



The Radclyffe School
"Working Together for Excellence"



The Humanities Faculty (Geography)

Our Team

The Humanities Faculty at The Radclyffe School is a dedicated, highly skilled and supportive team with a strong-shared vision. We aim to be outstanding practitioners, so we can empower our students to achieve outstanding results. Last academic year, over 40% of our observations were judged outstanding and we are determined to improve upon this by constantly seeking ways to refine and develop our practice both as individuals and as a team. The Faculty operates as a cohesive unit although each department (Geography, History and Religious Studies) has a specialist team of teachers. We promote the Faculty on a whole school level by leading events such as Remembrance Day and Holocaust Memorial Day. The Geography team consists of three full time and one part time teachers.

Facilities

The Radclyffe School is a new, 'state of the art' school opened in February 2008. The Humanities Faculty has a suite of eight dedicated Humanities classrooms, including two ICT suites. Humanities also has its own staff base with ICT for planning, preparation and assessment. Each member of staff is provided with a high specification wireless laptop and every room has a digital projector and an interactive whiteboard to make full use of this resource. Humanities has its own dedicated administration support.

Groupings

In accordance with school policy, we have a two year Key Stage 3 students are taught in sets based on their ability. At Key Stage 4, students are taught in option groups based on academic routes. Humanities subjects are popular; however, we are looking to increase the uptake of Geography at KS4.

Time-Tabling

In years seven and eight, students have three sixty-minute lessons per fortnight. In years nine, ten and eleven, they have five sixty-minute lessons per fortnight.

TEACHING AND LEARNING - Geography:

Key Stage 3

We have recently modified the curriculum to incorporate the national changes to Key Stage 3 and GCSE and we attempt to use the most recent case study examples. Schemes of Work are collaboratively planned and lesson resources kept centrally. There is still room for individuality and we seek to encourage this. We ensure all lessons in Geography are engaging and meet the needs of all students.

There are many opportunities for students to learn outside the classroom and in the wider context of school life; these include a fieldwork visit to Liverpool at KS3 and various enquiries using the site of the school. All lessons are networked for easy access by both staff and students. Literacy is embedded into our curriculum planning and our resources.

Key Stage 4

KS4 students follow the AQA syllabus. Our priority is to collaboratively plan resources and lessons to facilitate outstanding learning and teaching which meets the requirements of the new specification. GCSE fieldwork is completed at Castleshaw and Cleveleys.

Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of the learning and teaching process and all lessons incorporate regular opportunities for peer and self-assessment. At KS3, assessment and recording procedures ensure students' progress is closely monitored through Faculty and whole school tracking systems. All students are assessed on our new grading structure with GCSE grades and breakthrough grades. Standardisation procedures are well established at KS4 and assessment of students' progress towards Expected, Good and Outstanding targets is monitored through assessment trackers at whole school and Faculty level.

ICT

Information Technology is an essential tool in our development of students' skills and is used across both Key Stages. Each teaching room is equipped with a digital projector and interactive SMART board with integrated speakers. In addition, there are two dedicated ICT rooms within the faculty. We are looking to develop students' use of ICT to incorporate more GIS.

Extra-Curricular Activities

We offer many activities for student involvement. These include regular revision classes and half term boosters for KS4 students; a homework club for KS3 students; EPIC club; an Age Exchange Project; Salt Cellar Speakers; various visits; and charity events e.g. Operation Christmas Child, Remembrance Day, Holocaust Memorial Day and The Duke of Edinburgh Award. We have a team of Faculty prefects and are subject ambassadors. SMSC is well embedded within the Faculty.

