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Letter No: 047/2026

28th September 2026

Dear Families,

Parallel Histories Day - Thursday 8th October 2026

On **Thursday 8th October 2026**, the History department is hosting a Parallel Histories Day of debate for all Year 12 historians. We are excited to host the event which will provide a series of workshops, discourse and debate to investigate the question, '**Was Margaret Thatcher a great leader?**' We will be joined by Year 12 historians from other local schools and two guest speakers; Bill Rammell, former Minister and Chief Executive of Parallel Histories and Mark Francois, Shadow Defence Minister.

Parallel Histories is an educational charity that teaches students to debate controversial historical topics by studying opposing perspectives. The workshop should provide an excellent opportunity for students to understand the nature of historical discourse, alongside the critical selection and use of primary sources to support judgements. The topic is also particularly relevant to our Year 12 students as their A level course includes a mandatory depth study on Thatcher's government and its socio-economic impacts.

Students should attend session 1 as normal and then arrive at the **main school hall for 10am**, where we will be based for the duration of the day **until 2.30pm**, when students will be dismissed for the day. Students should adhere to the normal Sandringham dress code and bring lunch with them on this day. Students will be expected to catch up on work missed from other lessons. Some pre-event reading and a recommended list of podcasts and films will be shared with the students and we strongly encourage students to engage with this content to help them get the most from the debate workshop.

Thank you in advance for encouraging your child to engage and participate in the workshop. Please do not hesitate to contact me at school if you have any questions at admin@sandringham.aetrust.uk

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Davies
Assistant Director of Learning: History