



**Transition Day**  
**Wednesday 1st July 2020**

**Subject:** History

**Task: Which individual from history most interests you?**

As a History department we would love to find out which individuals from history interest the Class of 2027. This could be someone you have already studied in primary school, someone who was influential in a hobby you are passionate about, or someone that you research about specifically for this task.

You need to include:

- The background of the individual (who were they, when did they live, where were they from)
- Images of the individual
- Notable contributions (what made them famous?)
- Why they interest you (what qualities do they have that inspired you- this could be an achievement or one of their personal qualities)

There are two (edible!) prizes on offer for:

- Most original (the winning entry is likely to be about an individual who your history teachers have rarely heard of and agree is interesting)
- Best justification (the winning entry will explain in detail why they personally find this individual interesting and why others should as well)

To get you started there are some example individuals on the reverse of this page. You are more than welcome to use one of these or to focus on someone different.

**Resources required:**

You can use the internet and any relevant books to carry out research.



# Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

How you present your chosen individual is up to you. It can be done on the computer or it can be handwritten. The final outcome could be a poster, a presentation or an essay.

**YouTube Video Link:** <https://youtu.be/1d3eZQUC88Q>

## Share your work with us:

Once you have completed your final outcome you can email us your work or a photograph of your work to [classof2027@avonbourneacademy.org.uk](mailto:classof2027@avonbourneacademy.org.uk) or tweet us @avonbourne\_2027 and @avonbournehist. We would love to see how you got on!

## Some examples of interesting individuals

Eleanor of Aquitaine	Anne Frank	Emeline Pankhurst
Alexander the Great	Mahatma Gandhi	Rosa Parks
Alfred the Great	Oleg Gordievski	Katharine Parr
Aristotle	Henry VIII	Ignatius Sancho
Ludwig van Beethoven	Steve Jobs	Mary Seacole
Napoleon Bonaparte	Genghis Khan	William Shakespeare
Queen Boudicca	Dalai Lama	Mother Theresa
Julius Caesar	Ada Lovelace	Lewis Tregonwell
Winston Churchill	Martin Luther King Jr	Alan Turing
Charles Darwin	Nelson Mandela	Tutankhamun
Walt Disney	Una Marson	Oprah Winfrey
Thomas Edison	Bobby Moore	Nicholas Winton
Albert Einstein	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Queen Victoria
Elizabeth I	Florence Nightingale	Leonardo da Vinci



# Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

## Who does the history department find interesting?

**Mr Dearden:** Perhaps the individual that I admire the most from History is Nelson Mandela. My family on my wife's side are South African therefore the brutal political regime that Mandela found himself in towards the latter half of the 20th Century resonates with me in particular. The institutionalised racial segregation enforced by Apartheid is not only discriminatory and cruel, but symptomatic of prejudice fueled by fear and ignorance and witnessed throughout the 20th Century in other countries such as USA and Germany.

Mandela's struggle is a story of great resolve despite unprecedented provocation. His determination to stay true to his cause despite being held in captivity for 26 years is something I greatly admire. The fact that he became the first black president of South Africa was a fitting conclusion to a life committed to such a worthy cause. I also find it incredible that he did not seek retribution against the regime that had imprisoned him, preferring instead to look for truth and reconciliation for the good of his nation. He will remain an inspiration to many throughout the annals of History.

**Miss England:** I find Frederick Douglass both interesting and inspiring. I first read about him at university and his journey from slave to a leading abolitionist is truly remarkable. He was born in Maryland in 1818 and like many enslaved children at the time he was separated from his mother as a boy. His life changed dramatically when he became the servant in the home of Hugh Auld at the age of 8. There he was taught the alphabet and as he was later quoted saying "once you learn to read, you will be free forever." Douglass' determination from a young age to escape slavery set him apart. At first he sought to free himself through education and self-improvement but he quickly realised he would have to escape slavery to become a free man. He finally did this in 1838.

Douglass soon became part of the abolitionist movement in Massachusetts and participated in an anti-slavery newspaper. His passion and strength also made him a powerful public speaker. During the American Civil War he conferred with President Lincoln and recruited Black Americans to fight in the war and help gain their freedom. His priority was always the campaign to end slavery and secure equal rights for Black Americans, but he also supported women's rights, free public education and the abolition of capital punishment. Douglass



# Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

passionately believed in three keys to success: believe in yourself, take advantage of every opportunity and use the power of language to effect positive change for yourself and society. These sentiments are as powerful today as they were then.

**Miss Heaver:** Thurgood Marshall is someone who I feel is inspiring across the ages. Born to a humble and hard working family, Marshall worked his way through to his degree at university despite being at a time in America where racism was rife. Marshall wanted to attend Law School in Maryland but wasn't able due to being black. Instead of giving up he attended Howard University where his professor taught him to use the law for social transformation. After finishing first in his class, Marshall opened his own practice and became one of the top attorneys in America regardless of race and campaigned for enhanced civil rights amongst other fields. His first major success came when representing a student who had been rejected from the Law School which he had not been able to attend. He went on to join the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People) and eventually became chief of the Legal Defense and Education Fund.

He continued to win many cases and famously went on to represent and win more cases than anyone else before the Supreme Court. Arguably his most notable case was *Brown vs Board of Education Topeka*. In winning this case it gave black students that right to attend previously deemed white public schools and that separate facilities were inherently unfair (challenging a previous ruling in *Plessy vs Ferguson*). His success continued to grow and drew the attention of two presidents. In 1967, Marshall became the first black justice appointed to the Supreme Court where he continued to advocate for civil rights and affirmative action. His legacy continues in both law and education which were both very important to him inspiring the next generation to campaign for equal rights.

**Mr Kidman:** I find Sir Nicholas Winton a really interesting figure from history. In 1939 (just before the start of World War Two), he rescued 669 children from Czechoslovakia (which was being controlled by the Nazis) and they were raised in British families during the war. Although many of the children hoped to be reunited with their parents and families after the war, most of them discovered that their parents had been murdered in the Holocaust. It was



# Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

Winton's actions, by compiling lists of the children and travelling with them on the trains to Britain, which prevented them from meeting the same fate. Sir Nicholas Winton's actions therefore saved hundreds of lives. Winton did not hide what he had done in 1939 but it was not well-known publicly because he did not think he had done anything extraordinary- a fine example of how modesty is an excellent character trait. I therefore think Sir Nicholas Winton's actions are an example to us all- how each individual life can make a huge difference to humanity. I will leave you with this quote by Sir Nicholas Winton: "I have a motto that if something isn't blatantly impossible, then there must be a way of doing it".

**Mr Robjohn:** Tsar Nicholas II, the last Tsar (king) of Russia, fascinates me. Born on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1868, he succeeded his father Alexander III to the throne in 1894. He was also the grandson of Queen Victoria. His 23 years as Tsar was dominated by poor decision making, which ended in his execution by Bolsheviks in 1918. When he succeeded his father in 1894, he had very little experience of government and was apprehensive about being Tsar. He is believed to have said to an advisor that "I am not prepared to be Tsar. I never even wanted to become one." It seems Nicholas was apprehensive about being Tsar and had good reason to be.

Throughout his reign, Nicholas faced growing opposition within a restless Russia. He fought an unsuccessful war against Japan in 1904. People demanded political and social reform, as they had in Britain at the time. But instead of granting this, his government massacred nearly 100 unarmed protesters during a peaceful assembly in 1905, which became known as Bloody Sunday. He introduced a parliament, called a Duma, in an attempt to appease political protesters, but an effective working relationship never materialised. The outbreak of World War One in 1914 temporarily strengthened his rule, with Russia allied to France and Britain against Austria-Hungary and Germany. But in mid-1915 Nicholas made the disastrous decision to take direct command of the Russian armies. From then on, every military failure was directly associated with him. In February 1917, severe food shortages led to widespread popular demonstrations. Nicholas lost the support of the army and had no alternative but to abdicate. Nicholas pleaded with his cousin King



# Avonbourne Boys' & Girls' Academies

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

George V for refuge, but it was refused and he and his family were executed on 17 July 1918.