

**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 four hours of Humanities per week and at Key Stage 4 they receive two hours per week in Year 10 and three in Year 11. Every student at Key Stage 4 is encouraged to opt for a GCSE in History or Geography. KS4 students are currently studying the AQA specification in Geography. There are approximately fifty students studying Geography in Y10 and sixty in Y11.

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 shown some improvement in recent years. In 2017 % of students achieving A\*-C, which is still significantly 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 the excellent outcomes achieved in previous years are secured in the future. 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 throughout this year. In a recent faculty review led by an external consultant we were identified as ‘good’ under the current Ofsted framework in all areas except for achievement. In our lessons the teacher-student relationships have been identified as a strength, as they are good and mutually respectful. Planning and questioning for progress has improved significantly within the department. 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 further developing student response to marking 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.