

NEWSLETTER

THE INDUSTRIAL

Year 8 Explore Somerset's Industrial Past

On Tuesday 14 October, Year 8 students took part in a special *Local History Industrial Revolution Day* exploring how Somerset's industries have shaped our communities. The event, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, was run in partnership with Mrs Alison Horgan from the Red Brick Building in Glastonbury - once home to the Morlands sheepskin factory and now a thriving community centre.

This event built directly on the work Year 8 have been doing in Term 1, studying the Industrial Revolution and the growth of the British Empire. Students have explored how rapid industrial and technological change between 1750 and 1900 transformed Britain's economy, cities, and global influence.

The Local History Day gave them the chance to see how these national and international developments were reflected right here in Somerset - in the factories, farms, and workshops that shaped local lives.

Throughout the morning, students investigated the industries that powered Somerset's past - from brickmaking in Bridgwater and mining in Radstock to shoemaking in Street, and textiles and rope making in Castle Cary and Shepton Mallet.

Students also explored the famous food production of Cheddar and the historic trades linked to Glastonbury Abbey.

Working with maps, objects, and oral histories, students discovered how the Industrial Revolution transformed everyday life in our county and connected rural Somerset to wider trade networks across the Empire.

Mrs Horgan led an engaging introduction and highlighted the significance of Morlands and Baily's, showing how these Glastonbury and Street factories once made sheepskin coats and slippers sold across the world.

Students examined real artefacts and photographs from the time. “It made me realise how hard people worked, even at a young age,” said one student.

Another added, "I didn't know so many local places had such an important role in history - it makes Somerset feel more interesting and special."

The morning ended with reflections in the hall, as Mr Mason encouraged students to think about how industries both large and small shaped the communities we know today. “History isn’t only about kings and battles,” he told them, “it’s also about the people, places, and stories that built the world right on our doorstep.”

This event forms part of Crispin School's THRIVE initiative, which aims to connect classroom learning with our local community, helping students understand how history, heritage, and identity are all woven into the place they call home.



History at Crispin - Term 1 Update

It has been a fantastic start to the year in History at Crispin!

Our Year 11 students have been delving into *Superpower Relations and the Cold War*, exploring the key events and tensions that shaped the modern world. Year 10 have made an impressive start to their GCSE studies with *Medicine in Britain c1250–present*, tracing how medical understanding developed from the Medieval period through to the Renaissance.

In Lower School, Year 9 have been investigating the dramatic *overthrow of the Tsarist Regime and the Russian Revolution*, while Year 8 have been introduced to the *British Empire* and the *Industrial Revolution*, discovering how these shaped society and global connections.

Our newest historians in Year 7 have settled brilliantly into life at Crispin by exploring *Nursery Rhymes through time* - uncovering the surprising historical stories hidden behind some of their favourite childhood songs.

Mr Mason, Dr Clarke, Miss Wyatt and Mr Boddy are all incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, curiosity and effort shown by students across all year groups this term. It's been wonderful to see so many young historians engaging thoughtfully with the past and demonstrating a real passion for learning. The team have also been really pleased with the excellent attendance and commitment shown by Year 11 students at after-school revision sessions, demonstrating real determination in preparation for their upcoming assessments.

As we look ahead to Term 2, students can look forward to building on their learning with new topics and exciting enquiries. For our Year 11 GCSE students, the focus will also turn to PPE mock exams, providing a valuable opportunity to showcase their growing knowledge and exam skills. The History team are confident that students will continue to work hard and achieve great success.



Act of Remembrance - Tuesday 11th November 2025



On Tuesday 11 November, Crispin School will hold an Act of Remembrance to mark Armistice Day and to honour those who have served and continue to serve in the armed forces and emergency services.

The event will take place at 11:00am, when the whole school will pause in classrooms to observe the traditional two-minute silence as a mark of respect and reflection.

Students who are members of the cadet forces are welcome to wear their cadet uniforms on the day as part of the commemoration, and they will also take part in a short service held in the school grounds.

This important occasion allows our school community to come together in remembrance and gratitude, reflecting on the courage, service, and sacrifice of others.

It is a valued opportunity for students and staff alike to show respect, unity, and appreciation for those who have dedicated themselves to the safety and wellbeing of others, both past and present.



Sturnus Soar to Victory in the Black History Month House Competition



The Black History Month House Competition celebrated key figures in Black History through a quiz at the start of every history lesson, with up to 50 points available per student.

Sturnus House came first with 3,470 points, followed by Corvus 2,740, Tyto 2,130, and Falco 1,940.

The results highlight each house's enthusiasm and teamwork in honouring the achievements of influential Black figures.

History Enrichment Opportunities

The History Department is delighted to share details of several exciting enrichment opportunities taking place over the coming months, offering students valuable experiences to deepen their understanding of the past beyond the classroom.

In **December**, our **Year 11** students will take part in a *GCSE History Christmas Quiz* as part of one of their Upgrade sessions. This lively, festive event will challenge students' knowledge across key topics such as Medicine Through Time, Elizabethan England, and the Cold War.

With rounds like "Beat the Teacher" and the "Christmas Chilli Challenge," the quiz promises to be both educational and fun - with prizes to be won for the highest-scoring teams!

In **February**, **Year 8** students will visit *Bristol's M Shed Museum* to take part in a workshop on *Bristol and the Transatlantic Traffic in Enslaved Africans*. This trip, closely linked to the History curriculum, will give students a chance to engage with the city's rich and complex past through museum exhibits, guided activities, and expert-led discussions.



Looking ahead to the **Summer Term 2026**, some of our **Year 9** students will have the opportunity to take part in an *overseas school trip to Krakow, Poland*. The itinerary includes visits to Krakow's Old Town, Schindler's Factory Museum, Auschwitz-Birkenau, and the Wieliczka Salt Mines. This powerful and thought-provoking trip will help students explore the impact of World War II and the Holocaust, deepening their appreciation of European history and remembrance.

These enrichment activities reflect our ongoing commitment to providing engaging, meaningful, and memorable learning experiences for our students.

