

Synopsis of Humanities Area

The Humanities department at The Bemrose School is one of the most vibrant areas within the School. We currently have seven full-time and two part-time members of staff. There is a clear emphasis on teamwork, mutual support, and the sharing of teaching and learning opportunities as well as resources.

The department is forward thinking and is often at the forefront of whole school initiatives. In years 7, 8 and 9, students follow a diverse curriculum which aims to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in their future studies but also outside of school. Throughout KS3 students will study 3 hours of Geography and History per fortnight. Within history students will study topics such as the Golden Age of Elizabeth, the British and American Civil Rights movement and WWI and WWII. In geography students will study coasts, rivers, megacities, population and development along with country studies to further their knowledge and understanding of the world. In addition, students will study 2 hours of RE and 1 hour of PSHE a fortnight. Within RE students will study different world religions whilst also combining their knowledge to enable students to engage in philosophical discussions.

In year 7 students also study Topic, a multi-faceted cross-curricula subject which incorporates both Humanities and English. Topic aims to bridge the gap between primary and secondary school, by giving students time to discover and study themes such as diversity, relationships, identity, wonder and futures.

At Key Stage 4 the Humanities department offers a range of subjects. All students study RE and many complete a Full Award GCSE in Religious Education (Eduqas). We also offer GCSEs in History (Edexcel), Geography (Eduqas B) and Sociology (AQA). Over the past few years we have seen increasing demand from students wishing to take a broad range of Humanities subjects at GCSE – a trend which we anticipate will continue. PSHE is delivered at KS4 through ‘Curriculum Enrichment’ days and one period per week. Over the year we offer several themed workshops focussed upon statutory elements of the PSHE and Citizenship curricula. Sociology is also offered at AS and A2 level for students in the Sixth Form. Results in Humanities subjects are roughly in line with the school average and improving year on year. As we strive to continue this trend there is an increasing focus on evidence-informed teaching and learning within the department, with meetings to focus on developing strategies to improve the quality of teaching and learning within lessons.

The Humanities department is extremely well resourced and based in the Oaktree building. Each teacher has their own classroom, equipped with a laptop, interactive whiteboard and visualiser. Within the department we have a wide range of resources to help staff plan and deliver their lessons. Access to ICT facilities within the school as a whole is good and we have a number of bookable laptop trolleys which means that we can provide ICT lessons within the classroom.