**Arts and Learning**

***Education***

Educational opportunities widened: 53 new grammar (secondary to us) schools were founded between 1460 and 1509, however access to education depended on where you lived.

Latin was central to the curriculum and the 1480s saw a humanistic approach to its teaching. English remained a by-product of Latin.

***Drama***

It was very important: troupes of players who were often sponsored by the nobility toured the country.

The most famous dramas were mystery dramas performed at the feasts of Corpus Christi by guilds of towns and cities like York, Lincoln, Wakefield and Coventry. They set out moral and religious messages.

***Music***

Choral pieces sung in cathedrals underwent the beginning of a renaissance: single-line chants became polyphonic choral music.

The Eton Choirbook is the most important surviving source of this music. It contains 93 separate musical compositions and was compiled around 1505.

Thomas Browne (employed in the household of the Earl of Oxford) and Robert Fayrfax (benefitted regularly from the patronage of Lady Margaret Beaufort and Henry VII) were 2 of the most important composers in the Choirbook. They both had links to Henry VII.

Music was often given from the minstrels’ gallery (medieval singer/musician who performed from a balcony inside the great hall of a castle/manor house for the nobility). They often used trumpets, shawms (wind instrument) and sachbuts (wind instrument) or stringed instruments. Browne and Fayrfax also composed secular music.

***Architecture***

There was lots of building and rebuilding of parish churches, often in the Gothic (prevalent in Western Europe from the 12th-16th Century) perpendicular (dominant church architecture from the late 14th century to early 16th century) style, such as Saint Mary Redcliffe in Bristol. In 1502, Henry VII approved this style for the Lady Chapel at Westminster Abbey.

The new industry of printing (brought to England by William Caxton in 1478) was still concerned with traditional (traditional meaning chivalric romances and stories of saint’s lives) medieval culture but by Henry VII’s death, humanist influences had reached England instead, especially from Italy.

Thomas More, John Colet and Erasmus became more fashionable whilst worked printed by Caxton became unfashionable. Jack Lander called this the “humanist contempt for chivalric literature.”