

Understanding the past is crucial in beginning to understand the world we currently live in. This applies in the context of personal, local, national and global history. By exploring the themes of power and authority, change in society, migration, and resistance, students at Skinners' Academy will be well equipped to better understand the world in which they find themselves. They will be able to make comparisons between the topics they have studied and the world as it is today and reach meaningful and well-considered conclusions. The areas pupils study have been deliberately selected to be relevant, and where possible relatable to our pupils, so that the past becomes less 'foreign' to them. Where content is not relatable, we must try to make it so. In turn this will help to engender a sense of respect not only for the people from the past they have studied, but also the people they will come into contact with in and beyond school.

Fundamental to this is the ability to explain why things happen. This is distinct from simply 'storytelling' and requires pupils to think deeply about the relationship between cause and effect, as well as between and across causes. Likewise, analysing the significance of individual events, discoveries, people and organisations demands pupils to reach and justify carefully considered judgements. Finally, studying history presents pupils with the unique challenge of using evidence, both primary and secondary. In a world in which misinformation is more widespread and available than ever before, pupils have to get to grips with the idea that not all evidence is of the same quality and will be able to explore the reasons behind this. By studying history, we hope all pupils will develop a sense of curiosity, an ability to justify their opinions, and a willingness to challenge both the evidence they are presented with, and the views of others.

