“Historians are dangerous people. They are capable of upsetting everything. They must be directed.” Nikita Khruschev

**AS History Summer Bridging Tasks ☺**

Welcome to A Level History and congratulations on making an excellent choice of subject. We are very excited to have you on board! This pack contains all the information you need to get off to a flying start in September. Please read all the information about the exam board and the different topics you will be studying and complete the tasks attached. You will be expected to feedback what you have learned to the group when you return in September so make sure you are prepared and bring all your work with you on the first day back.

You will find a comprehensive reading list for both units 1 and 2 attached. It is not expected that you will read every single book listed from cover to cover, but the more reading you can do, the higher the chances are that you will achieve a top grade for History. Below is a selection of books that I have prioritised for you and you should aim to read as many as you can over the summer. The Very Short Introduction series provide an excellent way into any topic and it is strongly recommended that you read these. They are available on Amazon for £4.99 each and are pocket sized and very easy to read.

* ***Nelson Mandela: A Very Short Introduction, by by Elleke Boehmer***
* ***American History: A Very Short Introduction, by Paul S. Boyer***
* ***Long Walk to Freedom, by Nelson Mandela***

The following films are also worth a watch and can be bought cheaply on Amazon:

* *Cry Freedom (1987)*
* *Invictus (2010)*
* ***Mandela (2014)***

**TASKS – to be submitted on the first day in September.**

1. Read the course overview and summarise the topics and themes contained in each unit in your own words.
2. Read the timeline of events and colour code it according to which topics or themes the events refer to. Copy and complete the key below to show what is contained in each.

**USA Key** **South Africa Key**

* Theme 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Topic 1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Theme 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Topic 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Theme 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Topic 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Theme 4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Topic 4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Reagan interpretations
1. Carry out some research into the aspect of the USA at the turn of the twentieth century that you were assigned, using the internet or other materials on the reading list. You should produce detailed notes on 1-2 sides of A4 that you will bring in to use as discussion points in our first lesson. See below for a reminder of the themes.

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| **Group A:** THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE.* The main political parties and their basic beliefs and principles
* The key political individuals, especially the presidents and vice-presidents
* The political structure of the USA: a federal republic. The division of powers between the branches of government and between states and the central government.
 | **Group B:** CIVIL RIGHTS.* African – American experience and civil rights post-slavery until WW1
* Native American experience post-civil war until WW1
* The position of women and women’s suffrage movement until WW1
 | **Group C:** ECONOMIC STRENGTH.* Natural resources and primary industries
* Manufacturing industries and technology
* Transport, especially the railway boom
* The distribution of wealth
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| **Group D:** THE AMERICAN DREAM.* American values as envisaged in the Declaration of Independence
* The “frontier spirit” and “manifest destiny”
* Immigration and the “melting pot”
 | **Group E:** THE NORTH – SOUTH DIVIDE.* The impact of the Civil War
* Differences in values / economies / demographics / culture between the northern states and the southern states
* The “opening of the West”, esp. California
 | **Group F:** POPULAR CULTURE.* Popular sports and pastimes
* American music, arts and literature
* Origins of the movie industry
* The emergence and impact of mass communications
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Good luck and enjoy! ☺ If you get stuck or have any questions regarding the bridging work or anything else, please feel free to contact me using the following email address: **s.desmond@kaa.org.uk**