

Kingdown School Humanities Department Information for Applicants – Summer 2019

Kingdown has highly successful RS/PSHE and History departments, with strong GCSE and A-Level results across both departmental areas. We pride ourselves on the excellent standard of our teaching, our results, and the team ethos we have created. These pages are designed to give you an outline of the departments and help you decide if this is the type of work environment that suits you. We look forward to receiving your application.

Victoria Bunting
Curriculum Leader - RS/Philosophy

Georgie Hill
Curriculum Leader - History

1. Department Structure and Main Responsibilities

RS/PSHE

The RS Department consists of 3 specialist members of staff who are passionate about the teaching of RS and Philosophy. We are enthusiastic and committed professionals who aim to deliver high quality lessons in a positive but well-disciplined environment. The success of the Department is due to the high expectations placed upon pupils and staff and the exceptional teamwork that is evident on a daily basis. Working as a team is an important feature of the Department's practice. It is our aim that each teacher of RS is able to contribute fully to the key policies and practices of the Department.

Vicky Bunting - Head of RS

Fran Green - responsibility for KS3 RS and PPM

Dave Richardson – Assistant Head/Head of Wimbledon House

History

This is an exciting time in the development of the History department, with Georgie Hill taking on the Curriculum Leader role from September. The department consists of 4 other members of staff; this is an experienced and close-knit team who are wholly focused on the quality of teaching and learning, and who are passionate historians with different specialisms in terms of knowledge of different periods of history. The Department structure currently is:

Georgie Hill – Head of History

Russ Clarke – Kingdown Disadvantaged Learner Lead

Sam Player – Deputy Head of House

Sarah Miller – Deputy Head of House

Natasha Spicer – Head of Sociology and EPQ

Contact time

Standard teaching contact times in the humanities department at Kingdown are:

- 42 periods per fortnight (84% class contact time) – full time teacher
- 40 periods per fortnight (80% class contact time) – NQT

These contact times compare extremely favourably with many schools.

2. Professional Development

Kingdown prides itself on the quality of the professional development opportunities it offers to both its own staff, and to others. We have a comprehensive NQT induction programme, including regular professional development, INSET meetings and training, and the allocation of a subject mentor (from the Humanities Department) and a teaching 'buddy' (a recently qualified teacher from a different Department), to offer help and support during the first few months in teaching. All of the Department become involved in new staff training and we pride ourselves on giving them a very supportive environment in which to begin their teaching careers. We are also often asked to give both UK and International students a 'taster' of what teaching is like in a successful British comprehensive school, and have run INSET courses for other schools recently on a range of aspects of learning and leadership in Humanities. There are many opportunities to take on responsibilities and develop careers within our department.

3. Curriculum

Key Stage 3

Students in Years 7 and 8 have two lessons a fortnight (RS) and three lessons per fortnight (History). Students in Year 9 have four lessons a fortnight in both subject areas. Students in year 7 are streamed with two higher groups and 3 mixed groups on each side of the year. Students in year 8 are set, but the exact nature of the setting varies according to the needs of the students each year. Students in year 9 are taught in mixed ability classes. KS3 learning covers a variety of topics, as we aim to engage students' interest with a rich and diverse curriculum to stimulate interest, knowledge and understanding in the beliefs of others, and across a wide period of world history.

Key Stage 4

Both courses are popular subject choices at Kingdown, with approximately 60 students per year opting for RS, and 100 students per year opting for History.

Key Stage 5

Both subject areas are again popular student choices, and are studied across 10 lessons per fortnight. Results have been consistently strong in both areas, with many students taking their studies on to university level.

4. Department Accommodation and Resources

Every teacher of humanities has a dedicated classroom with a PC, whiteboard and data projector. One classroom has a smartboard. There is associated office space with teacher-specific PC's and printers for staff to work on in non-contact lessons.

The departments have worked together to produce full schemes of work for every unit, and fixed homework and assessment tasks are in place. Teachers are encouraged to use these as a basis for their planning, whilst adapting individual lessons to suit the needs of their groups.

It is expected that you will be committed not only to the caring ethos of the School, but to your subject specialism and to the particular needs of the students in your care. The Department aims to develop and sustain an efficient, effective and challenging role within the School and it is vital that you are committed to this on both a personal and a professional level.

We are looking for someone who can work with a range of students and staff, who is well organised and will support the Curriculum Leader with efficiency and drive; someone who can communicate well with students, colleagues and parents. An enthusiastic professional who is able to fully integrate with a committed Faculty. The person appointed will be fully supported by the Curriculum Leader and other members of the department and by the wider Humanities Faculty system.

5. Further Information

We are looking for an excellent teacher who is passionate about RS, PSHE and History and is firmly committed to enhancing the learning experience of our students. We are a highly self-motivated department and you must have the ability to organise, and work hard to deliver engaging and exciting lessons each day whilst maintaining your sense of humour. In return we will offer you support when you need it, excellent career progression and training, as well as a stimulating and vibrant working atmosphere. If you are looking for a new challenge in a supportive environment with a like-minded team of professionals then we would love to hear from you – and will look forward to meeting you at interview.

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT KINGDOWN

The English Department consists of 16 members of staff who are passionate about the teaching of English. We are a very friendly and enthusiastic department who aim to deliver high quality lessons in a positive, but well-disciplined environment. The success of the Department is due to the high expectations placed upon pupils and staff and the exceptional teamwork that is evident on a daily basis.

Working as a team is an important feature of the Department's practice. It is our aim that each teacher of English, whether full-time or part-time, and to whatever level of seniority, will feel able to contribute resources and share good practice.

The Department structure currently is:

Curriculum Leader & Head of Department (i/c whole school Literacy)	Kirsty Honeysett
2 nd in Department (i/c KS4):	Katie Pope
i/c KS3:	Helen Flynn & Jen Marlow
i/c Literacy:	Jen Marlow

Other members of the Department are encouraged to take on responsibilities to enhance their professional development. These include such things as: PGCE mentoring, trips and visits, gifted and talented students, SEN students and data analysis. The opportunities are endless.

The majority of English teaching takes place in the English Block in which each Department member has his or her own room. The rooms are well-furnished with PC, projector and whiteboard, and decoration is of a high standard. There is an excellent resource room, with kitchenette and well-stocked biscuit barrel! Upstairs is an attractive, comfortable Learning Resources Centre and nearby a separate ICT room which currently houses 30 PCs. Working conditions are therefore excellent and enable English teachers to keep closely in touch and share ideas.

Key Stage 3

Students in Year 7,8 have seven lessons a fortnight; year 9 have 8. Students have one lesson a week of Literacy teaching, which has links to whole school Literacy. Schemes of work and planning at KS3 are outstanding, resulting in high levels of motivation and attainment.

Key Stage 4

All students are entered for AQA English Language and Literature, and study Macbeth, Power and Conflict Poetry, Jekyll and Hyde and An Inspector Calls for Literature. Pupils are entered for both Literature and Language in Year 11.

Key Stage 5

At A -Level we offer the following courses: AQA English Literature A, AQA English Language and Literature, Eduqas Media Studies and OCR Film Studies.

Overall

The English Department is a very good Department, aiming to become outstanding. We have a sensible approach to marking and feedback, and staff well-being is extremely important. This supportive approach has created a happy, fulfilled and valued team, who are reflective and strive for excellent practice.