



**'Bridging the Gap'**

**A LEVEL HISTORY**





## Preparation for Sixth Form History

The History A level course does not depend upon prior knowledge. Indeed, it is likely that the topics studied will be wholly unfamiliar and completely different to those studied at GCSE or iGCSE. Some students take A level History without having even taken GCSE.

The A level course taken by the majority of all students (and most suitable for most, but not necessarily all, newcomers to Taunton School) is billed as a Late Modern course but this does not mean C20th apart from the British history unit; the French and German history involved spans the years 1774-1919. No topics repeat iGCSE so it will all be fresh and new.

Although lack of familiarity with the topics and time periods is not an issue, it will certainly do no harm to do some advance preparation; to this purpose, an extensive list of resources, written, audio and visual is provided (see separate Reading List). As the topics to be studied initially will be the French Revolution and Napoleon and the British history units (basically Churchill to Blair), it might make sense to focus on these.

It would be sensible to make some brief notes as an aide memoire so that you do not forget what you have learned. However, acquiring a general 'feel' for the topics and the period in which they are set is also important, hence the inclusion of fiction and films among the History Reading List.

Those considering the Early Modern course will need to make a far greater leap back in time to a world that was not, unlike that of the Late course, recognisably modern. The resource lists reflect that: there is, for example, less visual (film) material and, of course, none of it is 'real' as cameras did not exist. There is also the backdrop of religion to a far greater extent than in the Late course. Acquiring a 'feel' for the Early period is likely to take a little longer than with the Late course.

If you are unsure which course to go for, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Mr Chatterton or another History teacher.