**Y8 Parents Information Evening – History**

*“Discovery favours the well-prepared mind”.*

Good evening,

Committing knowledge to long-term memory is a vital part of your child’s success in education.

Try memorising the following sixteen digits – ‘4871947503858604’.

Now try memorising the following sixteen letters – ‘The cat is on the mat’.

I would hazard a guess memorising the letters exactly was a lot easier, why? Consider the bank cards you carry right now. Isn’t easier to remember the P.I.N. when it is the year you were born?

I suggest the answer is that you have attached meaning from your long-term memory. The sixteen digits were ordered in an unexpected way, as were the sixteen letters. But you had the meaning of the words stored in your long-term memory. You had the knowledge of how to pronounce the letters when grouped into words in your long-term memory.

The human brain can hold three-four things simultaneously in ‘working memory’. *“What’s this got to do with us?”* Well helping students commit information to their long term memory will be vital if they are to be successful in their final end of year 11 exams. *“Bit soon to bang on about Y11 Mr. Scruby*?” Not so! Building a long-term memory takes a long time. In history, their long-term memory will be having a sense of the past. This means knowing when things happen, in which order and details of the different time periods.

*“What can we do about it?”* Encourage your children to read, be strict with them when it comes to completing home works, and take them to historical sites. The more your children know about the past, the more prepared they’ll be when it comes to discovering new ideas about our ancestors.

Below I set out some useful resources and advice.

1. Find a copy of the following **text books** for your child to access at home. ‘Changing Minds 1500-1750’ (Think Through History) and ‘Minds and Machines 1750-1900’ (Think Through History). These can be purchased second hand for only a few pounds online. This will be the book used for home works. Black and white photocopies/ electronic PDFs will be available for those without the book at home.
2. Visit any site with a link to the Tudors, Stuarts right up to the end of the Victoran era, that is between c.1500-1901. Lewes has its very own **Priory Ruins**, and rich industrial history with the **railway**, Phoenix **Foundry**/ or **Iron Works**! **Anne of Cleeves House** is a good visit too. Further, there is of course **Brighton’s Pavilion/ Museum** and currently being refurbished is the ‘**British Engineerium**’ in Hove. Also, just past Chichester is the **Weald and Downland Open Air Museum** where you get to snoop around really old houses and see how people lived. The **Historic Dockyards** at Portsmouth is well worth a visit with the Mary Rose, The Victory and The Warrior. Find yourself in London and there is **The Globe Theatre, St. Paul’s Cathedral** and **The Museum of London**. If you’re lucky enough, go to the **Houses of Parliament** for a tour! <http://www.parliament.uk/visiting/visiting-and-tours/tours-of-parliament/>
3. Encourage the **reading** of historical fiction, or fact. I attach the recommended reads for the first two terms at the end of this hand out. [**https://padlet.com/LearningHistory/Y8**](https://padlet.com/LearningHistory/Y8) is where you’ll find further recommendations.

We look forward to working together over the next four years.

Kindest Regards,

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Term 1** | **Aspiring readers;** | **Advanced readers;** |
| **Recommended read** – Historical Fiction | ‘Treason’ (2011) by Berlie Doherty. | ‘Wolf Hall’ (2009) and ‘Bring up the bodies’ (2012) by Hilary Mantel. |
| **Recommended read** – Historical Fact | ‘Terrifying Tudors’ (2015) by Terry Deary | ‘How to be a Tudor: A Dawn-to-Dusk Guide to Everyday Life’ (2016) by Ruth Goodman |
| **Term 2** |  | |
| **Recommended read** – Historical Fiction | ‘Hugo’ (2015) by Meg Miller. |  |
| **Recommended read** – Historical Fact | ‘Slimy Stuarts’ (2007) by Terry Deary. |  |
| **Recommended TV** doc. | * Tudor Monastery Farm (BBC Two) * Tales from the Greene Valley (BBC Two) | |
| **Recommended TV** sit.com | * Blackadder II (BBC) | |