

Humanities Curriculum Area

The Humanities curriculum area consists of geography, history, philosophy and ethics, sociology and psychology. Geography, history and philosophy and ethics are offered from Year 7 to Year 13, with all students studying for the full course philosophy and ethics GCSE. Sociology is offered at both Key Stage 4 and 5, and psychology is offered at Key Stage 5. All subjects are popular choices for students.

As a curriculum area, we strive to provide outstanding teaching and learning for our students, and have high expectations of both ourselves and our students. Through our use of active learning, promoting independent learning and incorporating thinking skills into lessons, we have had a positive impact on students' learning. We constantly strive to ensure all our students are given the necessary skills and quality teaching in order to allow them to achieve beyond the national expected progress levels at all key stages.

We regularly share our good practice at both whole school and new staff CPD sessions and many staff within the curriculum area are regularly observed by visitors, new teachers looking for teaching ideas, and trainee teachers. We also contribute to raising the quality of teaching and learning across the school through paired observations, mentoring and coaching other staff.

The curriculum area does not see its success in results alone but in its opportunity to develop the whole student. We run a number of educational visits including visits for our Year 8 students to the Neasden Hindu Mandir, a residential trip to the Battlefields in France for Year 9 students and a field trip to Dorset for Year 10 geographers. We also run educational visits for key stage 4 and 5 students to Berlin and Krakow (Auschwitz), Iceland and Italy (alternate years).

These subjects have proven to be popular courses and attract high numbers of students each year. Humanities incorporates a large number of subjects and although the subjects differ from each other, they are all concerned with broadening the students' knowledge about the world in which they live, and developing their ability to think critically and reach considered conclusions. The subjects place an emphasis on the students being able to communicate, both in writing and verbally, complex concepts and ideas, using specific terminology, and evaluate the knowledge they gain. All of these subjects complement each other, as well as subjects such as media and English.

Our students study the following specifications:

Geography and sociology: AQA at GCSE and A level

History: OCR at GCSE and A Level

Psychology: AQA A

Philosophy and ethics: AQA (GCSE) and OCR (A level)

Please see the specific subject areas on our school website for more detailed outlines of the courses and topics covered.