

## History GCSE at Bishop Challoner

There are many fun ways to get ahead and engage with the history GCSE over the summer. This document will provide you with some suggestions for things you could do on your own or with your family or friends which are fun and informative for everyone.

### Topics of study at GCSE:

Germany, 1918 – 1939

Elizabethan England, 1558 – 1588

The Cold War, 1941 – 1991

Crime and Punishment, c.1000 – present day, with a focus on Whitechapel c.1870 – c.1890.

### Places to visit

**Birmingham Back-to-Backs:** Located in Birmingham near the Hippodrome and owned by the National Trust, the Back-to-Backs are a fantastic opportunity to get to grips with living conditions in the Industrial Revolution. *Supports the Crime & Punishment: Whitechapel unit.*

**Birmingham Museum:** Located in Birmingham in Victoria Square, look out for the world-class exhibits on the Staffordshire Hoard and the history of Birmingham. Free entry. *Supports Crime & Punishment unit.*

**Coughton Court:** An imposing Tudor house set in beautiful gardens with a collection of Catholic treasures. Located in Warwickshire and owned by the National Trust. *Supports Elizabethan England unit.*

**Ironbridge Gorge Museums:** Located in Shropshire, this collection of museums offers fascinating insight into life in the Industrial Revolution. *Supports Crime & Punishment unit.*

**Kenilworth Castle:** Located in Warwickshire, this castle was owned by Elizabeth I's favourite courtier, Robert Dudley. *Supports Elizabethan England unit.*

**Moseley Old Hall:** An atmospheric Elizabethan farmhouse containing a priesthole where Charles II hid from Cromwell's troops in the Civil War. *Supports Elizabethan England unit.*

**Packwood House:** A restored Tudor house in Warwickshire, National Trust owned. *Supports Elizabethan England unit.*

**The Jack the Ripper Tour, London:** Available to book from [www.jack-the-ripper-tour.com](http://www.jack-the-ripper-tour.com), experienced guides take visitors around the Jack the Ripper crime scenes. *Supports Crime & Punishment: Whitechapel unit.*

**The Peaky Blinders Tour, Birmingham:** Available to book from [www.peakytours.com](http://www.peakytours.com), local historian Prof. Carl Chinn takes visitors around the haunts of the real Peaky Blinders gang. *Supports Crime & Punishment unit.*

### Films to watch

**13 Days (2000):** Starring Kevin Costner, a fictionalised account of the Kennedy administration's struggle to contain the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962. *Supports Cold War unit.*

**Animal Farm (1953):** Based on the events of the 1917 Russian Revolution, a successful farmyard revolution goes horribly wrong as the victors create a new tyranny among themselves. *Supports Cold War unit.*

**Atomic Blonde (2017):** Spy thriller set in 1989 Berlin. *Supports Cold War Unit.*

**Beverly Hills Cop (1984):** A freewheeling Detroit cop pursuing a murder investigation finds himself dealing with the very different culture of Beverly Hills. *Supports Crime & Punishment unit.*

**Comrades (1986):** The story of the Tolpuddle Martyrs, a group of 19th century English farm labourers who formed one of the first trade unions. *Supports Crime & Punishment unit.*

**Crimson Tide (1995):** On a US nuclear missile sub, a young first officer stages a mutiny to prevent his trigger-happy captain from launching his missiles. *Support Cold War unit.*

**Elizabeth (1998):** Starring Cate Blanchett, a film of the early years of the reign of Elizabeth I. *Supports Elizabeth unit.*

**Elizabeth: The Golden Age (2007):** Sequel to 'Elizabeth', a mature Queen Elizabeth deals with an assassination plot, the Spanish Armada and romantic disappointments. *Supports Elizabeth unit.*

**Good Night and Good Luck (2005):** A broadcast journalist looks to bring down Senator Joseph McCarthy. *Supports Cold War unit.*

**Hitler: The Rise of Evil (2003):** Two-part drama starring Robert Carlyle which tells the story of Hitler's youth up until he becomes Chancellor of Germany. *Supports Germany unit.*

**The Man From U.N.C.L.E. (2015):** Spy thriller set in the early 1960s, involving a CIA agent and KGB operative who are forced to work together in a joint mission. *Support Cold War unit.*

....And more! There are many films on the Cold War, lots of police TV shows and plenty of documentaries about the Nazis to get your teeth into!

## Books to read

**Animal Farm, by George Orwell:** Based on the events of the 1917 Russian Revolution, a successful farmyard revolution goes horribly wrong as the victors create a new tyranny among themselves. *Supports Cold War unit. Try also '1984' by same author.*

**Blind Justice, by Bruce Alexander:** Falsely charged of theft in 1768 London, thirteen year-old orphan Jeremy Proctor is recruited into the Bow Street Runners to help find London's most wicked crimes. *Supports Crime & Punishment unit.*

**Elizabeth I: Red Rose of the House of Tudor, England, 1544, by Kathryn Lasky:** A fictional diary of the young Elizabeth. *Supports Elizabeth unit.*

**Horrible Histories:** Slimy Stuarts: Bombs & Broomsticks; Vile Victorians: Crime & Punishment; Gorgeous Georgians: Heroes & Villains; Terrible Tudors: Bad Bess; Silly Chilly Cold War. *Relevant for a range of topics.*

**Sherlock Holmes, by Arthur Conan-Doyle,** is a series of short stories about the work of fictional detective Sherlock Holmes and his partner Dr John Watson, set in Victorian England. *Supports Crime & Punishment unit.*

**Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy, by John le Carre:** Features George Smiley's chess match of wills and wits with Karla, his Soviet counterpart. *Supports Cold War unit. Try also 'The Spy Who Came in From the Cold' by same author.*

**The Book Thief, by Markus Zusak,** detailing the difficulties of life in Nazi Germany. *Supports Germany unit.*

**The Hunt for Red October, by Tom Clancy:** A thrilling military fiction about the missing submarine, Red October. The Americans want her and the Russians want her back, beginning an incredible chase. *Supports Cold War unit.*

**The Other Boleyn Girl, by Philippa Gregory,** with sequels *The Queen's Fool* and *The Virgin's Lover*. Historical fiction loosely based on the life of Mary Boleyn, sister of Anne Boleyn. *Supports Elizabeth unit.*

**Witch Child, by Celia Rees:** Mary, granddaughter of a witch, keeps a diary in 1659. *Supports Crime & Punishment unit.*

## Online

### Twitter Handles:

- @CWIHP: The Cold War Project offers new perspectives and sources on the Cold War.
- @coldwarhist: Cold War history and articles.
- @Tudor\_Group: History enthusiasts interested in the daily life of Tudor people.
- @HolocaustUK: The Holocaust Education Trust seeks to educate about the Holocaust.
- @JackRipperUK: An engaging amateur handle which considers the suspects of Jack the Ripper.

### Youtube:

- 'Simple History' channel: has a playlist of informative Cold War videos.
- 'BBC Teach' channel: look for the Secondary History playlist.
- 'Mr Allsop History' channel: provides audio revision notes for history.

**Top tip:** Try typing in any of the history units into youtube to uncover a host of interesting documentaries and audiobooks, completely free.

[www.johndclare.net](http://www.johndclare.net): Modern History resources

[www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/zw4bv4j](http://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/zw4bv4j): BBC Bitesize for Edexcel History GCSE