

SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL- HISTORY DEPARTMENT 2026-2027

Staff

- Mr R. Hemsall- Head of History & PSHE; experienced GCSE & A-Level Examiner. Teaches all key stages.
- Mrs L. Webb- Teacher of History. Teaches all key stages.
- Mr R. McAlinden- Teacher of Business Studies & History. Teaches Year 7 and 9.
- Miss A Magnus- Teacher of PE, Law & History. Teaches Year 8.

The Department

- Most lessons are taught within 2 dedicated teaching rooms; some lessons are taught elsewhere for timetabling reasons.
- At KS4 and KS5, the department is well stocked with textbooks. At KS3, the department utilises internally made booklets that cover the key content with a clear narrative/structure. Staff are welcome to use different approaches if they wish to cover the core content by different means. The department also has access to a large section of the school library which is dedicated to various historical topics. The department also has a large number of specialist materials retained within the teaching rooms for staff development and for specific issues pertaining to Year 13 NEA. The department also makes use of subscriptions to the Historical Association & Carousel Learning, as well as access to Seneca Learning.

KS3

- The department aims to deliver a curriculum that ensures students have a broad chronological understanding of the key turning points in Britain's History over the last c.2000 years, and how this fits into the History of the wider world. This is in line with the National Curriculum. KS3 schemes of work identify recommended teaching approaches, including the pre-made booklets, as well as the substantive focus and core content for each enquiry, including the writing task that will be common to all classes.
- KS3 History is usually taught in form groups. From September 2024, Year 7 have 4 lessons per fortnight, Years 8 & 9 have 3.
- In Year 7, students study from Saxon England to c.1800. In Year 8, they study the c.1800-1945, including the Holocaust & a local history study on Lincolnshire as 'Bomber County' in WW2. In Year 9, students look at post-1945 History in the Autumn & Spring Terms, then all students look at Weimar Germany in-depth to prepare them for GCSE History.
- The department offers a residential trip to Ypres in the summer of Year 9. This is open to students whether they do or do not take History for GCSE.

KS4

- Following the options process, students are taught OCR Specification B. They will study Living under Nazi rule, the Making of America & History Around Us (Lincoln Castle) in Y10. They will then study the Elizabethans & the Peoples' Health in Y11.
- Currently, around 50% of SHS students continue with History beyond Year 9, being taught across either 2 or 3 groups. Lesson in KS4 are now timetabled at 6 per fortnight in Year 10 and 5 in Year 11.
- In 2024, c.98% achieved Grade 4-9 and c.61% achieved Grade 7-9. In 2025, 100% achieved at least a Grade 4, with 44% achieving a Grade 7 or higher.

KS5

- Students follow the Edexcel syllabus. There is 1 class for History in each of Years 12 & 13. In Year 12, students currently study Paper 1H (Britain 1918-97) for 6 lessons per fortnight with Mr Hemsall. They study Paper 2H.1 (USA, 1920-55) with Mrs Webb for 4 lessons per fortnight. In addition, Paper 2 has one Independent Learning Lesson (ILL) per cycle. At the end of the year, significant lesson time is given (with both teachers) for students to begin their NEA, particularly the research phase. This will be allocated significant time in Year 13 for students to carry on with the writing phase. Depending on the topic they choose to analyse, students are allocated a specific teacher who will support them throughout the process, such as by reading their drafts.
- In Year 13, students study Option 31 (Rebellion & Disorder under the Tudors) with 9 taught lessons and 2 ILLs per fortnight distributed between Mr Hemsall & Mrs Webb as the timetabling allows. At present, Mr Hemsall teaches the depth case studies and Mrs Webb the breadth modules.
- In 2024, 50% of A-Level candidates achieved A*-B, in 2025 it was 70% A*-B.