

What we study in Year 11

We start by investigating the role of sources in history. Did Agrippina murder her husband? How and why did Julius Caesar die? What do the sources tell us and can we believe them?

From there we journey into the world of archaeology. How did it all begin? Why was the discovery of Troy so important? What role does ancient mythology have to play? Why was the bull so important to the work of Arthur Evans? How did Carter find the tomb of Tutankhamun?

We investigate case studies including Tutankhamun's Tomb. Who was Tutankhamun? When did he live? What exactly was in the tomb? What does it tell us about Egyptian religious beliefs and burial practices?

One of the most fascinating aspects of Ancient History is that of the discovery of ancient human remains. We investigate a variety of bodies to find out about the times in which they lived including the bog bodies, the Iceman and the mummies of South America.

Finally we explore, in detail, the possible location of the mythical city of Atlantis. Was it the island of Thera? What was found at Akrotiri? What do the frescoes reveal about their life?

Why study Ancient History?

Ancient History is one of the most popular Board of Studies subjects behind English and Maths with over 12,000 candidates each year. Why? Because it is fascinating!

At Galston High School we have achieved outstanding results in the Higher School Certificate in Ancient History. You, too, can gain a Band 6 if you want to.

What will you gain from studying History?

- A love of History that you will draw upon for the rest of your life, whether it be because you travel the world or want to have an understanding of your place in the bigger picture.
- You'll develop critical thinking skills that can be used in any occupation including analytical thinking, problem solving, decision making, oral and written communication skills
- You could follow a career path that has History at its core including being an archaeologist, lawyer, archivist, criminologist, writer, journalist, historian, curator, soldier, travel consultant, diplomat and many more.

What we study in Year 12

Cities of Vesuvius: Pompeii and Herculaneum is the core study. We investigate all the sources, written and archaeological, to discover what life was like before the cities were trapped in time in August 79AD.

We then investigate an ancient society. The class will be able to choose between Sparta or Minoan Crete. What would it have been like to live in that society in ancient times? What was every day life like? What religion would you believe in? How did their economy run? How would you be buried? Could you be involved in the government?

We then journey to Egypt and discover how it became the greatest nation of its time. Who were the Hyksos? How did Amun grow in strength? How did the pharaohs smite the enemy? Was Thutmose III really the Napoleon of Egypt?

Finally we delve into the fascinating world of Hatshepsut, the most powerful female of Ancient Egypt. How did she gain power? Was she the wicked step mother that she has been portrayed as? How innovative was she?

The HSC exam consists of 4 parts of which only one is an essay. The rest are a source study, short answer questions and 2 extended responses.

