

A-Level History prepares students well for higher education, apprenticeship and job interviews by honing their speaking and listening skills. Potential career opportunities are varied, and range from journalism, media, politics, diplomacy and business to the art world, civil service and teaching.

Students of history at St Edward's enjoy multiple opportunities to engage with the world of work: engaging with current academic historians, professors and public historians via podcasts or live video links into the classroom; reading of recent historiography, such as Sathnam Sanghera's 'Empireland'; historical fiction such as 'After the War' by Tom Palmer; watching Afua Hirsch and Samuel L Jackson's 'Enslaved'. These opportunities not only enrich their experience of the subject but enable them to see the variety of avenues available to students of history, whether it's writing, presenting, researching or exploring. One example of students stepping into the world of work themselves being our year 12 historians who deployed their research and interview skills when contributing articles to a nationwide newspaper distributed to support genocide awareness and education.

To exemplify the variety of opportunities that students of history go on to enjoy, here are few famous names with a history degree to their name:

Politics and public service

Dianne Abbott – Labour MP for Hackney North

Dame Ruth Runciman – Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs, former chair of the UK Mental Health Act Commission

Media and culture

Sacha Baron Cohen – aka Ali G, comedian, actor, writer, and producer

Alan Bennett – actor, author, playwright, and screenwriter

Jeremy Bowen – BBC foreign affairs correspondent

Nicky Campbell and Simon Mayo – Radio 1 presenters

Penelope Lively – writer whose books include: Moon Tiger, The Purple Swamp Hen, The Ghost of Thomas Kempe, Ammonites and Leaping Fish A Life in Time

Salman Rushdie – novelist whose books include The Satanic Verses, The Golden House, Quichotte

Louis Theroux – author, broadcaster, filmmaker and journalist

Law

QC Michael Briggs and QC Michael Mansfield – involved in the Bloody Sunday inquiry

Elena Kagan – Supreme Court Justice in the USA

Sport

Dina Asher-Smith – athlete, fastest British woman in recorded history

Business

Sir Howard Stringer – chairman of Sony Corporation

Jobs of the future

Work is changing due to factors such as automation, AI, urbanisation and an older population. Based on the major macroeconomic, political, demographic, societal, cultural, business and technology trends observable today, there will be new jobs emerging over the next 10 years which will become the future of work. A few examples of Jobs for the future are:

Augmented Reality – so many of us are never far away from our phones and the development of augmented reality – a type of virtual reality – is set to grow. This is where you point your phone at say, a street, the technology will show virtual objects in your field of vision – cafes, dentists, garage, shops. Augmented reality gives you data on things you can't see – it's also used in places such as home and garden design – where you pop some goggles on and can then see the potential upgraded version of your home. Design Architecture would be a typical job – you'll need an Arts Degree and Software Design experience.

Bespoke Health Care Professionals – With continued development in healthcare and science, health care professionals will be able to provide a much more personal and advanced form of care. The UK has an ageing population and the role of the personal carer is set to increase in demand and in skills set.

With the use of AI and machine learning, health care professionals will be able to map and use the information on exercise, nutrition and sleep patterns and combine with the prevention and eradication of some illnesses such as diabetes. Expect to earn around £20,000 but this is set to rise.



Drone Pilot – Drones are likely to be used much more in the future to deliver packages and help with passenger transport. Consequently, the role of the Drone Pilot is fast emerging as a coveted career path. You can expect to earn up to £80,000 for this highly skilled job – you will need to work alongside computer technology to ensure the sky path is safe and clear and you could be responsible for a fleet of drones.

Engineers – Our increased population and built-up areas will see a demand for engineers to help accommodate these people. Environmental engineers, electricians and software engineers will all be required to help build and sustain new urban areas. There will be an increased focus on protecting and nurturing the environment around these areas – such as using wind and solar energy and protecting wildlife around urban areas. An environmental engineer can currently earn around £45,000 per year. This is a really exciting career path to take with lots of scope for different job roles.