



# Humanities Learning Area

## Welcome to an overview of the Humanities Learning Area

I am Mr Dawson, the Head of Learning Area for Humanities.

Subjects taught in the Humanities Learning Area include:

History, Geography and Religious Studies at Key Stage 3

History, Geography, Religious Studies, Psychology and Sociology GCSE and a Humanities Diploma course at Key Stage 4. History and Religious Studies are core GCSE subjects which all students study.

- At Key Stage 3, History students study the development of democracy, and how the power of the church and monarchy developed from the time of the Roman Empire to the 19th century. In Year 8, students engage in world history and look at the development of the idea of human rights from the Americas, to Britain, India and the wider world. In Year 9, students study political and social developments in the twentieth century which have contributed to the world in which we live.
- In KS3 Geography, students in Year 7 start with an introduction to the United Kingdom, 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 studying the geography of the Middle East. In Year 8, pupils look at earthquakes and volcanoes, learn about why India is less developed than some western countries and what strategies can be used to help it develop further. Students then look at a number of global issues, including climate change and migration, related to conflict. In Year 9, students look at whether Russia's geography is a curse or a blessing.
- Religious Studies at Key Stage 3 prepares and inspires our students to develop their beliefs, attitudes, values and practices through reflection, discovery and critical evaluation. We hope their studies will enable 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, students 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 Key Stage 4, 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, please see our curriculum maps for the subjects taught in the Humanities Learning Area.

Humanities Learning Area students are set by ability. We assess students using a variety of methods, including end of unit assessments, regular knowledge organiser tests, question and answer responses and self/peer-assessed work. Homework is set regularly, with a 45-60-minute-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 activities and trips outside the stated curriculum, including trips to Belgium in the studies of World War One History, Berlin for GCSE History and various field work around the local area in Geography. We always commemorate key events throughout the year and pay special attention to Black History Month with lectures, assemblies and competitions.



Students achieve highly in humanities subject. Some achievements include:

- In all Humanities subjects, students achieve, on average, over one full grade higher than national averages.
- In History, students achieve, on average, over two grades higher than national averages.

% of students achieving over certain grades in Year 11 – by subject

<b>Subject</b>	<b>4+</b>	<b>5+</b>	<b>7+</b>
<b>History</b>	100%	91%	65%
<b>Geography</b>	90%	84%	45%
<b>Psychology</b>	100%	85%	50%
<b>Sociology</b>	100%	82%	45%