

Subject Spotlight: History

The History department have recently been studying a number of historical topics that are closely linked to our local environment.

Our Year 11 students have been finishing off their 'Castle: Form and Function' module, where we have put a spotlight on Kenilworth Castle, located in nearby Coventry. The castle, built at a time of great instability in the 1120s, acted as the 'base' for Simon de Montfort's rebel army in the 1260s, developed a Great Hall to challenge the grandeur of Windsor Castle, and later became the seat of power for Robert Dudley as he looked to impress Queen Elizabeth. The castle boasts a rich tapestry as a great fortification, whilst also being a palace fit for the monarchy.

Students have reviewed their work this term and put together timelines and storyboards of the development of the castle. These examples of student work show the development of the castle from its lowly beginnings through to its current state. A [day trip to Kenilworth Castle](#) would offer families the opportunity to see one of the more impressive castles in the Midlands.

Ownership: Geoffrey De Clinton	Ownership: John I	Ownership: Simon de Montfort	Ownership: The Lancastrians
Years: 1120 - 1174	Years: 1174-1244	Years: 1244 - 1266	Years: 1266-1361
Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The stone keep was constructed. He built a causeway across the valley which created a dam that held back the river. Outer curtain wall was built. 	Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John I invested £1,100 into the castle. He built Mortimer's Tower as well as 'Luna's tower', both helped with Henry II. The ground floor equipped with the fish called 'access'. 	Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Created / completed the Brags. Completed the scheme of defence first conceived by King John. Protected the outer dam. Built barbicans. 	Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed as a palace. A new hall constructed in 1313. Chapel constructed by 1322. Added a water tower, this could have been for servants. Added 500 acres to the chase.

Ownership: John of Gaunt	Ownership: Lancastrian Kings + Early Tudors	Ownership: Dudley family (John + Robert)	Ownership: Charles I + Elizabeth Maria	Ownership: Colonel Hutchinson
Years: 1361 - 1399	Years: 1399-1547	Years: 1547 - 1588	Years: 1586 - 1648	Years: After 1650
Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He inherited money from his dead wife's father. He constructed a new great hall, modelled apartment, service and kitchen + library and painting, ladder, seating and money. 	Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus was primarily on maintaining the already luxurious accommodation. Areas like the Great Tower seem to have taken on more administrative roles. 	Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remodelled Henry VIII's Lodgings. Remodelled great hall. A garden was built, only recorded in 1575. Made grand lodges for the queen and close servants. 	Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All apartments were 'adorned with fair and rich chamegences'. He was given to Charles I's wife. 	Notable changes/developments: (sighted) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The castle was taken down and stone was reused. And Hutchinson used the castle as a home.

Luke Sewell – 11E2

Ownership: Geoffrey De Clinton	Ownership: Henry II & John I	Ownership: Simon De Montfort	Ownership: The Lancastrians
Years: 1120 - 1174	Years: 1174-1244	Years: 1244 - 1266	Years: 1266-1361
Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Built in a good place. Causes across the valley creating the dam. Upper floor great hall used for defense. 	Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mortimer's tower Stone walls Luna's tower Barbican and Portcullis More expenditure Used for defense 	Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brags Simon De Montfort made little changes as he was focused on the gears up to fight/repel the king Used for defense. 	Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developed as a palace. A new hall constructed in 1313. Chapel constructed by 1322. Water tower tower to more people Put extra towers to the castle to make it easier to see outside the castle walls no areas within castle attracted to used more towards accommodation

Ownership: John of Gaunt	Ownership: Lancastrian Kings and Early Tudors	Ownership: The Dudley's (John)	Ownership: The Dudley's (Robert)	Ownership: John Hutchinson
Years: 1361 - 1399	Years: 1399-1547	Years: 1547 - 1588	Years: 1586 - 1648	Years: After 1650
Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used mostly to boost wealth and status, improved the interior of the castle and had necessary arts/patterns to show off. Used for status symbol. 	Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus was primarily on maintaining the already luxurious accommodation. Areas like the Great Tower seem to have taken on more administrative roles. 	Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John made little changes apart from double Building gallery for fights Robert made many changes to improve Elizabeth Robert's gatehouse Gardens Used for accommodation and to impress 	Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Particulars decided to slight the castle. Destroyed parts of the curtain wall and the north tower. 	Notable changes/developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hutchinson retained Leicester's gatehouse and changed - curtain of - left the rest of the castle to others to see as a sign of power he could afford all etc.

Aidan Hutchins – 11-W1

Even closer to home, our Year 8 students have started their studies of the English Civil War (1642-46). With England torn asunder by conflict and strife, Charles' Royalist army fought the New Model Army of Parliament in a series of battles across the nation. No event was more telling in the outcome of the Civil War, however, than a battle that took place in the north of our county; The Battle of Naseby in June 1645, saw a decisive blow to the Monarchy's chance of retaining power, and shifted the balance of power into the hands of Oliver Cromwell and Thomas Fairfax. More about the [Battle of Naseby can be found here](#).

Our students have been creating a series of recruitment posters for the armies, storyboard of the Civil War, and will soon be moving on to find out about Northampton's role in detaining Charles before his execution! There will be no picture of those events, I hope!

