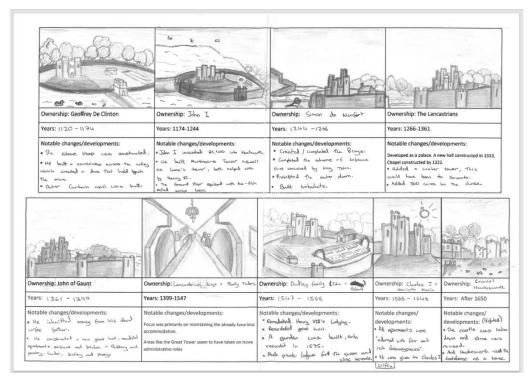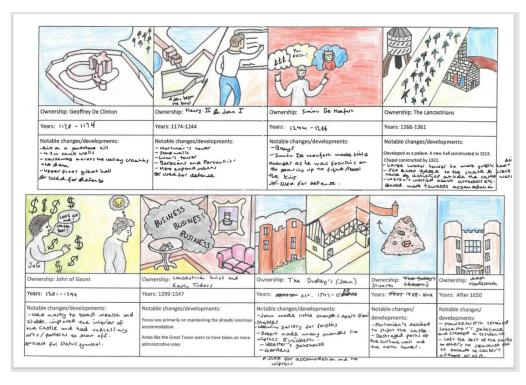# Subject Spotlight: History

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.

Luke Sewell – 11E2

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!