

## Gifted and Talented Young Historians – some ways parents can support them

- Family history.
  - Family Trees. Plenty of software packages available (some are freely available on the internet) to construct a family tree.
  - The Public Record Office website allows for (paid) access to family records.
  - Interview older relatives
  - Organise the family photo album (electronically!)
  - Visits to places of family interest.
- Local history.
  - Kingston Heritage Centre has a lot of publications about the history of the borough that some boys find fascinating. A great place to start.
  - History project on their favourite football team, or player, or manager etc. <http://www.fchd.info/indexa-z.htm> is a database of Football Club history.
- Spend an hour or two in a major London museum: Imperial War Museum, the National Army Museum, The Museum of London, The British Museum, London Transport Museum, Royal Airforce Museum in Hendon.
- Join English Heritage for discount days out to castles, monuments, stately homes, battle sites etc.
- Visit a battle reenactment:  
<http://www.histrenact.co.uk/societies/mainpage.php> is a link page to the websites of all the major reenactment societies in the UK. Mainly operate in July and August.
- Subscribe to the BBC History page newsletter to keep informed of History TV programmes: see <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history>
- Archaeology
  - Read the BBC Archaeology pages regularly:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/archaeology>
  - Join the Young Archaeologists' Club  
<http://www.britarch.ac.uk/yac/index.html>
- Start a collection of historical artefacts: coins, postcards, etc. Places like Covent Garden Market can be good places to start. Not an expensive hobby, if one is careful. There are collectors' sites on the internet too.
- Read historical novels to supplement topics studied in school:  
e.g.
  - Ellis Peters – Brother Cadfael stories
  - Louis de Wohl – exciting historical stories based on the lives of great saintsSee here for a helpful parents' guide to further historical literature for young people:  
<http://goodtoread.org/genres/historical>
- Read biographies of 'great' men and women in history: monarchs, military leaders, social reformers, etc.