



# Humanities Learning Area

## Welcome to an overview of the Humanities Learning Area

I am Ms Lester, the Head of Learning Area for Humanities. We have 19 staff in our Learning Area which is housed in the East Wing of the academy.

The Learning Area has 8 classrooms, including a dedicated computer room.

Subjects taught in the Humanities Learning Area include:

History, Geography and RS at KS3

History, Geography, RS, Psychology and Sociology GCSE as well as BTEC Travel and Tourism and a Humanities Diploma course at KS4

At KS5 we offer History, Geography, Psychology, Sociology and Philosophy and Ethics.

- At KS3 History pupils study the development of democracy and the power and control the church and monarchy have had from the Romans to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In Year 8 students engage in world history and look at the persecution of Human Rights from the Americas, Britain to India and the wider world. In Year 9 students study political developments across the twentieth century which have contributed to the world in which we live.
- At KS3 Geography pupils in Year 7 start with an Introduction to the UK which incorporates the key geographical principles required to become outstanding geographers. After Christmas, we look at Nigeria and compare it to Hackney using OS maps. Pupils finish the year by looking at the Middle East. In Year 8, pupils look at earthquakes and volcanoes, learn about why India is less developed and what strategies can be used to help it develop. Pupils then look at a number of global issues including climate change and migration related to conflict. In Year 9 pupils look at whether Russia's geography is a curse or a blessing.
- Religious Studies at KS3 prepares and inspires our pupils to develop their beliefs, attitudes, values and practices through reflection, discovery and critical evaluation. Enabling them to make a positive difference to the world by putting their beliefs and values into action, for example counteracting prejudice and intolerance in our diverse society.

In Year 7, pupils study the differing beliefs on the creation of the world, followed by religion over place and time, Judaism, the life of Jesus, Islam and rites of passage. In Year 8, students continue to develop their understanding of religion by studying key concepts of Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism, Post Holocaust theology and Moral issues.

- At KS4 our students study the AQA syllabus for Geography, Psychology and Sociology. History and RS students study the Pearson syllabus.

For a detailed overview of the curriculum offer for subjects please see our curriculum maps for the subjects taught in the Humanities Learning Area.



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Students are set by ability into nine sets across the year group. We assess students through a variety of methods which include end of unit assessments, regular Knowledge Organiser tests, question and answer responses and self/peer-assessed work.

Homework is set regularly, with a one-hour long piece of work being set every week. By Year 11 we expect students to be completing independent revision in addition to regular homework.

The Learning Area offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities which range from Humanities Club where students select a topic outside of their curriculum to research and present to the group, a model UN as well as trips to Epping Forest, Kew Gardens, Sutton House, Religious buildings around our area and a History trip to Belgium to visit the Battlefields of the First World War. We always commemorate key events throughout the year and pay special attention to Black History Month with lectures, film club and competitions.

This year GCSE successes include over 50% of all grades at GCSE across Geography, History, RS and Sociology achieved at grade 7, or above, with 79% of all students sitting their RS GCSE achieving a grade 7, or better.

At A Level, over 85% of students achieved grades A\*-B in History, Geography and Sociology.

Our students regularly move on to study the Humanities at Oxbridge and at Russell group universities and our sixth form students often act as role models for younger pupils.