

# Ralph Sadleir School



**'Students of Today, Citizens of Tomorrow'**

Year  
History

## The Norman Conquest

In this topic, students will explore key events of 1066 and how William the Conqueror changed England. They will learn why people traveled to England and what society was like at the time. Students will examine the claims to the throne and study important battles, including Stamford Bridge and Hastings, understanding how both sides prepared and why William won. They will analyze the Bayeux Tapestry as a historical source and investigate how William controlled England through the feudal system and Motte and Bailey castles. Students will also learn how castles were defended and attacked, what life was like under siege, and the impact of the Harrying of the North. Finally, they will evaluate whether William was a good king and investigate the mysterious death of his son, William II. This topic develops historical analysis, source evaluation, and critical thinking skills.



## Medieval Life

In this topic, students will explore the important role of the Church in medieval England, understanding its influence on daily life and society. They will learn why people became monks and nuns and discover what medieval medicine was like. By analyzing primary sources, students will examine medieval remedies and assess their effectiveness. The topic will also cover the Black Death, including its symptoms, effects, and whether it was a disaster. Students will look at how the plague shaped medieval society. The focus will then shift to the belief in witchcraft, where students will identify key features of social beliefs in witches and analyze what a witch looked like. They will use evidence to evaluate the fairness of witch trials and assess the causes of the 'witch craze.' This topic helps develop skills in source analysis, critical thinking, and understanding historical events and beliefs.



## Tudor Society

In this topic, students will use primary sources to explore life in Tudor England, focusing on key aspects like wealth, poverty, and social attitudes. They will investigate Tudor wealth, considering the causes of poverty and why there were negative perceptions of the poor during this time. Students will also explore Tudor attitudes toward children, comparing them with modern-day views, and evaluate the success of Tudor parenting. A key focus will be understanding what life was like for women in the 1500s, where students will analyze sources and consider the importance of provenance in judging historical evidence. Through source analysis, students will develop critical thinking skills and make judgments about historical events and practices. This topic helps them understand the complexities of Tudor society, while developing their ability to analyze and interpret primary sources effectively.



## Reformation

In this topic, students will explore the key factors that caused the Reformation, including religious, political, and social influences. They will examine how these factors led to significant changes in England, focusing on the impact of the Reformation on the country's religious and political landscape. Students will also analyze the role of important individuals in the Reformation and offer arguments about their influence based on their outcomes. By examining these events, students will develop critical thinking skills, as they make judgments about the impact of the Reformation and assess the historical significance of key figures. The topic encourages analysis of cause and effect, as well as the development of well-supported arguments and conclusions.



## Queen Elizabeth 1

In this topic, students will explore key events in English history, beginning with the causes and consequences of the Spanish Armada. They will investigate why Spain, led by King Philip II, attempted to invade England in 1588 and analyze the outcome of this significant conflict. Students will also assess the leadership of Queen Elizabeth I and other important historical figures, making judgments about their successes and contributions during this time. Additionally, students will examine the motivations behind the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, exploring the actions of figures like Guy Fawkes and the plot's impact on England. By studying these events, students will develop skills in critical thinking, analysis, and source evaluation. They will learn how to make informed judgments about historical events and figures, considering their long-term effects on England's political and social development.



## English Civil War

In this topic, students will explore the causes of the English Civil War, examining the political, religious, and social factors that led to the conflict. They will learn about the key factions involved, such as the Royalists and Parliamentarians, and analyze the differences between them. Through primary source analysis, students will judge what life was like during the Civil War and use evidence to form opinions on figures like King Charles I. They will also study the restoration of the monarchy, identifying and explaining its key events and the problems Charles II faced during his reign. Students will use evidence to compare the leadership and impact of Charles II and Oliver Cromwell, making informed judgments about both historical figures. This topic encourages critical thinking, source analysis, and helps students understand the complex nature of political power in 17th-century England.

