**Monday**

**History: Henry VIII (Lesson four)**

*Recap: What can you remember about Henry VIII’s Great Matter from your lessons last week? Can you remember the answers to these questions?*

1. *What was discussed at the Blackfriars court?*
2. *Whom did Henry blame for the failure of the court to reach a conclusion?*
3. *Who became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533?*

*Answers:*

1. *At the Blackfriars court, Henry claimed that his marriage to Catherine had never been valid and should be annulled on religious grounds. Henry quoted a passage from the Bible which said it was unlawful for a man to marry his brother’s widow. Catherine bravely defended herself and validity of her marriage, citing another passage from the Bible, which said that a man could, and indeed should, marry is brother’s widow.*
2. *Henry blamed Thomas Wolsey for the failure of the court to reach a conclusion.*
3. *Thomas Cranmer became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1533.*

Thomas Cromwell and the Reformation Parliament

Thomas Cromwell was a clever lawyer and a keen reformer with Protestant sympathies. He became Chancellor of the Exchequer and Henry’s Chief Secretary. Led by Cromwell, Parliament passed a series of Acts reducing papal power and influence. This Parliament, which sat from 1529 until 1536, became known as the Reformation Parliament because it put into effect the English Reformation.

*Reformation Parliament (1529-1536): The Parliament which began the English Reformation by breaking away from the Pope in Rome and making Henry VIII the Supreme Head of the Church of England.*

All payments and appeals to Rome were stopped, Henry’s marriage to Catherine was declared unlawful, and by the Act of Supremacy passed in 1534, Henry became Supreme Head of the Church of England.

*Supremacy Act of 1534: Law passed by the Reformation Parliament by which Henry VIII became the Supreme Head of the Church of England.*

Henry’s determination to divorce Catherine and marry Anne at any cost had caused a fundamental break with the Papacy in Rome, and the establishment of a separate, independent Church of England. These events were indeed a ‘Great Matter’: they laid the foundations for the huge upheaval between Protestants and Catholics that were to dominate British history for many years to come.

Questions:

1. Who led the Reformation Parliament?
2. What was the 1534 Act of Supremacy?