

## Exploring and Teaching Medieval History in Schools

### The Wider Project

The project is expected to take roughly three years and is being undertaken under the auspices of The Historical Association. The project was conceived and is being led by Ian Dawson, working with an advisory group of teachers and historians. The objectives of the project are as follows:

1. To undertake research into issues such as students' perceptions of the period and its people, new teachers' perceptions of the period, what experienced teachers see as the issues and problems of teaching about the Middle Ages and the nature of current schemes of work and the amount of time spent on teaching about the Middle Ages.
2. To publish articles by historians which up-date teachers' knowledge and understanding through the publication *Exploring and Teaching Medieval History* (described below) and a rolling programme of further articles on the HA website.
3. To create discussion documents, schemes of work and a limited range of resources for Key Stage 3 which take into account GCSE changes, the varieties of time available at KS3 and explore issues such as aims for teaching about the period, its people and its sources.
4. To provide a model for future initiatives which explore the teaching of individual topics and periods of history.

### Advisory Group (to date)

**Dale Banham**, Northgate High School, Ipswich

**Richard Kerridge**, Mildenhall College Academy, Suffolk

**Ruth Lingard**, Millthorpe School, York

**Helen Snelson**, The Mount School, York

**Sally Wilson**, Carre's Grammar School, Sleaford

**Professor Mark Ormrod**, The University of York

Two **Research Historians** will be invited to join the group, early in 2017.

### Contact Details

Ian Dawson via [www.thinkinghistory.co.uk](http://www.thinkinghistory.co.uk)

## Exploring and Teaching Medieval History

### Outline Content

This 80 page A4 publication from **The Historical Association** will be sent free to all secondary schools in late autumn 2017, thanks to funding from **Agincourt600**.

**Editorial introduction** Ian Dawson

### **Part 1: Exploring Medieval History**

A series of articles by research historians

#### **1. Definitions**

- The real Middle Ages?** Emeritus Professor John Gillingham, London School of Economics and Political Science
- How do I see .... 1000-1349/1349-1530?** Summaries by six historians
- Is 1066 a good place to begin a course?** Dr Leonie Hicks, Canterbury Christ Church University

#### **2. Underpinnings**

- Ideas – what mattered to people?** Professor Benjamin Thompson, University of Oxford
- Village life – more than survival?** Professor Chris Dyer, University of Leicester
- Gender – expectations and realities** Professor Louise Wilkinson, Canterbury Christ Church University

#### **3. The nature of medieval sources**

- Chronicles and narratives** Professor Chris Given-Wilson, University of St Andrews
- Administrative records** Professor Mark Ormrod, University of York
- Archaeology and landscape** Professor Carenza Lewis, University of Lincoln

#### **4. Debates**

<b>The Norman Conquest</b>	Professor Stephen Baxter, University of Oxford
<b>The First Crusade</b>	Dr Susan Edgington, Queen Mary, Univ. of London
<b>The reign of Edward I</b>	Dr Andy King, University of Southampton
<b>The development of castles</b>	Professor Oliver Creighton, University of Exeter

#### **5. New Horizons**

<b>How well-organized was the Agincourt campaign?</b>	Professor Anne Curry, Univ. of Southampton
<b>What were people reading in the later middle ages?</b>	Dr Catherine Nall, Royal Holloway, University of London

### **Part 2: Teaching Medieval History**

The first aim of these articles is to ask some central questions about the teaching of the Middle Ages, especially at KS3, taking into account changes at GCSE, reduced teaching time at KS3 and new interpretations of the period from historians. Secondly the articles will offer some suggestions and activities (with linked resources on the HA website) which address some of the challenges of teaching about the Middle Ages, especially at KS3.

These articles will include discussion of:

The implications for KS3 of teaching medieval history at GCSE

Knowledge takeaways from learning about the Middle Ages at KS3

What do we want students to learn about medieval sources?

Medieval History at A level

Overviews across the Middle Ages - the Crusades c.1090s to 16thC

Developing a sense of period – 15thC people

Understanding medieval people - Did they have the same feelings and emotions as us?

What were they doing in ... [other parts of the world)?