**Y9 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. ‘Minds and Machines 1750-1900’ (Think Through History) and ‘Modern Minds 20th Century’ (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 from the 20th Century. Find yourself in London and there is **Imperial War Museum**, **Churchill War Rooms** and **HMS Belfast**. Also **The Museum of London** now has an exhibition on the 20th Century. If you’re fortunate enough, go to France and Belgium to visit the **Battlefields of the 1stWW**.
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/Y9**](https://padlet.com/LearningHistory/Y9) is where you’ll find further recommendations.

We look forward to working together (hopefully) over the next three years.

Kindest Regards,

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| **Term 1** | **Aspiring readers;** | **Average readers;** | **Advanced readers;** |
| **Recommended read** – Historical Fiction | ‘No Buts, Becky!’ (2013) by Jose Patterson | ‘Titanic: the Long Night’ (1998) by Diane Hoh. | ‘Fall of Giants’ (2011) by Ken Follet. |
| **Recommended read** – Historical Fact | ‘Vile’ or ‘Villainous Victorians’ by Terry Deary. | ‘How to be a Victorian’ (2014) by Ruth Goodman. | ‘The Making of Modern Britain’ (2009) by Andrew Marr. Part One: Living the Future. |
| **Recommended TV** doc. | ‘Edwardian Farm’, (2010-11) by BBC Two. | | |
| **Recommended TV** film(s). | ‘Titanic’ (1997) or ‘Suffragette’ (2015). | | |
| **Recommended TV** Drama. | ‘Downton Abbey, series 1’ (2011) | | |

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| **Term 2** | **Aspiring readers;** | | **Average readers;** | | **Advanced readers;** |
| **Recommended read** – Historical Fiction | ‘Private Peaceful’ (2004) by Michael Morpurgo. | | ‘The Forshadowing’, (2014) Marcus Sedgwick. | | ‘Fall of Giants’ (2011) by Ken Follet. |
| **Recommended read** – Historical Fact | ‘Frightful First World War’ by Terry Deary | ‘Line of Fire: Diary of an Unknown Soldier’, (2014) by Barroux and Ardizzone. | | ‘Great Britain’s Great War’ (2014) by Jeremy Paxman. | |
| **Recommended TV** doc. | ‘Britain’s Great War, with Jeremy Paxman’ (2014-15) by BBC One. | | | | |
| **Recommended TV** film | ‘Warhorse’ (2011) | | | | |
| **Recommended TV** sit.com. | ‘Blackadder goes forth’, (1989) | | | | |
| **Recommended TV** Drama. | ‘Downton Abbey, series 2’ (2012) | | | | |