History
Curriculum Statement

At Melksham House School, we believe that a high-quality History curriculum is essential for developing pupils' understanding of the past and its impact on the present and future. Our ambitious and inclusive curriculum ensures that all pupils, regardless of their Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH) needs or experiences of Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA), develop a strong foundation in historical knowledge, critical thinking, and analytical skills.

We understand that History can be a complex and sometimes challenging subject, particularly for pupils with SEMH and EBSA needs. Our approach is trauma-informed and flexible, ensuring that every pupil has access to engaging and meaningful learning experiences. Through structured teaching, personalised support, and high expectations, we enable all pupils at Melksham House School to develop historical knowledge and critical thinking skills that will support their success in education and beyond.

An ambitious and rigorous curriculum

Our History curriculum follows the Curriculum Maestro scheme of work, providing a structured and engaging approach to exploring key historical events, figures, and themes. Through this curriculum, pupils:

- Develop an understanding of significant historical periods and their influence on modern society.
- Learn to interpret sources, evaluate evidence, and construct reasoned arguments.
- Explore diverse perspectives and histories to develop a well-rounded understanding of the past.
- Engage in historical enquiry, fostering curiosity and independent thinking.

Lessons are adapted to individual needs, ensuring accessibility and engagement for all pupils while maintaining high expectations for academic success.

Assessment and Personalised Learning

We recognise that many pupils may have gaps in their historical knowledge due to disrupted education. To address this, we use robust assessment through the Earwig Assessment Framework and targeted interventions to personalise learning and ensure progress. Pupils following accredited pathways will also be assessed using the frameworks of relevant awarding bodies.

Pathways to Success:

We provide a clear progression of qualifications to ensure all pupils leave with recognised achievements that support their future aspirations. Pupils can work towards:

- **AQA Unit Awards in History** – providing a flexible and accessible way to gain recognition for historical skills and knowledge.
- **GCSE History** – for those who wish to explore history in greater depth and develop analytical and evaluative skills that are valuable for further education and employment.

Success in History at Melksham House School is not only measured by qualifications but also by the development of essential life skills. We define success as:

- **Demonstrating progress** in historical knowledge, critical thinking, and source analysis.
- **Gaining confidence** in discussing and debating historical events and perspectives.
- **Developing independent research skills** and the ability to construct well-reasoned arguments.
- **Understanding the relevance of history** to contemporary issues and global developments.
- **Engaging with historical enquiry** through questioning, investigating, and evaluating evidence.