Year 8
Subject: History
Topic/Unit: How did Josiah Wedgewood change his world?
When: Autumn Half Term 2

Huntington School
Learn and succeed

Overview: This unit uses the story of **Josiah Wedgwood** to explore the changes occurring in Britain during the **Industrial Revolution**.

Why this? Why now? It provides a lens into how individual innovation in manufacturing, marketing, and transport intersected with broader societal shifts, including scientific discovery and political movements like abolition.

Building on...building to: Students apply prior knowledge of the **Early Modern period**, the **Transatlantic Slave Trade**, and concepts of **empire and colonisation**. This foundation prepares students for more in-depth studies of the **Industrial Revolution** and subsequent major historical events like the **French Revolution**.

Sequence summary:
The narrative-driven sequence follows Wedgwood's journey and his impact across several key areas which we will cover across 3 lessons:

1. **Introduction to Change:** Comparing Manchester c. 1750 and c. 1850 to visualise the scale of industrial transformation.
2. **The Lunar Society:** Examining the "Lunar Men" and how their shared ideas in science and technology (e.g., **James Watt's steam engine**) fuelled the revolution.
3. **Innovations in Pottery:** Tracking his transition from traditional stoneware to mass production.
4. **The Transport Revolution:** Analysing Wedgwood's efforts to solve logistical problems by lobbying for **turnpike roads** and driving the construction of the **Trent and Mersey Canal**.
5. **Modern Marketing:** Identifying Wedgwood's pioneering sales techniques, including **illustrated catalogues**, **showrooms**, and **royal patronage**.
6. **Political Campaigning:** Detailing Wedgwood's active role in the **abolition movement**, specifically his design and distribution of the **anti-slavery medallion**.
7. **Final Analysis:** Synthesising these themes to understand how areas of change like manufacturing and political campaigning connected and overlapped.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Industrial Revolution, Factory, Lunar Society, Turnpike, Abolition, Mass production**

Assessments: Testing core facts, such as the dates of the Early Modern period. Paragraph practice explaining Wedgwood's role in changing industry or slavery. This unit will be formally assessed during Assessment 2.

Able and interested:
Opportunities to examine period paintings like **"An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump"** to understand scientific curiosity in the 1700s.

Inclusion, Personal Development and Wider Skills: Activities include **matching exercises**, **mind maps**, and **colour-coding** to help students categorise information. The unit tackles ethical questions regarding the **slave trade** and highlights how trade and empire fuelled British wealth while raising significant moral issues.