

**22 January 2021**

Dear Y9 Parent / Carer,

I hope you and your family are keeping well. I wanted to write to you to let you know about what year 9 historians are up to this term and to offer some relevant and interesting things for your child to watch and do, to support their learning in history.

This term, year 9 are studying the fascinating historical debate on whether Hitler ruled Nazi Germany through coercion or consent. Lessons are designed to explore various historical interpretations, such as the one attached by historian Richard Evans, introducing them to the key historical (and life) skill of evaluating contrasting interpretations before reaching an informed judgement on the fertile question.

I'm delighted to say that participation and engagement from year 9 students has been really strong during the lockdown, and I know that students have really been enjoying their history lessons before lockdown too, which is evidenced by the high-quality work and assessments we have seen so far, this academic year.

To further develop their interest and knowledge in this fascinating topic I have copied below the link to the BBC series available on Iplayer, called Rise of the Nazis, as well as a link to some educational resources and videos provided by the Imperial War Museum, which focuses largely on the Second World War, our topic for Spring 2. I hope that these will be of interest to you and to your child.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00084tc>  
<https://www.iwm.org.uk/learning/adventures-in-history>

You and your child will be making important decisions about GCSE options very soon.

History GCSE has always been a popular subject at KAA, and there has never been a more important time to study history. Learning about our past helps us to make sense of today's world. For example, understanding how Germany went from democracy to dictatorship in the 1930s can also help us to interpret recent events in America. (This article, also by Richard Evans, provides an interesting historical perspective on the Trump presidency: <https://www.newstatesman.com/world/2021/01/why-trump-isnt-fascist>).

Understanding responses to the Great Plague from society and government also helps us understand reactions to the Coronavirus pandemic. Learning about the history of the civil rights movement helps us to understand issues of race relations and equality today. There are so many interesting parallels to be drawn, and I really look forward to taking many year 9 students through to study history at GCSE and beyond.

You can see my presentation about the history GCSE below:  
<https://www.loom.com/share/d15740ee7b824c15aa9132554193c251>

If you or your child have any questions, or would like to arrange a time to chat about anything history related, please don't hesitate to get in touch at [s.desmond@kaa.org.uk](mailto:s.desmond@kaa.org.uk).

Best wishes,

**Sarah Desmond**  
Head of History and Politics