

BHS, June 2023

You can access our reading lists here:

<https://dauntseys.fireflycloud.net/history/resources>

In addition, historical novels are also often a great way into the period. You could try the following:

#### ***The Tudors:***

Hilary Mantel, *Wolf Hall*, *Bring up the Bodies* and *The Mirror and the Light*

#### ***France:***

Hilary Mantel, *A Place of Greater Safety*; Andrew Miller, *Pure* and Charles Dickens *A Tale of Two Cities*

#### **SPECIFIC TASKS**

**Tudors:** Produce a fact-file on England in 1485 – you could look at any of the following topics: the power of the church, government, towns, farming, the cloth industry, society, humanism, printing and new ideas. Please also research the following figures: Henry Tudor (Henry VIII), Richard III, Edward IV, Elizabeth of York, Elizabeth Woodville.

**French Revolution:** Produce a fact-file on these 12 key characters from Revolutionary France: Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette, Philippe duc d'Orléans, Marquis de Lafayette, Abbé Emmanuel-Joseph Sieyès, Camille Desmoulins, Jean-Paul Marat, Jacques-René Hébert, Maximilien Robespierre, Georges-Jacques Danton, Paul Barras, Napoleon Bonaparte.

Include a portrait and five key facts, that you think might be relevant to the period, 'France in Revolution' (i.e. not when they were born or what they liked for tea).