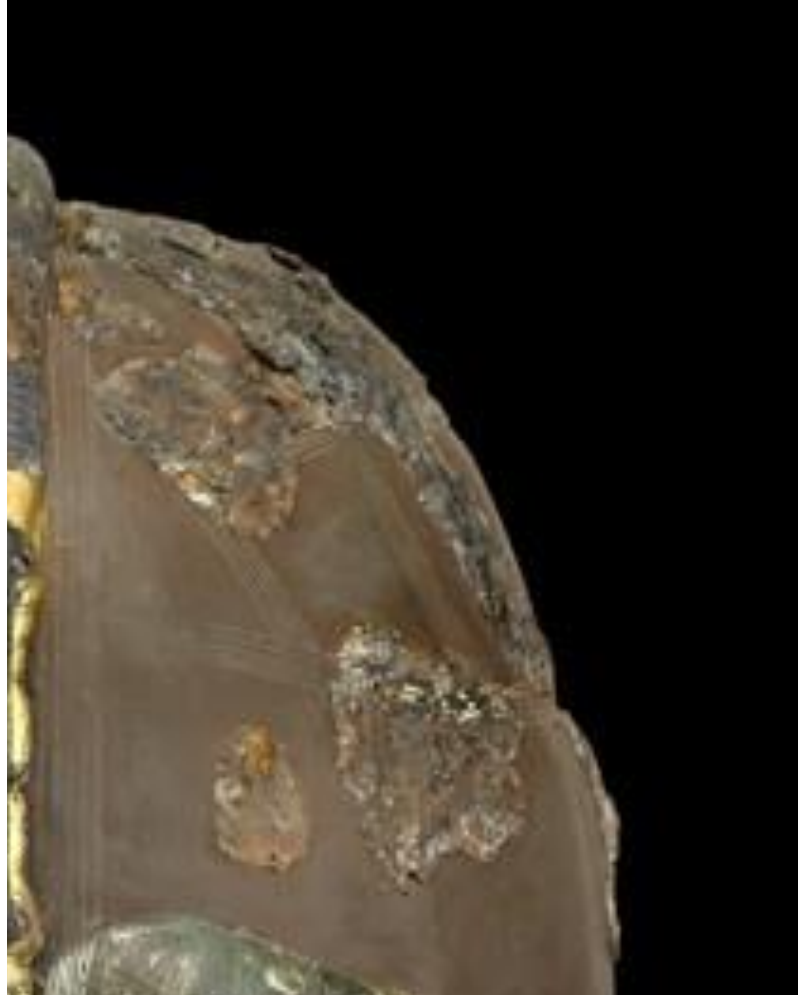


Schools History Project

# New Teachers' Conference

30<sup>th</sup> January 2021



*Inspiring professional  
development for new  
history teachers*



Schools  
History Project

## The Schools History Project New Teachers' Conference 2021

Hello,

Being a new teacher is tough.

There are so many challenges: planning, teaching, marking... There are so many things to balance: subject knowledge and teaching techniques, pupil-engagement and exams and assessments... It can sometimes feel that you are expected to be a historian, a moral philosopher, a psychologist, a social worker and an administrator whilst also having to do break duty in the rain.

Sadly, there are few easy answers and even fewer quick-fix solutions. No matter how good your training, there is always more to learn. That is why the Schools History Project, supported by Hodder Education, has put together its first New Teachers' Conference. It includes a round-table discussion, two brilliant plenary talks, a case for the SHP GCSE and four practical yet inspiring workshops to help you meet some of the challenges that new teachers face.

Our line-up features brilliant history teachers and history teacher-educators who between them have decades of classroom experience. They all want to share their wisdom and knowledge with as many people as possible to help build and develop a community of history teachers who can help each other to inspire and support young people with this most vital of subjects.

I hope that you find these sessions both thought-provoking and practically useful. I hope it provides some support to allow you to help your students achieve the best they can. I hope that you will consider attending the annual SHP Summer Conference in July. However, than that, I hope that you see this as a way into some of the profession's current debates and discussions – conversations that need your voice and your contributions in order to help us all be the best history teachers we can for the sake of the young people who depend on us to begin to understand themselves in time.

Enjoy the conference!



Matt Stanford  
Director  
Schools History Project

## Schedule

Saturday 30 January 2021

Round Table  
Discussion  
10:00-11:00

**Getting Through and Getting On: A Discussion of the Problems and Opportunities Faced by New Teachers**  
*Jess Angell, Katharine Burn, Gemma Hollingsworth and Claire Moody*

Workshop A  
11:30-12:45

**How to Plan Better Lessons**  
*Sally Thorne*

OR

**Five Ideas Things That Made Me a Better Teacher**  
*Sally Burnham*

Workshop B  
13:30-14:45

**Practical Tips for Better History Lessons**  
*Dale Banham*

OR

**What does it mean to get better at history and how do I know my students are doing it?**  
*Hannah Cusworth*

Presentation  
15:00-15:30

**What is special about OCR GCSE History B**  
*OCR Subject Officers and SHP Regional Advisors – Mike Goddard, Emily Oakes and Grant Robertson, and Stuart Farley, Alex Ford and Luke Mayhew*

Plenary A  
15:45-17:15

**A Q&A on Medieval History**  
*Dr Marc Morris*

Plenary B  
19:00-20:00

**Fighting for what we believe: the power and responsibility of being part of a principled community of practice**  
*Alex Ford*

## Programme

### Getting Through and Getting On: A Discussion of the Problems and Opportunities Faced by New Teachers

Round Table Discussion  
10:00-11:00

*Jess Angell, Katharine Burn, Gemma Hollingsworth and Claire Moody*

This round-table discussion features talented people from very different stages in their careers. Together, they will talk through some of the issues that you face as a new teacher and some of the opportunities open to you. They will share experiences and inspiration to reassure you that it is possible to get through one of the toughest parts of your career and indicate some paths to success.

### How to Plan Better Lessons

Workshop A Option 1  
11:30-12:45

Sally Thorne

Planning is one of the most important and most difficult parts of teaching. There are so many things to balance: What are students learning? What are students thinking? What are students doing? How can we make sure that all students can access the lesson? How can we make sure that our lessons are engaging?

Sally Thorne has some answers. In this session, she will talk about some principles of good lesson planning and share some practical ideas that will help you plan and deliver excellent lessons.

### Five Ideas Things That Made Me a Better Teacher

Workshop A Option 2  
11:30-12:45

Sally Burnham

One of the many joys of being a history teacher is that you never stop learning and the wealth of experience that is available to us through the History subject community can sometimes be slightly overwhelming. In this session Sally will look at just 5 ideas that have really shaped her teaching since she completed her PGCE, how she went about implementing the ideas into her teaching, and how she evaluated their impact.

## Practical Tips for Better History Lessons

Workshop B Option 1

Dale Banham

13:30-14:45

Looking for practical ideas to make your lessons more effective? In his inspirational session, Dale Banham brings years of experience of teaching and advising to offer useful ideas that will help make your lessons more engaging and more intriguing by keeping good history at their heart. He will show how a 'can-do' attitude can be developed to help students to think historically and write better to express that thinking. There will also be tips to help students retain, retrieve and revise knowledge they need to succeed. Finally, Dale will also reflect upon wider curricular issues and what they might mean to your school and your students.

## What does it mean to get better at history and how do I know my students are doing it?

Workshop B Option 2

Hannah Cusworth

13:30-14:45

What does it mean to get better at history? Of course we all want to help our students get good GCSE and A Level results but being 'good' at history is much more than that. In this session, Hannah Cusworth will help you think about what students making progress in history might look like and how it relates to the curriculum that is being taught. She will explain how her school tries to assess this in a meaningful way and the challenges they still face. She will also offer some strategies for early-career teachers to stay sane in the face of the many demands often made around curriculum and assessment

## What is special about OCR GCSE History B?

Presentation

OCR Subject Officers and SHP Regional  
Advisors – Mike Goddard, Emily Oakes  
and Grant Robertson, and Stuart  
Farley, Alex Ford and Luke Mayhew

15:00-15:30

This session is an unashamed advert for what is, we at SHP truly believe, the best GCSE course available – OCR History B (Schools History Project).

The Schools History Project is unique in that it is the only organisation, other than the exam boards, that endorses a GCSE syllabus. In this session, we hope to show you what is special about this course, not only in the specification but in the support that is available to schools who choose it. The session will be presented by subject advisers from the OCR exam board and some of the SHP Regional Advisers whose role is support the networks of schools who have chosen this brilliant and flexible course for their students.

## A Q&A on Medieval History

Plenary A

15:45-17:15

Dr Marc Morris

Medieval history is something that almost every history teacher will teach at some point in their careers, whether it is in Year 7, Year 13 or somewhere in between. However, it can be very hard to teach well. Romantic fairy-tale images, the limitations of the sources and very different ways of seeing the world can sometimes, despite our best intentions, create in our classrooms a version of the middle ages that is more Monty Python than medieval; more 'Disney princess' than something that reflects the actual people's actual lives and the political and social changes that wrought consequences we still feel today.

The only antidote is good historical knowledge and this is what Marc Morris has in abundance. As one of the very best authors on this period, we are delighted that he has given us his time in order to answer your questions about British medieval history between c.400 and c.1300. Whether you want to know more about history-changing events, political developments, important personalities or medieval sources you can submit your questions via [this form](#) and Dr Morris will endeavour to help you bring to life this fascinating, important and ubiquitous part of history.

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## Fighting for what we believe: the power and responsibility of being part of a principled community of practice

Plenary B

19:00-20:00

Alex Ford

In this plenary session, Alex explores the ways in which communities of practice enable us to grow as teachers. He outlines some of the ways in which history teachers can empower students and be empowered by their subject communities. He also focuses on some of the challenges history teachers face in building principled, diverse and inclusive communities with the power to impact our society.

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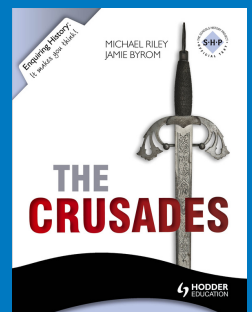
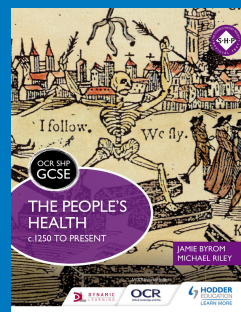
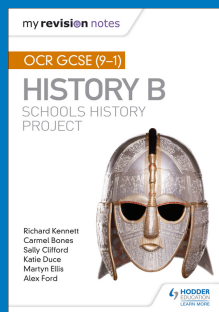
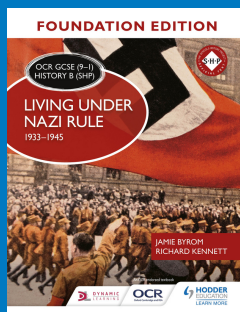
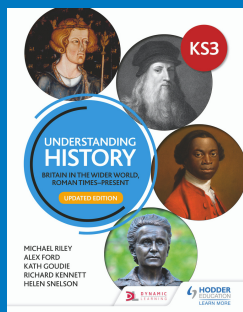
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## Contributors

### Jess Angell



Head of History, Jess Angell, joined Cambourne Village College in 2016. Jess strongly believes that the study of History can and should be for everybody, and she has engaged academics in a series of lectures for pupils, parents, and the wider community. Her enthusiasm for trips and visits sees them tied tightly to the curriculum, which also has reading at its heart.

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### Dale Banham



Dale Banham is a Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum, CPD and Teaching & Learning) at Northgate High School, a large 11-18 comprehensive in Ipswich. Before that he worked as a Head of History and as the County Adviser for Humanities in Suffolk. Dale has also worked as a history education consultant for the Imperial War Museum, the BBC and St John's College Cambridge. He regularly contributes workshops to a range of teacher training courses and he has published a number of articles in Teaching History and Debates in History Teaching that explore how to help students engage with the past, achieve success and develop the confidence to think and write like a historian.

Dale is an Honorary Fellow of the Schools History Project. He worked with Chris Culpin and Ian Dawson as a series editor on the SHP Key Stage 3 series of textbooks, published between 2008 and 2009. After the introduction of new GCSE specifications, Dale worked with Ian Dawson on a series of textbooks for Edexcel's GCSE History specification. He has recently published a new set of textbooks for Hodder Education's Engaging with AQA GCSE History series, which aims to make history accessible and enjoyable for all students.

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### Katharine Burn



Katharine Burn is Associate Professor of Education at the University of Oxford, where she works as the PGCE Partnership Director and coordinates the university's knowledge exchange partnership with local schools, which is committed to supporting teachers' continued engagement in and with research. She also teaches on the part-time MSc in Learning and Teaching, as well as researching, and supervising Masters and doctoral students in the fields of history education and teachers' professional learning. She is a Fellow of the Schools History Project and Deputy President of the Historical Association. She is also an editor of *Teaching History* and loves supporting teachers in sharing their practice and learning with one another.

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### Sally Burnham



Sally Burnham is a History teacher at an 11-18 school in Lincolnshire. She is also part time PGCE tutor at the University of Nottingham. As well as her teaching commitments, Sally is an SHP Fellow and a member of the Historical Association Secondary Committee.

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### Hannah Cusworth



Hannah Cusworth is Head of History at The Charter School East Dulwich. She began teaching in 2012 and has taught in a number of London academies.

At her current school, Hannah has led the creation of a curriculum that embraces migration stories and the history of empire and race. She regularly contributes to CPD in the History community, including workshops for the Historical Association and the Schools History Project.

This summer, she contributed three sets of lessons to the Oak National Academy which focused on Mansa Musa, British America and the 'forgotten armies' of the First World War. She tweets @hannahcusworth

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### Stuart Farley



Stuart Farley is Head of History at Upper Shirley High School in Southampton, where we enjoy teaching the OCR SHP B specification. The diverse topics, strong enquiry focus, local case studies and interpretations really engage our students. Stuart is also a Lead Teacher on the Hampshire History Steering Group and SHP Regional Advisor for the South East.

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### Alex Ford



Alex Ford is an SHP Fellow and PGCE History Tutor at Leeds Trinity University. He is keen to ensure that all students experience rich and diverse histories, whatever their background. Alex believes firmly in the importance of subject-specific training to enable this and has been on the subject advisory group for the new Ofsted framework.

Alex was previously Head of History at two contrasting comprehensive schools in Yorkshire. He has written textbooks for Key Stage 3 and GCSE students and writes the blog [www.andallthat.co.uk](http://www.andallthat.co.uk). He can be found on Twitter @apf102

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### Gemma Hollingsworth



Gemma Hollingsworth has been teaching History in inner city Bradford for three years in a large secondary school covering Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. Her interests include the long Eighteenth Century, in particular the role of women in society and the rise of masculinity. She has a passion for curriculum development and planning enquiry-based schemes of work which resonate with the diverse school community.

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### Mike Goddard



Mike is a history subject advisor and has worked at OCR on the history portfolio since 2007. Previously he has held roles at Cambridge International Examinations and for an educational publisher. Mike has a degree in Economic and Social History from the University of York and a Masters in Modern History from UCL. In his spare time, he enjoys crosswords and snooker.

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### Luke Mayhew



Luke has taught in several schools in Norfolk over the past 15 years. Throughout this time, he has embraced the central values of the Schools History Project, with a particular passion for embedding local history within his lessons to make history really relevant to pupils.

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### Claire Moody



Claire Moody is a History NQT at Murray Park Community School in Derbyshire and completed her PGCE at the University of Nottingham.

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### Marc Morris



Dr Marc Morris is a historian and broadcaster, specialising in the Middle Ages. He is the author of a series of peerless books on medieval England - *King John: Treachery, Tyranny and the Road to Magna Carta*, *The Norman Conquest*, *A Great and Terrible King: Edward I and the forging of Britain* and the 'Penguin Monarchs' biography of *William I*. He has also presented and appeared on other television shows such as *Castle* for Channel 4 and wrote its *accompanying book*. An expert on medieval monarchy and aristocracy, and a fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Marc has written numerous articles for History Today, BBC History Magazine and Heritage Today. He is about to publish his new book *Anglo-Saxons: A History of the Beginnings of England* will be published in May 2021. He can be found on Twitter @longshanks1307.

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### Emily Oakes



Emily Oakes is a Subject Advisor for History. She has 13 years' experience teaching & leading in history and as a Head of Sixth Form in the UK along with 2 years teaching at an international school in France. Emily has a BA in Archaeology from UCL and a MA in Medieval History from UEA along with a PGCE from University of Cambridge. When she's not working, Emily likes spending time outdoors with her family, gardening and reading.

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### Grant Robertson



Grant started working at OCR in February 2014 and is a lead subject advisor and advises on history. His degree is in History and Politics, with a focus on modern European and African history and 19th century political thought. Previously, Grant was a Head of Politics, Law and Humanities in schools in Kent and Kingston upon Thames. Outside of work he is an F1 junkie, a passionate Charlton Athletic fan and enjoys spending time with his family.

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### Sally Thorne



Sally Thorne is a Head of Humanities in Bristol and has been teaching History since 2003. She holds a leading role in Teaching & Learning across her Trust and has published a book about History teaching, called Becoming an Outstanding History Teacher.

### How to book

Bookings can be made through the Leeds Trinity University online store (<https://store.leedstrinity.ac.uk/>) There are also links via the Schools History Project website (<http://www.schoolshistoryproject.co.uk/>).

### Prices

All tickets cost £35

### Technicalities

The conference will take place via Microsoft Teams. However, the easiest way to access the sessions will be through a web browser.

### Enquiries

If you have any further enquiries, please email [SHP@leedstrinity.ac.uk](mailto:SHP@leedstrinity.ac.uk).