



GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Walton High opened in 1999 with 120 Year 8 students. Since then the school has grown significantly and now has over 2,000 students on roll, including 300+ Post 16. The school has an excellent reputation and is consistently oversubscribed.

In November 2016, Walton High expanded onto a second campus that is two and half miles away from the Walnut Tree Campus at Brooklands. The Brooklands campus opened with 270 students across Years 7 – 9 and now has 636 students in Years 7 – 11 growing to 1,500 students, including 300 Post-16, by 2022.

When both campuses are at capacity, Walton High is one of the largest secondary schools in the country ensuring excellent opportunities for career progression.

A single system of governance, organisation, leadership and management operates across both campuses.

In 2011 the Governors of Walton High founded Milton Keynes Education Trust with the following aims:

Milton Keynes Education Trust Statement of Aims

The educational aims and objectives of Milton Keynes Education Trust (MKET) are based on our commitment to securing social justice through high quality education that promotes inclusion and embraces diversity.

The Trust aims to **enhance** and **enrich** the lives of children and young people by **enabling** them to make the most of outstanding learning opportunities within and beyond the curriculum; instilling an appreciation that there are **no limits** to what they can achieve and developing the attributes needed to successfully shape and respond to the future.

A clear secular moral framework will promote honesty, integrity, tolerance and respect as well as an appreciation of individual and collective responsibility.

In this way we will bring out **the very best** in our children and young people.

We will realise our aims and secure sustainable school improvement through high quality transformational leadership, professional development and collaborative partnerships.

The schools that are currently part of Milton Keynes Education Trust are:

- New Chapter Primary School, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes
- Heronsgate School, Walnut Tree, Milton Keynes
- Kents Hill Infant School, Milton Keynes



The creation of the multi-academy trust has enabled more cross phase working and the schools within the partnership have pooled resources to provide additional educational services to support children's learning, e.g. Educational Psychologist, Education Welfare Officer and Speech and Language Therapist.

WALTON HIGH'S APPROACH TO LEARNING AND TEACHING

Walton High is committed to making personalised learning a reality. Our flexible and varied curriculum is an essential foundation for this, providing as it does personal learning pathways which are challenging, relevant and significant.

Personalised learning and teaching is a commitment to ensuring **all learners** reach or exceed expectation, fulfil early promise and develop latent potential. At the heart of personalisation is the expectation of participation, fulfilment and success. Personalised learning sets ambitious objectives, challenging personal targets, rapid intervention to keep students on trajectory and vigorous assessment to check and maintain progress.

Core components of personalised learning are:

Assessment for Learning - the process of seeking and interpreting evidence for use by learners and their teachers to decide where they are in their learning, where they need to go and how best to get there;

Developing students' capacity to learn - by building the confidence and capacity of the learner and developing personal skills and strategies to enable self-management and self-direction;

Teaching and Learning strategies that actively engage and challenge learners - Walton High's approach to lesson planning ensures all the key elements of outstanding learning are considered.



TEACHER OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES (PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS)

Walton High is seeking to appoint a well-qualified and enthusiastic teacher of Philosophy to join our department of specialist teachers.

THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS) CURRICULUM AREA

The team are enthusiastic and energetic practitioners, committed to providing a high quality experience for students of all abilities and at all key stages. We aim to inspire and engage our students so they may develop as confident young Philosophers who do not shy away from asking the ‘big questions’ about life and existence.

The Curriculum Area is currently comprised of 5 subject specialists who deliver Philosophy at all key stages. The department is well resourced and is constantly looking for new ways to improve the quality of the curriculum we teach. All students at Walton High study the AQA full course Religious Studies exam as we believe that all students should have the opportunity to receive a qualification for the hard work they put in over the three years of study.

We are an active team, generous in our support of colleagues and to the wider life of the school. The team makes a valuable contribution to Learning Challenges, Advanced Learning Days and other enrichment activities. There are numerous opportunities for colleagues’ professional development within the curriculum area and the school. We run a Philosophy society twice a term where students are invited to attend a lecture and seminar style session led by a member of the department on a subject of their choice. This has seen us investigate great topics such as *Why Jesus has nothing to do with Christianity* and *How can we be happy?*

Religious Studies is a key subject in the overall success of Walton High. We are an ambitious team and strive to exceed our targets. In 2014-15 74% of students achieved an A*-C grade in GCSE this was 69% in 2015-16 with 77% of our students making the expected progress. Our aim is to maximise upon the opportunities offered by a three year KS4 programme to enable all students to achieve a good grade by the end of the GCSE course. Philosophy is increasingly becoming a popular choice at A level where students study the Philosophy, Ethics and New Testament topics from the Edexcel Religious Studies exam.

KEY STAGE 3 RELIGIOUS STUDIES (PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS)

All students study Religious Studies in mixed-ability groups. Each student receives three 1 hour lessons every fortnight. The KS3 Philosophy programme is designed to enable students to investigate a wide range of different religions and to reflect on the beliefs of others by looking for lessons they can learn from each religion. Throughout year 7 and 8 students study the following:



Year 7

- **Ultimate Questions**
- **Hinduism**
- **Buddhism**
- **Sikhism**

Year 8

- **Judaism**
- **Christianity**
- **Islam**

KEY STAGE 4 PHILOSOPHY

New Specification (year 9 and 10)

Religion 1 – Christianity

Religion 2 – Islam

Topic 1 – Relationships and families

Topic 2 – Religion peace and conflict

Topic 3 – Religion crime and punishment

Topic 4 – Religion human rights and social justice

Year 11 follow the old AQA B spec. which is being phased out as of next academic year.

KEY STAGE 5 RELIGIOUS STUDIES – Philosophy and Ethics (Edexcel)

Religious Studies is a subject growing in popularity at A level. Students follow the Edexcel course where they are asked to investigate arguments for the existence of God and key ethical theories such as Utilitarianism. They also have the opportunity to study the work of great Philosophers such as Aristotle and Bertrand Russell. Students also get the opportunity to take a fresh look at the New Testament.



If you are passionate about teaching Philosophy and working with a team dedicated to providing an innovative and exciting curriculum then your application would be most welcome.

Ben Butlin

Subject Leader Philosophy and Ethics