AQA GCSE History at Hardwick
Hall Session: Is Hardwick Hall a typical Elizabethan building?

Two hours

The focus of this session is to identify the features of Elizabethan manor houses and relate these to Hardwick Hall. Is Hardwick Hall a typical Elizabethan building?

This immersive session will give students a real insight into the style and features of Hardwick. Students will visit the Hall, specifically focussing on our Elizabethan rooms - the Entrance Hall, High Great Chamber, Long Gallery and bedrooms; looking at the layout of the house.

This will give students the opportunity to consider aspects such as the glass windows, symmetry, plaster work, fireplaces and much more. Analysing the layout of the house will also help students to develop and interpret an understanding of what Bess of Hardwick’s court life may have been like and who was in her inner circle.

Hardwick also demonstrates the Elizabethan fashions of the time. Students will examine and evaluate portraits showing off these fashions in the Long Gallery. This session will also give students the opportunity to analyse the characteristics of Hardwick’s architecture. From this information, students will draw their own conclusions whether this was a typical Elizabethan building.

Gardens and Grounds Session: Establishing the biography of Hardwick Hall and its creator.

Two hours

From an environmental perspective students will discover why Hardwick was built in this geographical location. Students will consider how the Hall was built, which materials were used and discuss how the animals, crops and resources of the immediate area helped make Hardwick the impressive building it is.

By exploring the gardens and grounds, students will look at the reasons that the location was a big draw for its creator and how Hardwick really was built from the land on which it stands.

Students will analyse and interpret their findings to establish an understanding of the background of Hardwick Hall and get a sense of who Countess Elizabeth of Shrewsbury was.

If you would like any further information or would like to make a booking please call 01246 850430 or email hardwickhall@nationaltrust.org.uk.