



21st October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Year 11 History

As you may already know, the Department for Education has agreed to some changes to the GCSE History exam specification for the summer 2021 exam series. For us this means that we are able to tighten up our learning and focus on one less examined sub-unit from Paper 2.

After thorough testing using in class mock exams, low stakes knowledge tests in class and further low stakes testing via GCSEPod done as homework, we have gathered enough data to ensure we are making an informed decision as to which sub-unit to stop studying.

While performance in the assessments was close, there were marginal increases for students when being assessed on the material linked to the Early Elizabethan England sub-unit. Because marginal increases can be the difference between reaching a higher grade boundary or not we have opted to give our students the best opportunity to do well by focusing on Elizabeth in the summer exam series. To further this support we have created opportunities for extended learning on your child's GCSE History Google Classroom.

The remainder of Year 11 will be structured as follows:

- Autumn Term:
Study Paper 1: Medicine in Britain c1250-present and The British Sector of the Western Front, 1914-18 in conjunction with interleaving studies from Paper 2's remaining unit on Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588.
- Winter Term:
Study Paper 3: USA, 1954-75: conflict at home and abroad in conjunction with interleaving studies from both Paper 1 and Paper 2.
- Early Spring Term:
Finalise studies and solidify knowledge with further interleaving and revision.

Interleaving is when you revisit taught materials at specific intervals in order to support memory recall.

Attached to this letter is the syllabus for the remainder of the school year for GCSE History.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about your child's History GCSE. I can be reached via email at reeann.vaughan@biddenham.beds.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Ree Ann Vaughan
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