

Upper 3 historians learn about popular plague cures



The Upper 3 historians were put into groups of four and given the task of convincing the class that their cure for the Black Death was the best. One group argued that plague was sent by God as a punishment for sins and the only ways to prevent this were prayer and flagellation.

The second group argued that bad air, or 'miasma' was the cause and thus could be cured by another, even stronger smell. The last group learned about Hippocrates' theory of the Four Humours and suggested that the Black Death could be cured through bloodletting, perhaps by using leeches.

Each of the groups had twenty minutes to learn about their cures and produce a mini-role play which would convince me to try their cure. Not only were they learning about a pandemic that killed about 35% of Europe's population, they were also developing their ability to work in a group and to present their ideas clearly and in an eye-catching way: they succeeded in every way!

Mrs Jo Watson