**Humanities Department**

**Who are we?**

The Humanities department at Buile Hill Visual Arts College is a supportive, aspirational and committed team. At our heart lies excellent teaching and that produces good outcomes for our students. Currently there are four full time specialist teachers, one part time member of staff and two members of the Senior Leadership team. Our Humanities staff are highly talented teachers who have made huge improvements in the quality of teaching and learning in recent years. Within the Humanities department we benefit from having our own classrooms each with an interactive whiteboard and the use of a dedicated ICT suite.

All students at Key Stage 3 receive two hours of Humanities per week and at Key Stage 4 they receive three hours per week. Students at Key Stage 4 are encouraged to opt for a GCSE in History or Geography. Year 11 students are currently studying AQA specifications in History and there are approximately 65 pupils. In Years 10 and 9 we have begun the Edexcel course and there are approximately 80 pupils in Year 10 and 90 in Year 9.

Our passion lies in collaboration, with members of the team planning and marking together, sharing resources and good practice. Humanities staff often work together as a team because not only can we learn from each other, but we can also improve the outcomes for the young people we teach.

**Outcomes for children.**

GCSE results have improved since 2014 with 58% of students achieving A\*-C in 2017, which is still below national average. Standards within teaching have improved at Key Stage 3 and 4, with rapid improvements during this academic year in the quality of the marking and feedback given to students. We recognise that to continue our journey to outstanding we need to ensure that excellent progress is achieved and secure in future outcomes. The impact of the improvements we have made so far are clearly evident in the forecasts for 2018 and in achievement at KS3 which has improved rapidly.

**What are we good at?**

Our department includes a range of dedicated, specialist staff that have developed the collaborative climate that has enabled teaching standards to improve. In our lessons the teacher-student relationships have been identified as a key strength, as they are good and mutually respectful. Planning and questioning for progress has improved significantly within the department. The history department has led the school in several teaching and learning initiatives and is always supporting and sharing best practice. In the best lessons, questioning checks understanding and supports progress through challenge and developing responses.

**What do we want to develop?**

As our results demonstrate, our key priority is to develop the outcomes for students within Humanities. Within our lessons we are focusing on rapid progress and making this an integral part of our learning and teaching. As a team we are developing the curriculum to ensure that standards of achievement and high expectations are maintained throughout KS3 and into KS4. The Humanities department is a committed, collaborative and student-centered team looking forward to welcoming a hard-working team player next year.