



SUCCESSFUL
LEARNERS

Have high aspirations and **work hard**
Embrace **challenges** and celebrate **success**



CONFIDENT
INDIVIDUALS

Show resilience and **learn** from mistakes
Find your **voice** and **believe** in yourself



RESPONSIBLE
CITIZENS

Show respect and **kindness** to all
Celebrate **diversity** and **empower** others

Timeline of events and support

Event	Method of delivery/summary of event
Careers interviews / support. Term 2	Individual pupil career meetings, with a member of the careers team.
Progression Day for all Year 9 pupils. Tuesday 29th January	Progression day for pupils focusing on careers and the progression process. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An employability and skills workshop • Presentations on T Levels and Apprenticeships
Options Parents' Evening for parents / carers and pupils. Thursday 29th January, 4-7pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One to one appointments with non-options subjects • Options presentation • Individual subject information with subject teachers • Career advisors available for guidance • Presentations from colleges about post 16 pathways
Teaching staff to share key information on KS4 courses	Short presentations during lessons to help pupils understand the courses they might opt for. A chance to ask teachers questions to help them to make decisions.
Options forms emailed home. February 13th	Options form sent out as online form to complete.
Submission of Options forms 3pm on Friday 6th March	Options form submitted online. Further instructions to follow.



successful learners

who make
outstanding
progress, achieve
outstanding
academic results and
are ready to meet
the challenges of
lifelong learning and
the world of work.



confident individuals

who are fully
engaged in the life
of the school and
are able to live safe,
healthy and
fulfilling lives.



responsible citizens

who are able to
make a positive
contribution to
life in Modern
Britain and
beyond.

GCSE:

The qualification involves studying the theory of a subject, some subjects have controlled assessments as part of the criteria. GCSE grades are awarded from 9 to 1, grade 9 is the top grade awarded.

All GCSE courses are now tested at the end of the course.

Vocational Qualifications:

We also offer the opportunity to complete Vocational qualifications. These include qualifications provided through:

- BTEC
- OCR National

Each Vocational course is equivalent to 1 GCSE and is graded at Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction and Level 2 Distinction* (the top grade) Level 2 Grade 4 at GCSE is equivalent to a Level 2 Pass.

The Curriculum

English

Maths

Science

The core curriculum – no choice

Geography or
History

French or
German

Core non-
examined
subjects: PE and
Life Skills

You will make
choices about
these elements of
your curriculum.

Option A

**(5 lessons per
fortnight)**

Option B

**(5 lessons per
fortnight)**

Humanities Option

Geography or History
(5 lessons per fortnight)

Option Choices

Option A

(5 lessons per fortnight)

1st choice

Option A

Reserve choice

Option B

1st choice

Option B

(5 lessons per fortnight)

Reserve choice

There are certain subject combinations that cannot be chosen:

- **Art & Design (GCSE) and Art & Design: Textiles (vocational) cannot BOTH be selected.**
- **Computer Science GCSE and IT OCR National cannot BOTH be selected.**

- GCSE Art and Design
- GCSE Business Studies
- GCSE Computer Science
- GCSE Dance
- GCSE Drama
- GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE Separate Science
- GCSE Statistics and Further Maths
- GCSE Technology

- Vocational Art and Design: Textiles
- Vocational Health and Social Care
- Vocational in I.T.
- Vocational Music
- Vocational Sport

How to decide

Choose courses that:

- You know you can do well in.
- Reflect your interests and abilities.
- Help you to learn in the best way for you.
- Will help you to keep your options open in the future.

Don't choose courses because:

- You like the teacher (or reject courses because you don't like him/her).
- Your friends are choosing them (they are different from you and have different strengths and interests).

Read all the information available about the course; visit the website to learn more. **Talk** to teachers, form tutors and your parents/carers. **Consider** how the course will be assessed. **Check** the literacy and practical demands of the course and make sure it is right for you. **Reflect** on current effort and progress in the subject if it is one offered at KS3 by looking at your report and talking to teachers at parents' evening.

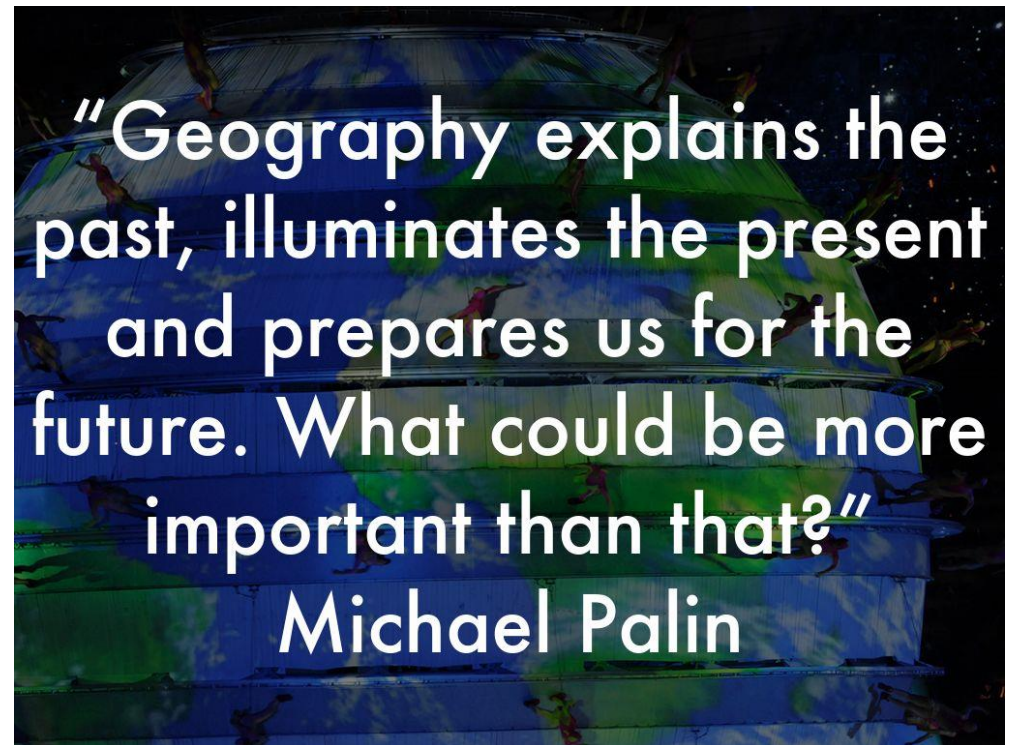


Fairfield

High School for Girls

Geography Team

- Mrs Senior – Subject Leader
- Mr Di Paola – Teacher of Geography and Deputy Headteacher
- Miss Diamandis – Teacher of Geography and Head of Year 7
- Miss Winspear – Teacher of Geography/ Head of Y10
- Mrs Roitt
- Three members of the team have also been examiners for the AQA exam board for GCSE Geography.

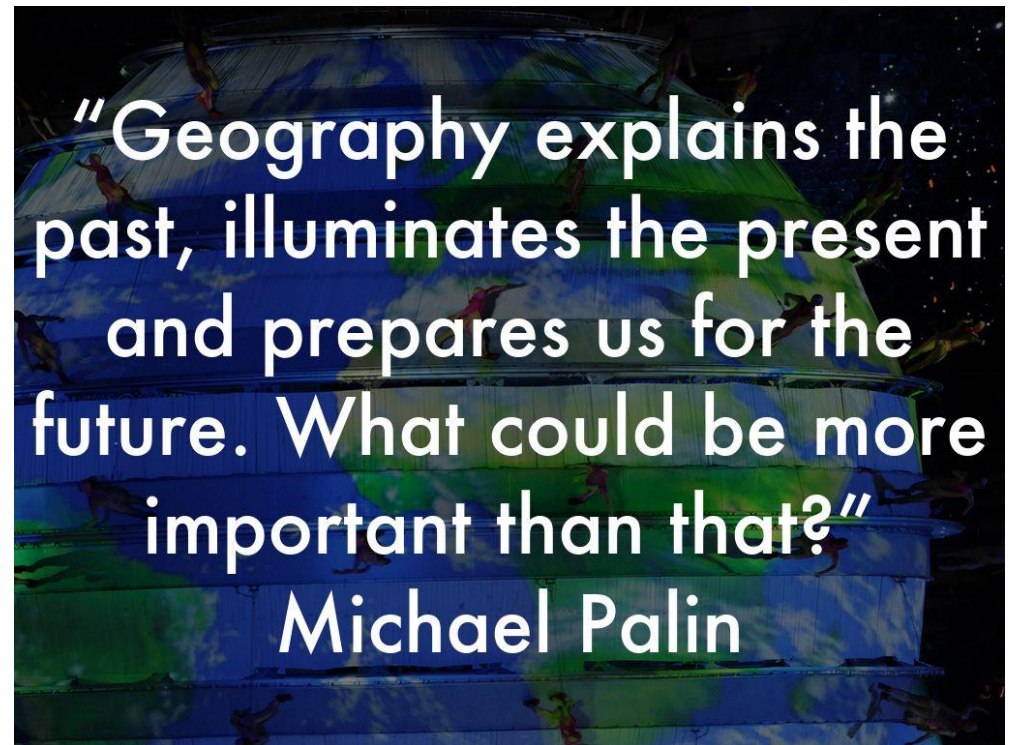


Geography Results

2025

- 7+ 29.8%
- 5+ 61.5%
- 4+ 77.9%

These are well above the national average for girls.



Why study Geography?

Geography can help young people make sense of their place in the world.

Many contemporary challenges – climate change, food security, energy choices – cannot be understood without a geographical perspective.

Thinking and decision making with geography helps us to live our lives as **knowledgeable citizens**, aware of our own local communities in a global setting.

Using maps and mediated images of people and place, numerical data and graphical modes of communication, and getting to grips with the geographic information systems (GIS) that underpin our lives, make geographers **skilful and employable**.

At the same time, studying the beauty of Earth and the awesome power of Earth-shaping forces can fascinate, **inspire** and take us out of ourselves.





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High School for Girls

Comments from Year 11

You should absolutely pick Geography! It is really interesting and there's lots of different things to learn like Rio de Janeiro, tropical storms and desertification. My love for it has made me pick it to study at college.

Geography is the best! It is really useful in everyday life. It helps you to understand the way the world works better.

You learn a lot of interesting facts about the world, covering a wide range of topics that help you to understand more about the world we live in. It's not just rivers and rocks!

**You can go on a fieldtrip.
Rainforests are fun to learn about. It's interesting and valuable to learn about current problems in the world and how we can solve them.**

Unit 1 - Living with the Physical Environment

Exam: 1hr 30mins (35% - 88 marks)

(A) The Challenge of Natural Hazards

Tectonic hazards • Weather hazards • Climate change

(B) The Living World

Ecosystems • Tropical Rainforests • Hot deserts

(C) Physical Landscapes in the UK

UK Landscapes • Coasts • Rivers



Unit 2 - Challenges in the Human Environment

Exam: 1hr 30mins (35% - 88 marks)

(A) Urban Issues and Challenges

Rio de Janeiro • Manchester • Sustainability

(B) The Changing Economic World

Development • Nigeria • Changing UK economy

(C) Challenge of Resource Management

Resource management • Energy



Unit 3 - Geographical Application and Skills

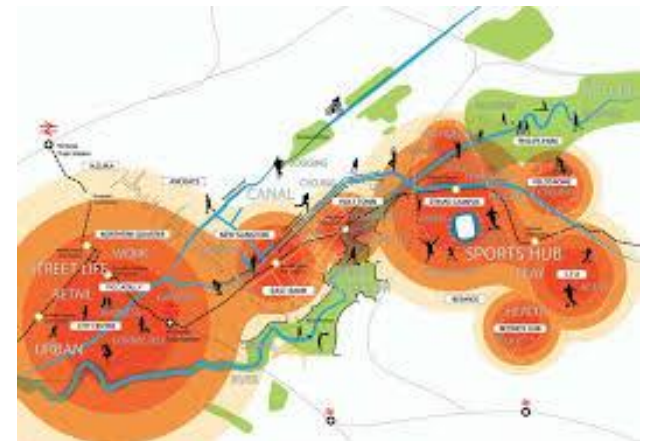
Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes. 75 marks

(A) Issue Evaluation

Pre-release booklet • March 2028

(B) Fieldwork

Urban regeneration in East Manchester and river characteristics at
Daisy Nook



How will I be assessed?

Exam Board – AQA

Exam Type – GCSE

Exam Weight – 100%

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment

Natural Hazards, The Living World, UK Landscapes

Written examination – 1 hour 30 minutes – 35% of GCSE

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

Urban Issues, Changing Economic World, Resource Management

Written examination – 1 hour 30 minutes – 35% of GCSE

Paper 3: Geographical Applications

Issue Evaluation and Fieldwork

Written examination with pre-release booklet

Written examination – 1 hour 30 minutes – 30% of GCSE



A GCSE Geography qualification will support further study in almost any subject and will accompany any other A levels well.

Geography related further study opportunities include:

- A level Geography
- A level Geology or Environmental Science
- Vocational studies such as BTEC Travel and Tourism or a Cabin Crew Diploma
- BA or MSc degrees in Geography, Physical Geography, Human Geography or Geographical Information Systems (GIS)
- An A Level in Geography is considered **a facilitating subject** and will support applications to a wide range of degrees

What are my possible career opportunities?

Geography graduates have a high rate of employment after their studies.



- cartographer
- commercial, residential or rural surveyor
- environmental manager
- exploration geologist
- facilities manager
- geographic information systems manager
- geomatics/land surveyor
- landscape architect
- nature conservation officer
- recycling officer
- tourist information officer
- town and country planner
- transportation planner
- travel agent
- waste disposal officer
- water conservation officer
- teacher

Enrichment opportunities

Geography fieldwork

Every pupil has the opportunity to carry out two pieces of fieldwork. This includes river study and a study of an urban regeneration project. We also hope to arrange optional extra visits in the future.

RGS Young Geographer of the Year Award

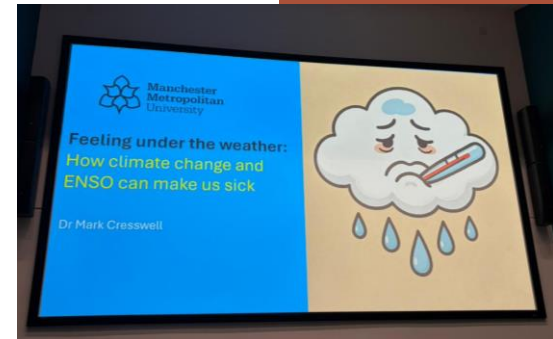
We support pupils to enter the competition. This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to show independence in researching the geography of their immediate local area.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Whilst you do not have to study Geography to participate in the DofE, the skills you use in Geography and in DofE really overlap.

University lectures

Attending lectures by professors at leading universities aimed at GCSE and A Level pupils on various topics such as natural disasters or rebranding Manchester, hosted by the Manchester Branch of the Geographical Association.



For more information regarding Geography GCSE, please
contact: Mrs Senior

ssenior@fairfieldhighschool.co.uk



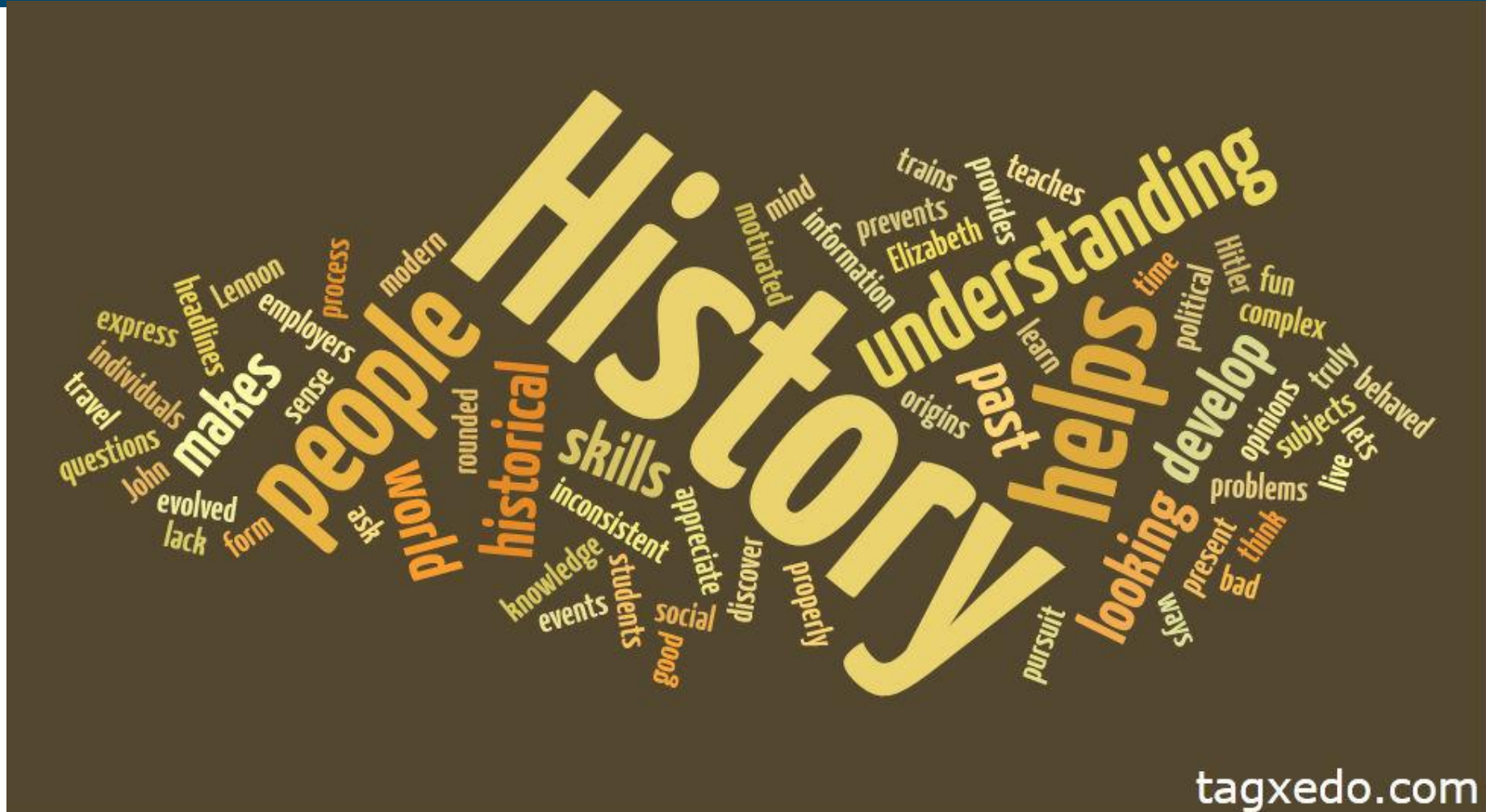
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GCSE HISTORY



History Team

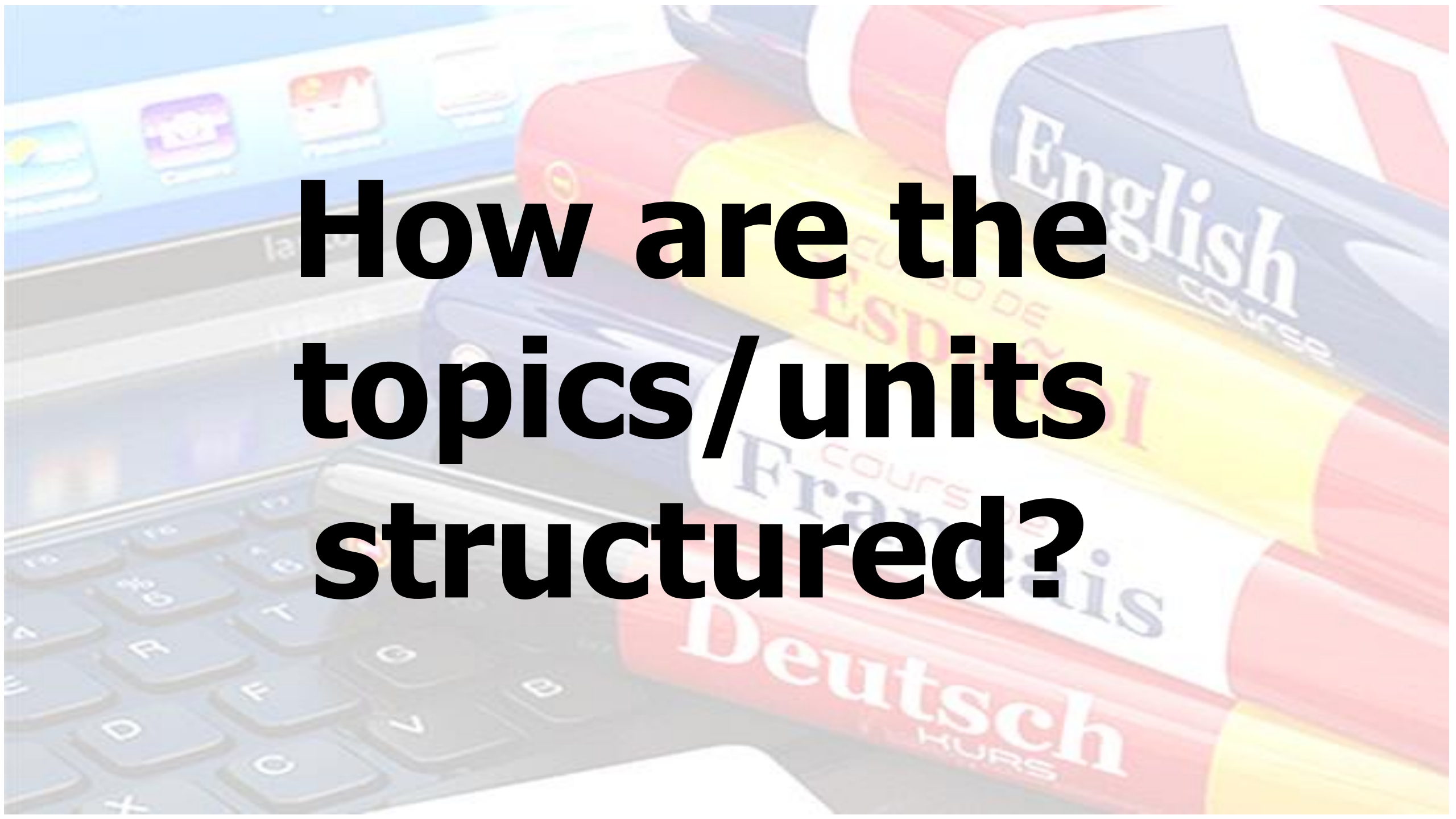
We achieve superb exam results with our pupils. All three members of the team are also Edexcel examiners which gives us additional expertise.

Mr Calland – Subject Leader for History

Mrs Rasul – Teacher of History

Mrs Gardner- Teacher of History (maternity leave)

Miss Lowe – Teacher of History



**How are the
topics / units
structured?**

How are the topics/units structured?

- Knowledge and understanding
- Explain and evaluate events
- Analyse sources
- Make judgements on interpretations



Key units:

Paper 1

Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British Sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment & trenches.

Paper 2

Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88.

Period study option: The American West, c1835–c1895.

Paper 3

Modern depth study: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39.

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a person's hands writing on a piece of paper with a pen. The person is wearing a white shirt. The background is out of focus, showing other people in a classroom or office setting. The text 'How will I be assessed?' is overlaid in a large, bold, black font.

**How will I be
assessed?**

How will I be assessed?

Exam Board – Edexcel

Exam Type – GCSE

Exam Weight – 100%

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment

Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes.

30% of the qualification.

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes.

40% of the qualification.

Paper 3: Modern depth study

Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes.

30% of the qualification.



75% grades 9-4 in GCSE History
(12% above the national average).

38% grades 9-7 in GCSE History
(14% above the national average).



What pathways could I follow after Year 11?

GCSE History provides valuable transferrable skills. It is a great basis for many A Level subjects and it is highly regarded by colleges, universities and employers. Many Fairfield girls go on to study A level History as they have enjoyed it so much at GCSE level.

Students who have studied history often study A Level qualifications in subjects such as English, Politics, Economics and Sociology.



**What are my
possible career
opportunities?**





- Many people working in law, accountancy, the police force, politics, local government and journalism have studied history because of the skills that can be developed in analysing information, reasoning and arguing your point.
- There are also many areas more directly related to history, such as travel and tourism, archaeology, museums and libraries, the media industry, government research and, of course, history teaching.

What our Y11's think about History!

History is my favourite subject because it has helped my critical thinking skills, my ability to express my opinion, and is ultimately just a very interesting and well taught lesson that you should definitely choose! *Olive*

I developed an interest in history in Year 9, and I have enjoyed it ever since. I'm really glad I chose it for my GCSEs because I still really enjoy it. My teacher has provided constant feedback and support, which helps me improve all the time. Overall I have loved studying history! *Sondus*

I enjoy history because it lets me see how the world I live in was shaped by real people, choices, and moments that still effect the way we live today. It's also very interesting and eye-opening to learn about issues of the past.

Mia

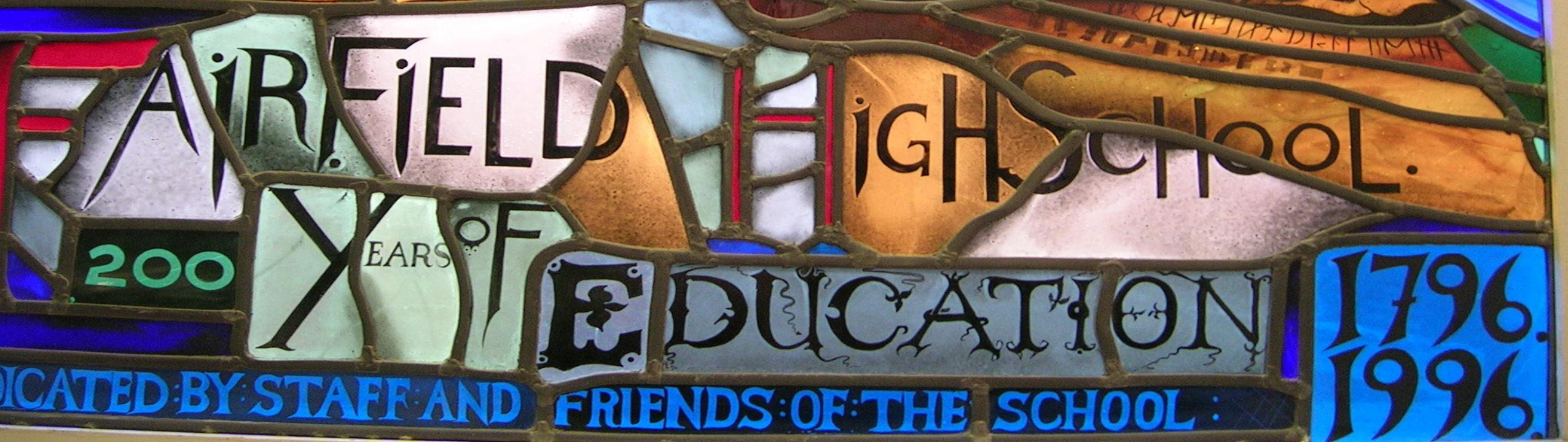
I chose History due to its wide curriculum content. MY favourite topic is Medicine Through Time. I've loved learning about how the past has affected the present and how everything we take for granted has been discovered. *Hollie*



Thank you!

For more information regarding History GCSE,
please contact:

- Mr Calland (Subject leader for History)
- rcalland@fairfieldhighschool.co.uk



Remember to help you child to select a balanced curriculum, reflecting her strengths, interests and future aspirations.

Progression Forms must be submitted online by 3pm on Friday 6th March.

