

Wootton Academy Trust

The Religious Studies Department



Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16-19 College are both part of Wootton Academy Trust. Currently the Trust is looking to merge with a larger Multi Academy Trust and the Sharnbrook Academy Federation is the Trust the board has identified as a partner. If the merger goes ahead it will take effect either late 2017 or early 2018.

Wootton Academy Trust

Wootton Academy Trust operates both Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16 – 19 STEM College. The two institutions are approximately two miles apart.

Wootton Upper School mainly has students in Years 9 -11 and the majority of our sixth form teaching, including Science, is located at our brand new, state of the art, Kimberley 16 – 19 STEM College, based in the adjacent village of Stewartby.

Most of the Trust's staff teach at both Wootton Upper School and also at Kimberley however some staff are based only at the school or the college.

Kimberley 16 – 19 STEM College was opened as a Free School in September 2013; its permanent home was not ready for occupation until the summer of 2014. Its first students took their A levels in 2015. Wootton Upper School opened in 1975 and has always enjoyed a good reputation. The challenge of opening Kimberley led to a dip in outcomes at Wootton and our most recent Ofsted inspection in December 2015 graded us as 'Requires Improvement.' We are determined to embrace the challenge of returning to being recognized as being at least good within the next two years.

The Religious Studies Department

Religious Studies is taught to all Year 9 students for an hour per week. Students are taught the locally agreed syllabus. Teaching groups are English teaching sets. There are between 12 and 14 groups in Year 9. Year 10 students are currently studying the AQA Religious Studies Specification A and year 11 students are studying the AQA Specification B. Once again groupings are based on English Teaching Sets. Virtually all students complete the specification and results at grades A* - C are between 52% and 93% in the last 3 years. At A Level the OCR specification is currently being taught in Year 13 and the Edexcel specification has been introduced in year 12.

There are two joint Heads of Department, Sharon Crisp looks after KS5 and Ester Adams is in charge of KS3 and KS4. Both of these colleagues work part time. There are a number of colleagues who teach Religious Studies in KS3 and KS4, mainly Humanities teachers. We see this appointment as an opportunity to increase the number of specialist teachers in the Department.

There is a Religious Studies base both at Wootton Upper School and another dedicated teaching room at Kimberley College. The Department is well resourced and all the individual Humanities Departments are very supportive of students and of each other. Therefore, the successful applicant will find themselves as a member of a hardworking, committed team. We are also very fortunate to be able to call in a specialist Religious Studies supply teacher whenever necessary which our current team of teachers find a great advantage. Pre visits to the school are welcome but not obligatory.

