



Humanities Faculty

Geography

Within the Geography Department there are three full time and one-part time member of staff. Miss Carolyn Pearce is the current Head of Department. The staff teach in their own classrooms which are on the ground floor of the main building. The classrooms all have projection and surround sound systems and the department have access to the Faculty IT suite, tablets, laptops or iPads. Each member of staff has their own laptop.

At GCSE the department have started the Edexcel A GCSE course. Focusing on Component 1 in Year 10, students will learn topics which include, river landscapes and processes, coastal landscapes and processes, weather hazards and climate change as well as ecosystems, biodiversity and management. The Year 11 students are focusing on Component 2 which consists of changing cities, global development and energy resource management.

At A-Level students are studying the new OCR A-Level. Options taught in year 12 include: changing places, making spaces, coastal landscapes, disease dilemmas and hazardous earth. Each September students carry out a 5-day visit to Brenscombe Field Studies Centre near Swanage, where they will collect data for their NEA assessment.

Geography is a key department within the Faculty, regularly attracting high student numbers. At present the department are responsible for 335 students across Years 10 and 11 with a total of 13 GCSE classes. At A-Level there are currently 16 students studying Geography in Year 13 over two classes and 45 students in Year 12 over three classes.

In such a large Faculty results vary across the departmental areas, but the results of the Geography Department have remained good at both GCSE & A-Level for a number of years. In the summer of 2017 the Geography Department achieved 33% A*-A & 78% A*-C grades. At A2-Level there were similar successes with the students achieving 23.4% A*-A and 93.6% A*-C with a 100% pass rate. The progress at GCSE was significantly above national averages for progress and attainment at KS4.

Faculty Information

The Geography Department is an integral part of the large and diverse Humanities Faculty.

The Humanities Faculty is responsible for teaching the Extended Project Qualification, General Studies, History, Personal & Social Development (PSD), Psychology and Religious Studies, as well as Geography ⁽¹⁾.

Within the Faculty all staff contribute to the teaching of the PSD course in both Years 10 & 11. This course is a non-examination bespoke course covering topics such as careers, relationships, religion, global citizenship and e-safety. The Head of Religious Studies, Peter Jones, has responsibility for the planning, resourcing and scheme of work for the PSD course. There is co-ordination with the NCS (National Citizen Service) who deliver sessions in school as part of this course. Ashby School has been recognised as a 'Champion School' for the uptake of students (80+) participating in the NCS scheme during the summer of 2016 & 2017 ⁽²⁾.

There are ten full time teaching staff within the Faculty, two-part time teachers and two dedicated administrative assistants split between the subjects. There is also a full time learning support assistant and a cover supervisor linked to the Faculty.

The Head of the Humanities Faculty is Mr Lee Shepherd. There are four individual Head of Departments, leading Geography, History, Psychology and Religious Studies. The Head of Geography, Carolyn Pearce, also has the additional responsibility for Teaching & Learning within the Faculty ⁽³⁾.

Carolyn Pearce leads the twilight INSET for the Faculty. This Faculty INSET occurs on four occasions over the academic year. Sessions last for 90 minutes and are scheduled on Thursday after school. The topics being covered during the 2017-18 academic year focus on embedding linearity of the new GCSE and A-Level specification changes.

The Faculty is well represented on a whole-school level with a member of staff in the Senior Leadership Team, Margaret Hawksworth, and the Head of Careers, Aimee Littler, also teaches within the Faculty ⁽⁴⁾.

As part of the Faculty's contribution to school wide residential trips, there have been recent trips to Iceland⁽⁵⁾, China⁽⁶⁾ and New York & Washington. As a result, the school was awarded the Educational Visits Award at the 2016 Education & Business Awards ceremony, held in London in July 2016⁽⁷⁾.

The Faculty has three staff working areas, two staff offices and a work room where morning briefings are held.

School Life

Most staff are also Form Tutors. We have a House system with 8 Houses each with 8 forms. Forms are vertical and include students from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13. Form tutors are responsible for the pastoral element of our students' education. Houses take part in many activities, trips and charity events, as well as the annual Sports Day. There are two House afternoons^(8 & 9) during the course of the academic year where students are off timetable and take part in different events to challenge themselves and try something new.

There is a thorough and comprehensive induction process for all new staff members. The Humanities Faculty also has its own induction process for new staff members. Ongoing evaluation and appraisal is commonplace.

The Faculty was recently profiled in the March 2017 & March 2018 Ashbeian and the articles can be found below⁽¹⁰⁾. A review of the Faculty was carried out in February 2017, which included work sampling, student interviews and thorough review of the processes and consistency in the Faculty. There were many very positive aspects identified about life in the Humanities Faculty at Ashby School.

If you would like any further information on the School, Faculty or Department, or would like to arrange a tour. Do not hesitate to contact the Head of Faculty, Mr Lee Shepherd, at l.shepherd@ashbyschool.org.uk.

References

- (1) Detailed course information: <http://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/subject/humanities>
- (2) Say yes to NCS: <http://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/news/ncs>
- (3) Teaching & Learning: <http://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/teaching-and-learning>
- (4) Enterprise/Careers day: <http://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/news/enterprising-students-impress-the-judges>
- (5) Iceland field trip <http://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/news/students-visit-iceland-s-glaciers-lava-fields-geysers-and-icebergs-all-in-four-days>
- (6) China Trip <http://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/news/best-trip-ever-is-made-in-china>
- (7) Educational Visits Award <http://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/news/award-for-ashby-school-proves-that-visits-are-an-education>
- (8) October House Afternoon <http://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/news/house-afternoon-is-chance-to-try-something-new>
- (9) Christmas House Afternoon <http://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/news/festive-ho-ho-house-afternoon>
- (10) The Ashbeian, March 2017 <http://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/uploads/files/ashbeian%20spring%202017%20hexagons.pdf>
- (11) The Ashbeian, March 2018 <http://www.ashbyschool.org.uk/uploads/files/ashbeian%20spring%202018.pdf>