



Hall Park
Academy

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Headteacher: Mr D Crossley

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Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 History Guidance

As we begin what is a crucial year for our Year 11 students, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to share how we can work together to help your child achieve their full potential in GCSE History.

To support your child in achieving success, we want to ensure that students benefit fully from our expertise to achieve a strong grade at GCSE. Success in History requires both secure subject knowledge and the ability to apply this knowledge.

Independent Study Expectations

In Year 11, all students are expected to complete at least one hour of directed independent study each week outside of lessons. **Students will complete pre-lesson reading and note-taking tasks.** In class, we will then consolidate what they have read before focusing on the higher-level skills required for success in GCSE History, including:

- Writing extended and well-structured examination answers.
- Analysing and evaluating historical sources.
- Evaluating differing historical interpretations.
- Developing historical judgement and argument.
- Applying precise historical knowledge to examination questions.

This approach allows us to maximise lesson time and ensure students receive expert guidance on the most challenging aspects of the course.

Power Hour and Revision

To support students in their revision and preparation for the final exams, we are offering a period 6 Power Hour Session on Mondays after school. These sessions will take place in H2. We strongly advise students attend these sessions.

We strongly recommend the purchase of these revision guides to support your child's learning. They are available to buy on ParentPay. In addition, we strongly encourage students to revisit and revise content studied in Year 10 on a regular basis. Small amounts of revision completed consistently throughout the year are significantly more effective than attempting to revisit large amounts of content shortly before examinations



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Equality and Achievement

Evidence-Based Revision Strategies for GCSE History

To help students revise as effectively as possible, we recommend the following evidence-based revision strategies:

- Low-stakes quizzing and retrieval practice
 - *Regularly testing knowledge from memory rather than simply re-reading notes.*
 - *Using flashcards, quizzes and self-testing activities.*
- Spaced practice
 - *Revisiting topics at regular intervals over time rather than cramming.*
 - *Reviewing year 10 content alongside current year 11 learning.*
- Creating timelines and knowledge organisers
 - *Organising key events, individuals and developments visually.*
 - *Identifying links and patterns between topics.*
- Practising exam questions
 - *Regular completion of gcse-style questions under timed conditions.*
 - *Applying knowledge to the types of questions seen in examinations.*
- Self-assessment and improvement
 - *Using mark schemes, model answers and teacher feedback to identify areas for development.*
 - *Rewriting and improving responses to secure higher marks.*

How Parents Can Help

Parental support has a significant impact on student achievement. You can support your child by:

- Encouraging them to complete their weekly independent study.
- Asking them to explain what they have learned in History lessons.
- Supporting the use of revision guides and retrieval practice activities.
- Encouraging regular revision habits throughout the year.
- Helping them establish a routine and suitable study environment at home.

We firmly believe that through a partnership between school, students and parents, every young person can achieve their very best.

Thank you in advance for your continued support as we work together to ensure that your child achieves success in GCSE History and is well prepared for the opportunities that lie ahead.

If you have any questions regarding the course or how best to support your child, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at C.Farrington@hallparkacademy.org.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mrs C Farrington
Head of History