



# St Benedict's Catholic School

*The Catholic Secondary School for West Suffolk*

## HISTORY CURRICULUM GUIDE

Students will study two topics in the autumn term: 1) The Tudor Dynasty and 2) Life in Tudor England. Lessons will be structured around enquiry questions.

### Year 8 Autumn

#### The Tudor Dynasty

- What was the Battle of Bosworth?
- What problems did Henry VII face?
- What was the significance of Henry VII's reign?
- How much of a threat was Perkin Warbeck to Henry VII?
- Why did Henry VIII marry six times?
- Why did Henry VIII want to break away from Rome?
- What changes did Edward VI make to the Church?
- Bloody Mary or Misunderstood?
- What did Elizabeth I look like and she portrayed in portraits?
- What problems did Elizabeth I face?
- Why did the Spanish Armada fail?

**Assessment:** 'The Tudors: Religion and Problems'. Grades and targets for the assessment should be recorded on the student's record sheet, in the front of their exercise book.

#### Life in Tudor England

- Were the poor really poor?
- Why were people poor?
- Were the rich really rich?
- How much crime was there in Tudor England and how were people punished?
- How did people dress in Tudor England?
- How did people enjoy themselves in Tudor England?
- How hygienic were people in Tudor England and how were they treated when they were ill?
- What was life like in a Tudor manor house?
- How did the Tudors celebrate Christmas?

**Assessment:** Life in Tudor England. Grades for the test should be recorded on the student's record sheet, in the front of their exercise book.

**Homework:** Students can expect to be set one piece of homework per week. Tasks may include research, reading or writing.

Students will study two topics in the spring term: The English Civil War and Witchcraft. Lessons will be structured around enquiry questions.

## Year 8 Spring

### English Civil War

What were the long-term causes of the war?  
What were the short-term causes of the war?  
What were the two sides in the Civil War?  
What was life like during the Civil War?  
How was the New Model Army organised?  
Why were the Royalists defeated at Marston Moor?  
Did Charles I deserve to be sentenced to death?  
What were the events leading up to and including Charles I's execution?

**Assessment:** Project on the English Civil War

### Witchcraft

Why did people believe in witches?  
Why were there witch hunts?  
Were witch trials fair?  
What made the witch craze possible?  
What happened during the witch craze in the local area?  
Was the witch craze part of a wider European phenomenon?  
What happened at the Salem witch trials?

**Assessment:** Project on witchcraft

**Homework:** Students can expect to be set one piece of homework per week which may involve research, reading or writing.

Students will cover two units of work during the summer term: **First Half Term**

## Year 8 Summer

### WWII (Home Front)

What were the causes of WWII?  
Dunkirk: Triumph or Disaster?  
How did Churchill manage to win the Battle of Britain?  
What was life like for ordinary people during WWII? (Rationing, Evacuation, the Blitz)

**Assessment:** Project on the Home Front

Where was JFK assassinated?  
What weapon was used in the assassination?  
Who killed JFK?

Why was Jack Ruby murdered?

What evidence is there to suggest there was more than one gunman?

Who may have wanted JFK to be assassinated?

**Assessment:** News report on the assassination of JFK