

# History—Marie Antoinette Exhibition

The Year 12 History class visited the Marie Antoinette Style exhibition at the V&A on 7th January 2026 with Miss Brant and Miss Christie. It was a fantastic trip and gave us a more visceral insight into the life, image and legacy of one of history's most famous queens.

What made the exhibition especially memorable were the beautiful displays of dresses, fabrics and elaborate court attire, which reflected the luxury and elegance of Versailles. It was also fascinating to see costumes and dresses created for films, television and other media inspired by Marie Antoinette, showing how different artists and designers have interpreted her image over time. I also loved seeing paintings we had discussed in class face to face, particularly the Marie Antoinette en Chemise portrait by Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun (1783) and the infamous Sutherland Diamond Necklace. I also found the satirical artwork produced of her especially interesting, as it showed the crude propaganda used to damage her reputation through scandalous depictions. Even the smaller pieces of paraphernalia were fascinating, such as the decadent wallpapers and intricately designed jewellery casket box, which really highlighted how extravagant her lifestyle was. One part that particularly stood out to me was the sensory display featuring three different smells that became progressively worse, including one inspired by the sewers of Paris. It was unforgettable and really helped bring the past to life.

I love studying A Level History because history has always been a passion of mine. I find it fascinating that we study what was once everyday life for people in the past, examining their customs, choices and experiences. There is something so meaningful about uncovering the stories that shaped our world. History is also incredibly important, as by understanding the past we can learn from mistakes, grow as a society, and better understand our own identity today.

Kyo

Year 12

