



Heathside School

Humanities Curriculum Area Information January 2018

We are seeking an enthusiastic and well qualified teacher of History to teach across all key stages and abilities in our highly successful 11-18 Academy. If NQT, this will be a year fixed term in the first instance. Heathside School is an over-subscribed, high-performing school located in Weybridge, Surrey. Heathside is the founding school in the ElmWey Learning Trust.

In July 2016 the Trust was successful in its bid to open a brand new secondary school in Elmbridge. The school is planned to open in September 2019 and will be a state funded Free School, non-selective and non-faith based. It will grow year-on-year and when fully operational will have 900 students in the age range 11-16. You would therefore be joining Heathside at an exciting time in its development. NQT (1 year fixed term in the first instance) or a more experienced candidate (TLR may be available for a suitable candidate).

Humanities at Heathside comprises of RE/ RS, Geography, Government & Politics, History, and Sociology. Most of these Subject Areas have a Subject Leader and there is a Humanities Curriculum Area Manager (CAM) who is responsible for managing all aspects of the curriculum and its delivery. The different elements of the Humanities department work closely together. There are a range of subject specific and combined Humanities field trips. There are also a number of cross curricular links between Humanities subjects and other curriculum areas in the school. We teach a large number of students and enjoy delivering a dynamic curriculum which proves to be very popular.

RE

The RE department is made up of two subject specialists (including one Subject Leader) and a team of dedicated non-specialist teachers. Last year, the A*-C pass rate for GCSE Religious Studies was 94%. Our results are significantly above the national average. The profile of RE has been raised within the school as a whole and new initiatives have resulted in an innovative and exciting KS3 curriculum. Students in years 7, 8 & 9 follow a rich and varied curriculum. In YR7 they complete 'The Big Six' project which runs across all three terms and provides the students with a good basic understanding of the big six world religions. In YR8 this knowledge is supplemented by further exploration of the specific customs and rituals allotted to each world religion. This compliments the work they do on 'identity' in PSE/Citizenship. In YR9 our students learn about philosophy and attempt to answer 'ultimate questions' about the world around them. They also consider morality and ethics which prepares them for their GSCE studies. .

All students follow an Ethics programme of study in years 10 And 11. In addition, our GCSE students follow the new Edexcel course. The resources are constantly updated to provide current/relevant material for the students to



work with. Most students enjoy the opportunity to discuss issues that directly affect the world around them and attitude towards the subject is good. We deliver the new Edexcel AS/A level Religious Studies. This specification focuses on the topics of philosophy and ethics. There are currently two teachers delivering the course at Key Stage 5. It is encouraging to see an increasing number of students going onto university in order to continue their studies in philosophy and ethics.

Geography

Geography is led by a Subject Leader and the students perform well. There are approximately 180 students studying GCSE Geography in Years 10 and 11 and approximately 50 students at AS/ A level. Last year, the A*-C pass rate for GCSE Geography was 81%. In Years 7, 8 and 9 all students have two 50-minute periods of Geography each week. New schemes of work have been written and innovative approaches to homework and assessment have been incorporated. The course is concept based, containing a balance of physical and human geography. The subject focuses on content reflecting topical issues.

At GCSE students have 3 periods a week and we follow the new Edexcel Specification B. Students studying AS and A-level have 4 or 5 lessons and we follow the new Edexcel A Level specification.

Fieldwork is well-developed at Heathside, and valued by the students. We run a range of day trips and enrichment activities at Key Stage 3. Students in Year 10 will be carrying out fieldwork in association with the Field Studies Council. They also have the opportunity to participate in an optional residential fieldtrip to Italy in the autumn term. At AS/ A Level the students, students participate in four days of fieldwork delivered in association with the Field Studies Council in Surrey. A number of our students go onto to study geography at university.

There are currently 4 specialist geography teachers in the department who form a positive, hard working and supportive team.

Government & Politics

Government and Politics was introduced at AS Level in September 2011 and since then has proved a popular course. The AS/ A level subject is taught and led by teachers from the History subject area and we follow the Edexcel specification. The subject actively arranges external speakers such as the current Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond and 'question times with MPs/ MEPs. An annual organised visit to the Houses of Parliament also takes place. Once again, students often go on to study Politics at university.

History



History at Heathside is organised by a Subject Leader and there are three other subject specialist teachers in the department. Last year, the A*-C pass rate for GCSE History was 92%. KS3 History is taught as a distinct subject in two, 50 minute lessons per week, over the three years. A wide range of day trips and enrichment activities are run for students in KS3, these include a visit to Caerphilly Castle and Caerleon in year 7 (as part of the Humanities trip to Wales) and a field trip to the battlefields of Belgium in year 9.

GCSE History follows the new Edexcel syllabus and it consistently proves to be a popular option choice. GCSE History is taught in three 50 minute lessons per week.

A Level History follows the OCR syllabus and is once again a very popular option with at least two classes of about 15-20 students taking the subject with a high retention rate of students into A2. In year 12, students study the 'Cold War' and 'The Stuarts'. In year 13, students study a range of topics including Russian history. Many students are inspired to continue their historical studies at university.

There are currently 4 history teachers who are led by an experienced Subject Leader. The department is well resourced and everyone works together to deliver an interesting and varied curriculum.

Sociology

Sociology AS and A2 level is led by the current Humanities Curriculum Area Manager. Both teachers from the Humanities department deliver the different elements of the subject. In year 12 students study a range of sociological topics including issues relating to social inequality, the family, socialisation, culture and identity and research methods. In year 13 the crime and deviance option is studied along with a unit relating to the global digital social world. We follow the new OCR syllabus and typically there is one class of around 15 students in year 12 with a similar sized group continuing to A2. Most sociology students study at least one other Humanities subject. We have some fantastic sociologists who go onto study sociology at a range of universities.

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