

What happened at Petworth on 29th September 1942?

Why did this event happen?

This enquiry looks at the tragic bombing of Petworth School on 29th September 1942. Pupils use a variety of rare and rich source material to establish what actually happened. They are then asked to consider why the school was bombed. There are three potential hypotheses which could explain why this rural school was bombed. Which one does the available evidence suggest is correct? Using oral and written memoirs the pupils are asked to decide which hypothesis the evidence seems to support. Finally using all that they have learnt the class is asked to construct a wall display using only five sources from the enquiry to describe and explain the events behind this tragic event.

National Curriculum concepts and processes:

Cause and Consequence: analysing and explaining the reasons for, and results of, historical events, situations and changes

Historical Enquiry: identify and investigate, individually and as part of a team, specific historical questions or issues, making and testing hypotheses

Using Evidence:

- a. identify, select and use a range of historical sources, including textual, visual and oral sources, artefacts and the historic environment
- b. evaluate the sources used in order to reach reasoned conclusions.

Communicating about the past:

- a. present and organise accounts and explanations about the past that are coherent, structured and substantiated, using chronological convention and historical vocabulary
- b. communicate their knowledge and understanding of history in a variety of ways, using chronological conventions and historical vocabulary.