



BENSHAM MANOR School

History Curriculum 2025-2026

Content is differentiated according to class ability

	YEAR 7	YEAR 8	YEAR 9
Autumn Term 1	An introduction to History & Skills - Enquiry Question: What did the Romans do for us? Pupils will explore what history is and develop key history skills whilst gaining an understanding of key concepts, such as the distinction between past and present and the importance of chronology. Pupils will learn how historians measure time and how to use and read a timeline. They will discover how we find out about the past by playing the role of a historian, collecting information from primary and secondary sources through their investigation of the Romans. They will make observations of these sources and use the evidence to answer the key enquiry question: 'What did the Romans do for us?'	Victorian Britain - Enquiry Question: Who helped change Victorian Britain for the poor and how successful were their reforms? Students will recap the impacts of the Industrial Revolution on children and the poor during Victorian Britain. They will discover the roles of significant historical figures, such as Lord Shaftesbury, and the reforms that were made to improve poor working conditions, public health and education.	WJEC Pathways - Looking at Local History EL2/3 (3 credits)* 2011 London Riots Pupils will study a historical issue of local interest and importance. Pupils will identify an important issue from the past in their local area and identify how the local area was affected as a result. The chosen topic is the 2011 London riots where they'll develop their research skills, finding out about the causes and events leading up to the riots. They will find and identify sources that can be used to find out about this event and make observations from them. This will enable pupils to find out what happened during the riots and understand how this developed across other cities in England.

Autumn Term 2	Britain before 1066 - Enquiry Question: How did the Anglo-Saxons change Britain? Pupils will explore what life was like in Britain after the Romans left. They will find out who the Anglo-Saxons were, understand why they migrated to Britain and learn about the Anglo-Saxon and Viking struggle to gain control of England. Pupils will learn about the Anglo-Saxon way of life and find out how they reshaped the British landscape. They will explore the changes that the Anglo-Saxons made to language, buildings, religion and beliefs in England.	Challenges for Britain, Europe and the Wider World: The Second World War - Enquiry Question: How did people on the Home Front help Britain to win the Second World War? This unit enables students to recognise the causes and effects of the Second World War. They will develop their chronological skills by sequencing key events from the Second World War. They will learn about how civilians on the Home Front and campaigns supported the war effort, such as rationing, salvaging materials, evacuation of children, shelters, growing food, joining civil defense (like Air Raid Wardens) and women working in war industries.	WJEC Pathways - Looking at Local History (3 credits)* 2011 London Riots Pupils will continue to research the 2011 London riots and use sources to find out about the social, economic and political consequences and impacts of this event on their local area. They will also find out how the local council and community worked together to help rebuild Croydon (London). Pupils will develop other key historical skills, presenting material they have created about this topic to the class.
Spring Term 1	Trade during the Early Middle Ages - Enquiry Question: What connected the West and East? Pupils will make observations of Anglo-Saxon artefacts and remains at Sutton Hoo. This will enable pupils to explore trade during the Middle Ages and understand what connected the West to the East. Pupils will learn about how the East and Islamic world influenced Western development through a study of the House of Wisdom in Baghdad. Pupils will	The Holocaust - Enquiry Question: What was the Holocaust and how did it happen? Pupils will find out what the Holocaust was, learn about who carried it out and study primary sources to understand how specific groups of people were treated.	WJEC Pathways - Historical Change Over Time (4 credits)* Tudor England Pupils will explore what life was like in Tudor England and understand the key changes that took place during this period. Pupils will start by learning about key features of society at the beginning of the Tudor period.

	identify and explore key developments in knowledge, science and medicine during the Islamic Golden Age.		
Spring Term 2	The Norman Conquest - Enquiry Question: How did the Norman Conquest change England? Pupils will learn about why the King's death in 1066 was a problem for England and find out who ruled England after the Anglo-Saxons. Pupils will explore key events of the Battle of Hastings by making observations and analysing primary sources, such as the Bayeux Tapestry. They will understand how the Normans gained control of England after their conquest in 1066 and learn about the changes that the Normans made to language, architecture and way of life in England.	Life after the Second World War - Enquiry Question: How did Britain rebuild after the Second World War? Pupils will explore the consequences of the Second World War on Britain. They will learn about the differing experiences in post-war Britain, which will enable them to understand the struggles that many people faced rebuilding their lives after the war ended. They will learn about the changes that were made and the role that the Labour government, led by Clement Attlee, played in helping to reshape Britain after WWII, e.g. the creation of the NHS.	WJEC Pathways - Historical Change Over Time (4 credits)* Tudor England Pupils will learn about the major changes that took place in Tudor times and understand the reasons why these changes took place. They will also discover how these changes affected people's lives.
Summer Term 1	Historic Pandemics - The Black Death and Cholera Enquiry Question: Why was the Black Death and Cholera so significant? Pupils will explore the causes and effects of the Black Death pandemic during Medieval Britain and the Cholera pandemic during Victorian Britain. They	The Windrush Generation - Enquiry Question: To what extent was Britain a racially equal society after 1948? Pupils will learn about who the Windrush Generation were and identify how they helped to rebuild Britain, filling the NHS's labour shortage, transport and industry.	WJEC Pathways - Historical Change Over Time (4 credits)* Tudor England Pupils will continue to learn about the major changes, reasons for these changes and the effects on people's lives.

	will find out about the beliefs and ideas surrounding these pandemics and responses to them. They will also learn about their treatments and make comparisons with modern day pandemics.	They will explore the struggles and inequalities faced by the Windrush generation, including the Windrush scandal and discover the origins of Notting Hill Carnival.	
Summer Term 2	The Industrial Revolution - Enquiry Question: What was the impact of the Industrial Revolution on Britain? Pupils will find out what the Industrial Revolution was and discover how factories and key inventions impacted Victorian society and the development of science and technology. Pupils will also explore the negative effects of the Industrial Revolution and the increase in factories on children, living conditions for the poor and sanitation.	Post-War 1960s Britain - Enquiry Question: What made the 1960s such a different and exciting time in Britain? Pupils will explore how life in Britain improved after the Second World War. They will learn about the social and cultural changes in the 1960s, including the 'Baby Boom', music, fashion and increased ethnic diversity.	Tudor England - Hampton Court Palace Pupils will learn about what Hampton Court Palace is, discover key facts about it and understand what it tells us about Tudor life. Pupils will have the opportunity to visit the Palace.

*** Not all pupils will complete the WJEC Pathways accreditation but all will learn the same topics at differentiated levels.**