

“The more you know of your History, the more liberated you are.”

Maya Angelo

History is a rich subject which provides powerful knowledge and understanding of global, national and local events which have shaped the world around us. At Toot Hill, we enable our pupils to understand the cyclical nature of historical events and help them to make links between past and present.

In history lessons the acquisition of knowledge and understanding is a destination that is reached through questioning and evaluation. Through their study of history our pupils become more confident and creative critical thinkers who are better equipped to face the complexities of the modern world. History is of immense value in helping pupils understand the process by which our knowledge and understanding of the past is gained and how our view of the past is constantly changing through historical debate.

Pupils studying History will be equipped with key concepts, including; change and continuity, cause and consequence, significance, similarity and differences. With these skills pupils will be able to analyse, explain and understand the past, whilst also developing transferable skills helping them to become well rounded individuals who are prepared for the world of work. Through the development of the language of the past, pupils become effective communicators of the present. Pupils study a wide range of historical periods from medieval to modern day, and study the past from a variety of standpoints to make connections and comparisons over time. Throughout all key stages, recall and retrieval practice increases pupils' confidence and their prospects of examination success.

Whilst our History Curriculum uses the National Curriculum as its anchor, we also choose to teach many other aspects of the past and to take our study of History beyond the classroom:

- At KS3 we use Battle Simulations bringing to life topics taught in the classroom, theatre trips to Horrible Histories to promote cross curricular links and school trips for History clubs to museums in London and even WW1 battlefields in France.
- We continue to promote enrichment opportunities at KS4 and KS5 as we take a cohort of pupils to Berlin in Year 11 to experience the city that saw Hitler and the Cold War, and in Year 12 we undertake a Tudor trip to London to take part in workshops.
- We run enrichment-based clubs in order to motivate, inspire and increase the depth of powerful knowledge pupils can access across both key stages. At KS3, for example, the History Enrichment club allows pupils the opportunity to explore their own historical interests through self-directed learning.
- We work closely with small groups of pupils to deliver assemblies and whole year group activities on key historical dates such as Black History month, International Women's Day and Armistice Day.