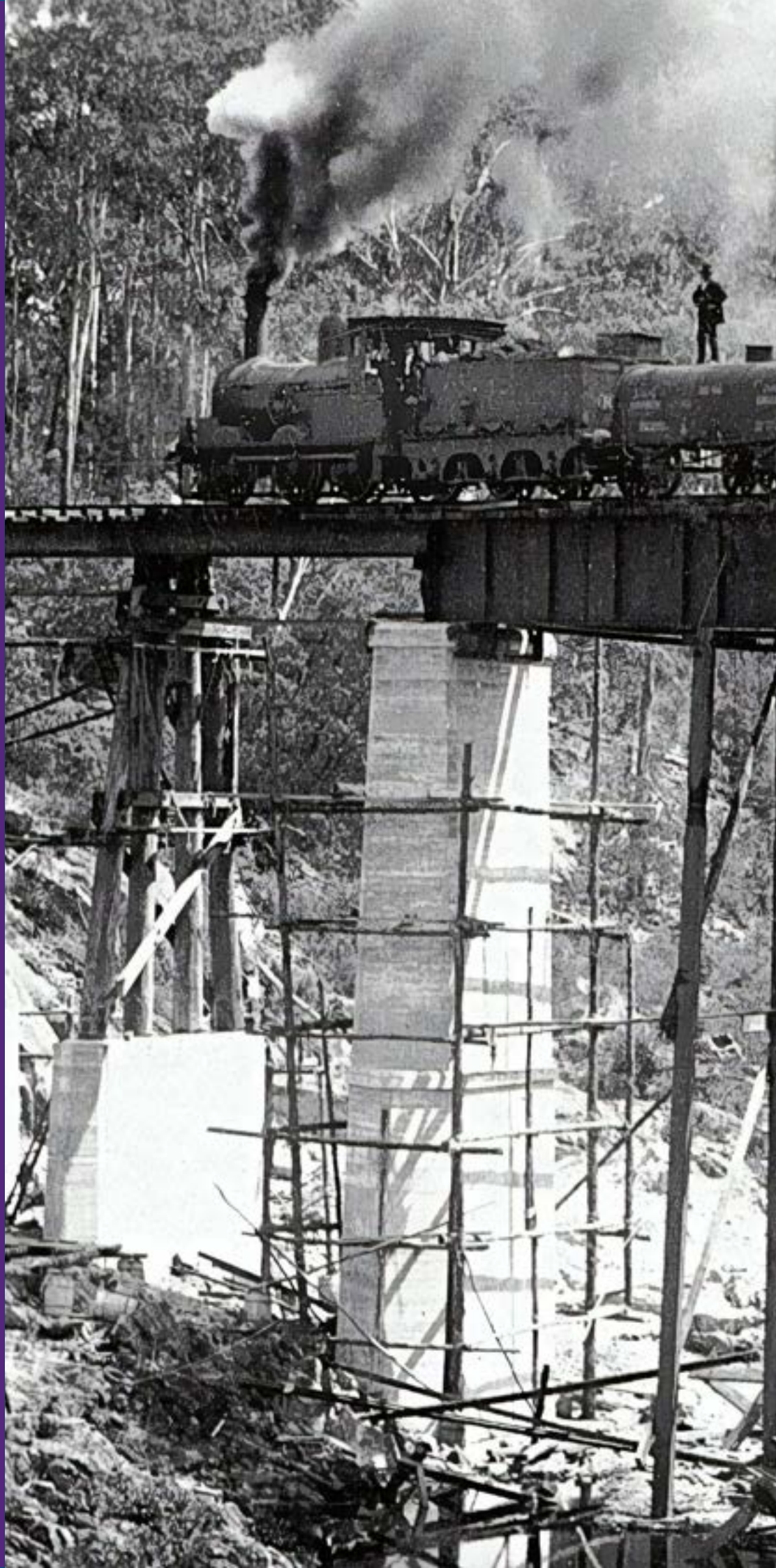
Edition 3
October
2026

HISTORY

YEAR 8 Curriculum Newsletter



Contact

Simone Hamilton
WPT History
Subject Director
shamilton@
wickersley.net

Curriculum Intent

"How we got to now" is the overriding aim of the History secondary curriculum at Wickersley Partnership Trust (WPT). Through a shared understanding and knowledge of our past history, we aim to give our students the ability to understand who they are and their place in the world. We aim to inspire a love of learning and the ability to ask questions.

Our History curriculum allows our students to ask and develop perceptive questions to help them understand the past and the present. In an ever-changing world, History allows our students to look to past examples, learn from them and ensure that as citizens we do not make the same mistakes that those before us may have done.

The History curriculum aims to give students a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain's past and that of the wider world. It inspires students' curiosity to know more about the past.

Teaching equips students to ask enquiring questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement.

History helps students to understand the complexity of people's lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time.

Year 8 Curriculum

History is delivered via one 80 minute lesson per week. Click on the topics below for more information!

Empire and Slavery

Why did Britain develop a large empire across the world and what were the consequences of this, particularly for India? Why was the slave trade developed and what role did Britain play in it? How did the slave trade work, what impact did it have on the slaves themselves, and why did the practice end?

Industrial Revolution

What was life like in Britain before the Industrial Revolution? How did different inventions such as canals, railways and roads impact life? How did disease and medicine evolve and what were the impacts of antiseptic and anaesthetic? How did the police develop, and why did crime increase? Why was Jack the Ripper never caught? How were different classes treated on the Titanic? How did Britain change from 1750-1900?

Women and the Vote

Why did women want the right to vote and how important was this? What methods of protest were used, and what were the positive and negative consequences of these?

World War 1

What were the long and short term causes of WW1? Why were men willing to fight in WW1? What methods of warfare were used and how did this change over the course of the four year conflict? What were the emotional and physical human costs of the war and why is it important that we remember?

Between the Wars

What is the link between WW1 and WW2 and how did one event ultimately cause the next? How did the events of the interwar years create the backdrop for the outbreak of WW2? What global events led to Hitler's rise to power and the development of dictatorship in Germany? What were the consequences of the Treaty of Versailles and how did this helped Hitler and the Nazi party gain popularity? How did the allies respond to Hitler's aggression?

Assessment Points

In Year 8, students are assessed each half term in class using essays, skills practice and source analysis. There is also one summative test in Year 8, which usually takes place in March.

Immerse Yourself

The Suffragettes - BBC Teach

- Develop Skills
- Educational Video
- History Revision at home

BBC Bitesize History

- Get Revising Quicker!
- Videos, Links and Quizzes
- Study Support and Revision

BBC Bitesize helps to support the students revision outside of school.

If they are struggling with topics in lessons or want to enhance their learning in the classroom then these links are an ideal place to cover content at home.

Test Your Knowledge with Quizlet...

Quizlet's Y8 History flashcards are a fantastic way to memorise relevant History terms to help you with your studies. Click on the icon below to start!



Praise and Reward

Our rewards system can be broadly split into four categories: classroom level, subject level, school level and privilege rewards. We'll focus on classroom and subject rewards here - for more information about our rewards schemes, please see our website.

CLASSROOM LEVEL REWARDS

Awarded for: working hard, taking risks and rising to a challenge, making mistakes and learning from them, helping others, and taking pride in the school community.

Rewarded by: praise postcards, positive phone calls to parents/carers, positive text messages home, and lesson-based prizes.

SUBJECT LEVEL REWARDS

Reward scheme: Star of the Week, curriculum awards (Subject/School Way, participation, working with pride, embracing the whole curriculum), high flyer, extra mile, most improved.

Rewarded by: names displayed on reward boards, certificates, social media posts.

Broadening Horizons

For our study of History to have real meaning, we endeavour to give students an experience of the subject that goes beyond the classroom.

Where possible students are offered opportunities to enrich their learning through first hand experiences, whether this be a visit to places such as France, Belgium or Auschwitz, an experience or the ability to hear a first-hand witness testimony to allow them to see that History is real, is all around us and has a direct impact on how we live our lives today.

Allowing our students to see that History is a subject which opens up doors to many career opportunities is also an integral part of our students' preparation for life beyond school.



1917 (2009)

At the height of the First World War, two young British soldiers, Schofield and Blake are given a seemingly impossible mission. In a race against time, they must cross enemy territory and deliver a message that will stop a deadly attack on hundreds of soldiers—Blake's own brother among them Click on the image to watch!

Black Country Living Museum - Dudley

Experience the Black Country of yesteryear as you explore over 250 years of history, from the Industrial Revolution to post-war prosperity, through living interpretation at Black Country Living Museum in Dudley in the West Midlands. Click the logo for more information!

BLACK COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM

Careers

We run a series of 'Careers in the Curriculum' weeks in our school. For History, this week takes place in October.

Students take part in a number of activities to encourage them to think about how what they learn in the classroom can be applied in a number of future careers, including academic research, archivist, English Heritage/National Trust, museum curator, archaeologist and teacher. Next year, students will be able to choose History as a GCSE subject.

Click on the logo below for more information on one of the careers discussed!

The History Way

The History Way is followed in all of our lessons. It is designed to help students become young subject specialists and has two main purposes: to teach students the vital skills needed to achieve their full potential, and to demonstrate how History relates to the wider world.



Have your say!

At WPT we're always looking for feedback. If you have any thoughts/opinions on this Curriculum Newsletter, its content or the curriculum in general, please click on the title to fill out a short feedback form.