

Humanities

History

At Thames Valley School, we provide a history curriculum that encourages pupils to think critically about the past and to see the links to the world around them. Our lessons take history out of the textbook and encourage our pupils to actively engage in structured debates, theories, and ideas that shape our understanding of the past. We aim for pupils studying history to develop a positive and passionate curiosity about the world; to want to learn more and to be unafraid to ask questions.

For our pupils, gaining an understanding the world around them is vital. By studying history, pupils are supported to understand the factors, features, and events that shape their society, community, and culture. Pupils at Thames Valley School can expect to learn a wide variety of insightful topics that have had both local and global consequences.

We strive to ensure every pupil has the measures and supportive strategies they need to access every element of our history curriculum. We understand that every pupil has differing needs, strengths and challenges and these are considered in their lessons. The skills our pupils can expect to access in history may need specialised and tailored support which is vital to developing and cultivating a positive learning mindset.

Geography

Geography at Thames Valley School aims to provide pupils with the skills they need to understand and make a difference to the world around them, not just to the physical, but also to their local and global communities they find themselves a part of. Our lessons give pupils the opportunity to learn and develop a range of practical skills; to help them tackle the challenges our world is facing, and to act on their ideas and solutions.

We strive to give our pupils the tools they need to make a difference and contribute to the world; to build the world they want to see and live in.

Learning about geography is never just limited to the classroom, geography is everywhere! Visits to local rivers and urban orienteering is not limited to our Key Stage 4 pupils but is integral to the foundation of knowledge and skills pupils can expect to gain. The playground is also an excellent place to start with looking at how seasonal and weather conditions change how it looks, to planning a strategy to respond to volcanic eruptions, and building the necessary skills to engage in their local urban environment and the people who inhabit it.

Pupils are able to participate in both Entry Level and GCSE qualifications in Humanities, to ensure that they are able to access the pathway that is right for them and achieve the necessary skills to support their next steps after school.