**THE HUMANITIES FACULTY**

**INCLUDING SMSC AND BUSINESS STUDIES**

Excellence for All

**HUMANITIES & BUSINESS STUDIES**

**Accommodation and Resources**

Humanities subjects at Trinity High School are housed in an extensive suite of rooms in the main school building. We have excellent facilities for the purpose of delivering high quality lessons.

The Humanities can be described as the study of how people process and document the human experience. Since humans have been able, we have used philosophy, literature, religion, history and language to understand and record our world. These modes of expression have become some of the subjects that traditionally fall under the humanities umbrella. Knowledge of these records of human experience gives us the opportunity to feel a sense of connection to those who have come before us, as well as to our contemporaries.

Through exploration of the humanities we learn how to think creatively and critically, to reason, and to ask questions.

Today, human knowledge continues to provide the ideal foundation for exploring and understanding the human experience. Investigating a branch of philosophy might get you thinking about ethical questions. Learning another language might help you gain an appreciation for the similarities in different cultures. Reading a book from another region of the world, might help you think about the meaning of democracy. Listening to a history course might help you better understand the past, while at the same time offer you a clearer picture of the future.

**Teaching and Learning**

All students will study History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages and Religious Education in Year 9. History, Modern Foreign Languages, Religious Education, Geography and Business Studies will be options for full courses at GCSE level in Year 10 and 11. As part of our statutory provision, SMSC Education will be studied by all students in Years 10 and 11 who will follow an ethics based course.

The Religious Education Department aims to deepen student knowledge and understanding of religious belief and practice. Students are encouraged to reflect upon their own ideas and the ideas of others in order to take their place in a multi-cultural society. Religious Education is well resourced and employs various teaching methods and materials. In a relaxed learning environment the concept of equality in diversity is celebrated along with the opportunity for students to reflect their own spirituality.

History is a popular choice both for GCSE and A-Level courses. While the merits of the subject in its own right are clear, the skills which it helps to develop are welcomed by most employers and educational establishments as evidence of sound academic and personal ability. The Department is fully committed to enhancing teaching by using a wide range of resources, and to ensuring that all students fulfil their potential in the subject.

Geography is a popular subject at all levels. Students increase their awareness of the natural and human worlds by developing their knowledge of places and environments and by improving and practising their investigative and problem solving skills. In Geography students will encounter and appreciate different cultures and societies and evaluate their rights and responsibilities to other people and the environment. Students benefit from classroom experiences that use a variety of teaching methods and materials, as well as being given the opportunity to participate in fieldwork, both local and residential.

French, German and Spanish are offered to Year 9 students. These languages are taught at GCSE. We sustain direct links with Europe through a series of study visits and we have an established link with Collėge Terres Rouges in Epernay in France. Our students are enabled, through a wide variety of media and inter-personal techniques, to practise their skills in situations which demand the use and understanding of up-to-the-minute French, German and Spanish.

Business Studies is a popular choice in Year 10, with the AQA GCSE Business Studies being offered to students. Regular visits are made to local and national businesses, with guest speakers also coming into school to enhance student learning. All students learn through a variety of teaching strategies that stretches their business knowledge. This is then applied in a variety of challenging case studies and practical simulations.

**Post 16**

Successful A-Level courses are offered in Psychology, Business Studies, Philosophy and Ethics, History, French, Spanish, German and Geography.

**SMSC**

OurSMSC – Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural deveopment at Trinity High School, recognises that the personal development of our students plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve their full potential. In essence SMSC is how we help young people to develop a sense of identity, and relate meaningfully to the world around them. For this reason, the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural (SMSC) enrichment of our students is at the heart of the school’s ethos and is embedded across the curriculum, pastoral programme, enrichment activities, visits, trips and assemblies.

We aim to provide an education that provides students with opportunities to ‘shine’ in any way they can and enables them to explore their own:

* values and beliefs;
* spiritual awareness;
* personal behaviour;
* positive and caring attitude towards others;
* understanding of their social and cultural roots;
* understanding of our school culture and community;
* understanding of what it means to be British;
* appreciation of the diversity and richness of other cultures

“Children with higher levels of emotional, behavioural, social and school well-being on average have higher levels of academic achievement and are more engaged in school, both concurrently and in later years”

*Department for Education,* 2012

**Religious and Moral Education**

The following statements embody the law on religious education so far as it may affect parents:

Religious Education is statutory within the state school system, is non-denominational in character and is in accordance with an agreed syllabus. Details of this will be made available on request.

A parent has the following rights:

* to withdraw his/her child from any part of Religious Education or from the whole of it;
* to withdraw his/her child from Religious Education of a denominational kind, provided such instruction is given at the beginning of a school session and not coincide with normal instruction.

Requests for withdrawal from Religious Education or from the religious elements of an assembly should be made in writing to the Headteacher.

As far as Religious and Moral education at Trinity High School and Sixth Form Centre are concerned, the Headteacher and Governors wish it to be known that they stand firmly for clear moral principles, and they have no doubt that education in such principles is a necessary and proper part of a High School education.

Trinity High School and Sixth Form Centre reflects the community which it serves. As such parents and students can have absolute confidence that their rights and beliefs are considered and respected, and that the school supports universal human standards of outlooks and behaviour – tolerance, compassion, consideration and honesty.

**Sex and Relationship Education**

Sex Education and Relationships is taught through a developmental, co-ordinated programme within Social and Moral Education and other areas of the school curriculum – including Science. Any teacher dealing with any aspect of Sex Education and Relationship Education will be guided by the Trinity **Sex and Relationship Education policy**.

It is important for teaching staff to feel comfortable with the subject matter of Sex and Relationship Education. We will work towards using only appropriately trained staff for the teaching of Sex and Relationship Education. Advanced Learning Days will be delivered by Health professionals.

**Trinity High School and Sixth Form intends to:**

* deliver a Sex Education Programme as outlined in DfEE Circular 0116/2000
* give all students objective and accurate information concerning sexual relationships
* equip students to make informed decisions about their own relationships
* encourage them to respect and consider the needs and rights of others
* foster a sense of moral responsibility and develop the skills to avoid unwanted sexual experiences
* provide a knowledge of how the human body functions, how it grows and changes – physically and

emotionally

* develop self- esteem, self- awareness and communication skills
* provide support and information for young people and their parents
* provide a secure and interesting environment where issues can be explored
* provide external support through the School Nurse Service, Sexual Health Service and Redditch

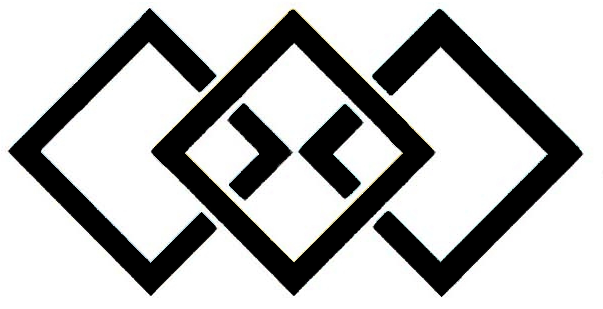
Borough Council regarding mental and sexual health awareness in education.

The 1993 Education Act does give parents the right to withdraw their children from sex education lessons. We are very happy to discuss any issues of concerns with parents.

**PSHE - Personal Development Days**

The PSHE programme at Trinity High School enables young people to become confident individuals who are able to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives and responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.

PSHE takes place during a co-ordinated programme of advanced learning days’, delivered by professional organisations and external agencies and these will cover the statutory requirements of Sex Education, Careers Education and work related learning.

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