History at Malmesbury

We follow the **edexcel** specification for History and our 4 topics are as follows

In year 12

- From Lenin to Yeltsin, the USSR from 1917 to 1991: 30% of final A level
- Mao's China; 1949-76: 20%

Both of these topics look at the reality of communism in these 2 countries, it's not pretty to be honest! You will see how the promise of equality and freedom got completely corrupted into a nightmare of control, abuse and the leaders' wish to hold on to power no matter what the cost. We look at the impact of this on all aspects of life, the economy and on ordinary people and even on things like culture and the young. For the Russia topic you will also look at how communism unravelled spectacularly in the early 1990s and how the great Soviet Union collapsed like a giant souffle.

In year 13

- Coursework, you get to decide what it is on from a list of 6 options. It is all about how historians disagree with each other on the same event, so really good for making you realise that history is what people say it is, and not necessarily the actual truth! 20% of final A level

- The Yorkists, Lancastrians and Henry Tudor, from 1399 to 1509. This is our oldest topic, obviously, and even though it will appear strange to begin with after so much 20th century history you will soon realise that people are people no matter what time they are in living in and it is just the same issues of power, corruption, selfishness and infighting and all the other problems that stop humanity from being better!!!! 30%

History is always a very popular subject with either 2 or 3 groups in both year 12 and 13. We also have an annual trip in July to Berlin which we have run for about 10 years now (although obviously not this year in covid times, fingers crossed we are alright for 2022!)

At the end of the day, we love history and if you love it too, or you think you might, then this could be a good option for you. Not going to lie to you, you need to be happy to write as it is an essay based subject, but if that fills you with zero horror then welcome aboard. Because there is no sixth form open evening as normal, it might feel harder to make your choices. What we always say is that you need to do what you enjoy and what you are best at. If you feel like you need to talk about it before you make your mind up, speak to your history teacher or to me, Miss Creaton.