

Valley Park School

The Humanities Faculty

The Humanities Faculty has undergone significant changes over recent years which have enabled the staff to continually move forward and develop outstanding teaching and learning. Our vision is to offer students the opportunity to study in an innovative, supportive and dynamic environment. We aim to support all our students in achieving, or bettering, their target grades so that they can realise their academic potential.

Curriculum and Subjects

The subjects offered within the Faculty are;

History: Compulsory in Key Stage 3, optional in Key Stage 4, students follow the Edexcel new specification. Years 12 and 13 follow the Edexcel new specification.

Geography: Compulsory in Key Stage 3, optional in Key Stage 4, students follow the AQA new specification. Years 12 and 13 follow the Edexcel new specification.

Ethics: Compulsory in Key Stage 3, optional in Key Stage 4, students follow the AQA Religious Studies Option A specification.

Modern Foreign Languages: French is compulsory in Key Stage 3, compulsory for EBacc students, optional for others in Key Stage 4, students follow the AQA new specification. Years 12 and 13 follow the Edexcel new specification.

Psychology: Not studied in Key Stage 3, optional in Key Stage 4 (from September 2018), students follow the Edexcel new specification. Years 12 and 13 follow the Edexcel new specification.

All students follow a two-year Key Stage 3 and a three-year Key Stage 4. Following the introduction of the English Baccalaureate most students now take either History or Geography or, in some cases, both at Key Stage 4. The faculty aims to deliver an exciting and purposeful curriculum to all pupils regardless of ability. We also make it a priority to keep up to date with the latest teaching and learning strategies, thus ensuring effective teaching and learning in the classroom.

Staffing

There are currently 11 members of staff within the faculty, each of the subject areas has a Head of Department and the successful candidate will be responsible for line managing these. In addition, the Faculty also plays a key role in training PGCE students. Many of our staff are experienced in developing new teachers which means there are opportunities to become involved in the training of others.

Standards

We strive to maintain high standards across the department which were reflected in the 2018 External Review, where the faculty was rated 'Good' and all teaching rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding'. Faculty meetings take place regularly throughout the year allowing staff to share good practice and support one another in order to maintain high standards and to raise them even further.

Resources

Every classroom has its own projector and interactive whiteboard. In addition, there is a wireless connection throughout the building. Students have good access to laptops and iPads to enhance the learning opportunities of the subject and the faculty is well resourced with textbooks and ICT software. Each department has its own separate budget allowing for the best deployment of school funding.