



Teaching the Tudors

Saturday 23 March 2019, York

Programme

09.30–10.00 Registration and coffee

10.00–11.00 **Henry VIII and the men who made him** (Dr Tracy Borman, Historic Royal Palaces)

Henry VIII is famous for being the king who married six times. But it was the men in his life, far more than the women, who shaped this notorious monarch. In this talk, based upon her major new biography, Henry VIII and the Men Who Made Him, Tracy Borman will tell the story of England's most famous monarch through the eyes of the men who surrounded him: relations, servants, ministers, rivals, confidantes and companions. She will introduce a dazzling cast of characters: some 'mad' (Sir Francis Bryan, the so-called 'Vicar of Hell'), some 'bad' (the grasping minister, Thomas Wolsey), but none as 'dangerous to know' as Henry VIII himself. It was these men who shaped Henry into the man – and monster – that he would become. And he, in turn, dictated their fates.

11.00–11.15 Coffee break

11.15–12.15 Session 1: Choice from 3 concurrent teacher workshops:

- **Workshop A: Using Miranda Kaufmann's *Black Tudors* to refresh the teaching of the Early Modern World** (Kerry Apps and Josh Garry)

This workshop will focus on different ways history teachers have sought to bring Miranda Kaufmann's work into the classroom. The approaches help to illuminate the black presence in Britain but also articulate common themes of Tudor England and ideas about evidence.

- **Workshop B: Teaching interpretations at GCSE with a focus on the Elizabethan era** (Natalie Kesterton)

This session will tackle common themes across examination boards to implement strategies for teaching the Elizabethans at GCSE and finding ways to secure the skills needed to tackle the interpretations questions on the GCSE paper - with some ideas to take away and some reflections on how to continue to refine our practice.

- **Workshop C: Making sense of sources at A-level** (Hugh Richards)

One of the most challenging things about teaching Tudors at A-level can be accessing primary source material, either for general study, exam preparation or a personal study. This workshop will share what we have done at our comprehensive sixth form to help students right across the ability range access and analyse source material, with plenty of opportunity for discussion and contributions from the group. As Huntington is a Research School this workshop will be an opportunity to see the application of metacognition to several disciplinary strands in History. We will focus our attention on the Mid-Tudor Crisis, a common area of overlap between courses and rich seam of source material!

- 12.15–13.15** **A History of the Reformation in 5 Ballads** (Dr Jenni Hyde, Associate Vice President, Historical Association)

The English Reformation was a time of uncertainty which saw the rapid development of confessional identities – people began to see themselves and others as either Protestant or Catholic. This session will look at how these changes were reflected in popular song, taking 5 examples from across the Tudor period.

- 13.15–14.00** Sandwich lunch

- 14.00–15.00** Session 2: Choice from 3 concurrent teacher workshops:

- **Workshop A: Using Miranda Kaufmann's *Black Tudors* to refresh the teaching of the Early Modern World** (Kerry Apps and Josh Garry)
- **Workshop B: Teaching interpretations at GCSE with a focus on the Elizabethan era** (Natalie Kesterton)
- **Workshop C: Making sense of sources at A-level** (Hugh Richards)

- 15.00–16.00** **All His Spies: The Secret World of Robert Cecil** (Professor Stephen Alford, University of Leeds)

Death! I dare tell him so, and all his spies.

Ben Jonson, *Sejanus: His Fall* (1605)

How can we look at Elizabethan politics in a fresh way? How should we understand the assumptions and outlooks of the queen's courtiers and councillors? In this lecture Professor Alford wants to offer some answers to these questions by examining the relationships between Sir Robert Cecil and his 'intelligencers' and spies between 1595 and 1603. Cecil's formidable system for gathering secret intelligence, he shall suggest, gives us a valuable lens through which to inspect political rivalries, the operations of clientage and court patronage, the dangers for Elizabethans of writing history, and the courtier's necessary art of dissimulation. We will enter for a time the claustrophobic world of the Elizabethan fin de siècle, and there encounter a man trained to rule who came to possess a unique grasp of the realities of power at the end of the Tudor century