**Overview of Humanities at West Lakes Academy**

**May 2017**

**The Team**

**The Geography Department**

The Geography Department is currently made up of two experienced specialist teachers and two non-specialists who teach at KS3. We are an enthusiastic, committed and driven team who have high expectations of the students. Pupils are encouraged to develop into truly independent learners and teachers deliver highly original and engaging programmes of study to facilitate this. We are looking for a teacher who can contribute to the department as well as teaching some classes in other Humanities subjects such as RE and History. We want someone who is not only an outstanding teacher but also innovative, hardworking and committed. It is essential that they are a good team worker and keen to develop and share new ideas. Commitment to the faculty and its development is essential.

**At KS3**

At KS3 students study a variety of units that have recently been adapted reflecting change in the curriculum. The units aim to develop and assess their knowledge and understanding of the world and the complex interactions that take place within it. In Year 7 students explore, among other things, the following key ideas:

\* Where do you think you are? – exploring the features and character of the local environment

\* Weather and climate – focusing on the causes of rainfall in Cumbria and weather patterns elsewhere in the world

In Year 8 students will explore, amongst other things, the following key ideas:

\* Ecosystems – exploring different features of environments

\* Plate tectonics – looking at the causes and consequences of earthquakes, volcanoes and Tsunamis

**At KS4**

Students have 3 lessons per week. At KS4 students will be studying the new linear AQA A specification in Geography. This is currently being developed and reviewed.

**At KS5**

Students at A level follow the AQA specification. They have 5 lessons a week and these are divided between the two geography specialists to complement their specialism. Students are also engaged in field work and have recently spent time in Manchester as part of their studies.

**Field work**

This is an important aspect of the Geography curriculum at all stages and we endeavour to provide out of school learning experiences for as many students as possible. This may involve residential trips as well as more local day trips making the best use of the surrounding environment.

**Curriculum opportunities**

As a team we strive to offer opportunities that take students outside their usual classroom learning experience. We believe this develops an enthusiasm for learning and engagement with the curriculum. In Geography students engage in field trips to the local area and beyond. The department work with the local community.

**The History Department**

The History Department is currently a team of 4 specialists. We are an experienced and highly motivated team who have developed highly innovative and exciting programmes of study that not only reflect changes in the curriculum but challenge students to engage with the past and work independently.

**At KS3**

At KS3 we have developed programmes of study that investigate different themes in history and focus on understanding the purpose and importance of History. We combine studies in depth and in overview in a similar manner to the new GCSE specifications with the purpose of preparing students for KS4. In Year 7 students explore, among other things, the following key ideas:

\* Being British – exploring the events in our past that have given us our unique identity

\* Going abroad – looking at the development of Britain as an empire and the impact of immigration on our identity

In Year 8 students will explore, among other things, the following key ideas:

\* Challenging History – exploring historical debate such as theories proposed by Holocaust deniers like David Irving and using evidence to explore the accuracy of such controversial arguments.

\* Investigating History – using the detective skills of an historian to produce theories on who Jack the Ripper was

**The Religious Education Department**

There is one RE specialist responsible for developing RE across the key stages and leading initiatives connected to RE such as the Sacred Space Days. A number of other members of the department also deliver RE. The department focus is to deliver a high standard of teaching and learning that allows students to discover the importance of RE to their everyday life. Teaching should promote empathy, tolerance and understanding in society. Students are encouraged to develop into independent and thoughtful individuals who ask intelligent questions of the world around them.

**At KS3**

Students have one lesson of RE per week. Programmes of study focus on key themes that compliment other areas across the Humanities curriculum. These programmes of study reflect on the teaching of the six main religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.

In Year 7 students explore, among other things, the following key ideas:

\* Identity – who are we and what makes us unique – explore individual beliefs and ideas

\* Belonging – what does it mean to be part of a faith community – exploring the notion of community and the role of religion

In Year 8 students explore, among other things, the following key ideas:

\* Believing – exploring different aspects of faith and belief such as creation accounts and images of God

\* Authority – exploring the qualities of a good moral leader