

The Battle of Hastings is brought to life by Upper 3



The Upper 3 historians have been studying the Norman invasion of 1066 and especially why William of Normandy was able to win and become the 'Conqueror'. We focused particularly on whether William won or King Harold II lost at Hastings. In order to facilitate their understanding of the battle, Upper 3 re-enacted parts of it on a very sunny Friday afternoon. Half of the pupils represented the Normans, some of them imagining they were cavalry on 'destriers' (war horses) or archers, whilst the others were the Saxon soldiers, a mixture of trained men (housecarls) and *fyrð* (largely farmers picked up on the way down to Hastings).

The pupils were subsequently able to use this 'hands-on' experience, alongside classroom activities, to write essays demonstrating their knowledge and understanding of Hastings. We include varied learning techniques in the history department in order to encourage active learning.

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