

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

DIOCESAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS AND ST ANDREW'S SCHOOL GRAHAMSTOWN

In some schools, the cry is:

History as a subject at schools is dying!

We are struggling to attract students who prefer to choose "vocational subjects"!



Well, History at SAC and DSG is thriving! Our classes continue to grow, as does our staff!

Our department is made up of teachers who bring different strengths in terms of experience, age and teaching styles into the department.



From Left to Right:

Gary Frayne; Basil Mackenzie; Ricci Brocco; Mel Webb; Trish Middlebrook (absent Paul Edey).

Trish Middlebrook : Head of Department

- Taught at State schools in Kwazulu-Natal, eg, Westville Girls' High School; Howick High; Alexander Road
- HOD, Independent Schools in Kwazulu-Natal, St John's
- Author for Shooter and Shuter Publishers, History textbooks, Grades 4 – 12
- IEB History Examiner, 2006 – 8
- IEB Portfolio Moderator, 2008 –
- Co-ordinator of the Rhodes PGCE History Method course.

Basil Mackenzie

- Taught at State school in Kwazulu-Natal, Glenwood High
- Taught at Independent School in Mpumalanga, Uplands High School
- Sub-examiner History IEB: 2004 –
- Cluster representative Eastern Cape

Gary Frayne

- Taught at State school in Kwazulu-Natal, Maritzburg College
- Taught at Independent School in Western Cape, Somerset College
- Taught overseas (HOD)

Ricci Brocco

- a) PGCE 2008

Mel Webb

- a) Junior Lecturer Rhodes University 1978-1988
- b) Taught at DSG since 1989
- c) HOD History 1999
- d) Deputy-Head DSG 2004
- e) PGCE History Method Lecturer
- f) Sub-examiner IEB History: 2001 -
- g) NSF representative

Paul Edey

- a) Head of History Department at King Edward VII School (1981-1983, and 1985-1994)
- b) Head of History at St John's College (1983-1985)
- c) Chief Marker: Matric
- d) Examiner General Paper for Transvaal Education Department 1993-1995
- e) Moderator IEB Grade 9
- f) Historical Society award for promotion of History as subject

Why, according to us, is History an essential subject for teenagers to study?

WHAT IS HISTORY?

History is NOT

- getting stuck in the past
- being saturated with non-negotiable dates and facts
- one interpretation only
- stereotypical information
- boring
- passive

What is the study of History?

- about people and how societies organise themselves

"Not to know what took place before you were born is to remain forever a child" Cicero

- about the Present. Without a knowledge of the past, people are unable to plan for the future. *"Therefore, past, present and future are linked together in the endless chain of history"*
"We can chart our future clearly and wisely only when we know the path which has led us to the present" Adlai Stevenson
- acknowledging that there are more than one 'Truths'
- is an intellectual exercise and a valuable training of the mind, an asset to many careers
- about developing essential academic and life skills
- the ability to judge people and events in a balanced way
- it enables people to understand the local and global societies in which they live by acknowledging cultural diversity, it welds society together
- history contains great literature and enriches other areas of the curriculum
- deals with important ideas and concepts which every child should understand

What will you have gained?

Skills and Abilities

- Comprehension, research, analyse, extrapolate, synthesise, evaluate, communicate, empathise
- History is also an excellent basis for leisure activities and often leads to a lifelong interest in reading and travel.
- “In a sense, the love of history is an expression of the love of life.”
- If history is properly taught it should help South Africans understand why our country is as it is and also enable them to think about solutions, based on history, for the future

What can you do with it?

HISTORY IS FOR LEADERS

School is a time to be EDUCATED and not merely to choose a vocation at the age of 14.

A knowledge of history is a valuable asset in many careers as people as diverse as economists, journalists, accountants, bank managers, librarians, writers, diplomats, politicians, and performing artists all find a knowledge of history directly or indirectly useful in their fields of work.

Who said you can't get a job with History?

Harry Oppenheimer former Chairman of Anglo-American looked for a study of Politics, Philosophy, Economics and History in those he employed.

Clem Sunter recognises the need for a study of History in entrepreneurs and business people.

How will you develop as a person?

“The person who studies history is likely to be informed and responsible with a sound ability to judge people and events in a balanced way. Because History is one of the few social sciences studied at school, it introduces learners to important aspects of sociology, psychology, politics and race relations. History helps students to become sceptics and not cynics. Because historians are concerned with the totality of human existence, a knowledge of the past enriches the emotional, imaginative, intellectual and spiritual quality of people's lives.” J Mathews