

## **Raising aspirations – History**

At Ormiston Bushfield Academy, we believe that History isn't just about dates and events—it's about understanding people, choices, and change. By studying History, students gain vital skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication, preparing them for careers in law, media, business, and beyond. It teaches resilience, perspective, and the ability to make informed decisions in a complex world. Knowing where we've come from helps shape where we're going. History gives students the confidence to create their own future. We teach History to raise aspirations and inspire curiosity about the world. Students become detectives of the past. Scholarship is vital to appreciate that History is all around us.

### **Suggested Reading list**

#### **KS3 (years 7-9)**

**The Norman Conquest** by Marc Morris - Explores William of Normandy's campaign to invade and conquer Britain.

**Empireland** by Sathnam Sanghera – Sanghera, of Punjabi Sikh descent writes his history of how the British Empire has shaped Britain today and how other people view the British still today.

**The World's War** by David Olusoga – A sweeping narrative describing how Europe's Great War became the World's War – a multi-racial, multi-national struggle, fought in Africa, Asia and Europe.

#### **KS4 (years 10 & 11)**

**Edexcel GCSE History Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939** by Aaron Wilkes

**Edexcel GCSE History Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060-1088** by Aaron Wilkes

**Edexcel GCSE History The American West c.1835-1895** by Rob Bircher

**Edexcel GCSE History Medicine Through Time c.1250-present** by Sally Thorne & Hilary Stark

**GCSE Edexcel History For exams in 2026 and beyond** by CGP

#### **KS5 (years 12 & 13)**

**Edexcel AS/A-level History Germany and West Germany 1918-1989** by Barbara Warnock

**Edexcel AS/A-level History The Rise and Fall of Fascism in Italy c.1911-1956** by Sarah Ward and Laura Gallagher

**Fascist Italy** by John Hite and Chris Hintop

**Fascist Voices** by Christopher Duggan

**Rise to Globalism** by Stephen E. Ambrose and Douglas G. Brinkley

**Nationalism, dictatorship and democracy in 20<sup>th</sup> century Europe** by Katie Hall, Jane Shuter, Dr David Brown & Dr Ben Williams

**Poverty and Welfare 1815-1950** by Peter Murray

**Voices from the Workhouse** by Peter Higginbotham

**Poverty, inequality and health in Britain 1800-2000** edited by George Davey Smith, Daniel Dorling and Mary Shaw

**Poverty and Welfare in England, 1700-1850: A Regional Perspective** by Steven King

## Websites

**ActiveHistory** Visit [ActiveHistory](http://ActiveHistory) [[activehistory.co.uk](http://activehistory.co.uk)] - Interactive simulations, decision-making games, and self-marking quizzes that make history engaging and fun for students at all levels.

**Fascinating History TED Playlist** Explore the playlist [[ted.com](http://ted.com)] - A curated collection of TED Talks on historical topics, ideal for sparking curiosity and discussion across all key stages.

**BBC History** Visit [BBC History](http://BBC History) [[medium.com](http://medium.com)] - Offers detailed articles, interactive timelines, and quizzes on a wide range of historical topics.

**BBC Teach** [KS2 / KS3 / KS4 / GCSE History: 1066 and the Norman Conquest](#) - BBC Teach

## Podcasts

**You're Dead to Me** [Listen Here](#) [[thehistory...writer.com](http://thehistory...writer.com)] - Hosted by Greg Jenner (creator of *Horrible Histories*), this podcast mixes humour with historical insight.

**The Rest is History** [Listen Here](#) [[podcastreview.org](http://podcastreview.org)] - A popular British podcast by historians Tom Holland and Dominic Sandbrook, covering diverse topics from ancient empires to modern events.

**Stuff You Missed in History Class** [Listen Here](#) [[historyskills.com](http://historyskills.com)] - Explores fascinating, lesser-known stories from history in an accessible way.

## Films

### KS4

**1917** - World War I drama following two young British soldiers tasked with delivering a critical message to stop a doomed attack, racing against time across enemy territory.

**The Enigma Machine** - World War II thriller set in Bletchley Park, where British codebreakers race to crack the German Enigma code while navigating espionage, betrayal, and personal intrigue.

**All Quiet on the Western Front** - is a powerful anti-war drama that follows a young German soldier's harrowing experiences on the front lines during World War I.

**War Horse** - tells the story of a young man and his beloved horse, separated by World War I, as the horse embarks on an extraordinary journey through the battlefields of Europe

### KS5

**Hitler, The Rise of Evil** – this film explores Adolf Hitler's rise and his early consolidation of power during the years after the First World War and focuses on how the embittered, politically fragmented and economically buffeted state of German society following the war made that ascent possible.

**I, Daniel Blake** – the story of Daniel Blake, a middle-aged man who is denied Employment and Support Allowance despite being declared unfit to work by his doctor. Whilst struggling against the system he meets Katie, a struggling single mother who, through their shared experiences of poverty form a unique bond.