



Course Title

Exam Board

**History GCSE**

**OCR**

### Course Description

This GCSE History course covers a huge breadth of time and topics which students will find both stimulating and challenging. The course aims to build on and complement, rather than repeat, the topics students have considered in KS3 and will broaden and deepen their understanding of the past and the impact it has had on our present.

#### **Britain in Peace and War**

Investigates the changes within Britain in the early 20th century and looks at how the iconic Edwardian era has been represented as well as allowing students the chance to investigate the impact that WWI, one of the bloodiest conflicts in History, has had on the UK and on popular culture today.

#### **Migrants to Britain**

Looking at the diversity of Britain and the challenges and changes this island has undertaken from the Middle Ages to the present day. Students will examine the way migration patterns have changed since 1250 and consider the effects and impacts this has had on Britain.

#### **Viking Expansion**

The Vikings are an iconic culture and civilisation and in this dynamic study students will be able to investigate their story from their homelands in Norway through their expansion as raiders and invaders to their settlements and conquest of Britain.

#### **Aztecs and Spaniards**

The Aztec Empire was one of the most powerful in the Western Hemisphere until it came into contact with Europeans. In a few short years in the 1500s Spain conquered and almost obliterated the Aztec civilisation. This course will investigate the interplay between the two cultures and provoke powerful questions about the very nature of civilisation.

#### **History Around Us**

This unit is about studying the landscape and historic sites as a source of evidence. Students will investigate a site and reflect on how it fits into and has altered the surrounding landscape. They will consider the problems and opportunities of using sites as historical evidence and also have the opportunity to visit and investigate sites of historical interest. This unit aims to facilitate an active understanding of how the past has shaped the present and encourage students to think about history beyond the classroom.

### Type of Assessment

This specification will be assessed and examined by exams. As the specification is awaiting accreditation at time of writing, the precise nature of the exams is yet to be fully announced.

### Career and Progression Opportunities

History plays an important role in the wider curriculum and will help give a broad education to students at Birchwood. A Level History is flourishing with a stronger intake year on year. In recent years a significant number of students have gone on to read History at university.

Qualifications in History are highly regarded by employers as the skills generated by its study, such as research, explanation, argument, analysis, source evaluation and the testing of evidence are eminently transferable to many disciplines from the law to customer services.

A qualification in History can lead to careers as researchers, drawing on their skills in evaluating and analysing documentary evidence. Such work can be within museums and historical organisations. Employment can also be found with government departments and agencies, not-for-profit organisations and associations. Positions can include Policy Advisors, who serve as planners, evaluators and policy analysts. Additionally, with specialist training, History can lead to professions in Cultural Resources Management and Historic Preservation. Other careers include: Lawyer, Teacher, Librarian, Museum or Gallery Curator, Archivist, Genealogist, Records Manager and Information Officer.

### Link to the Syllabus

<http://www.ocr.org.uk>