

## Humanities Learning Area Information

*"The imagination is an innate gift, but it needs refinement and cultivation; this is what the humanities provide." Martha Nussbaum*

We at Oldfield believe that the Humanities are all subjects that arm students with the skills to effectively understand and communicate about the world they live in. We also believe that they are subjects that should take them beyond their own experience. As a team, our aim is to create a culture of high expectations in which students feel safe, valued and motivated to succeed. The Humanities Learning Area comprises of Geography and History alongside Religion, Philosophy and Ethics. The learning area consists of a large team of specialists, ranging in experience from ECTs to members of SLT and we all work closely together in a supportive manner. We currently have three TLR positions; Leader of Learning, Second in Learning Area, and Head of History.

At KS3 all students study Geography and History for three hours a fortnight. Religion, Philosophy and ethics (RPE) is taught for two hours a fortnight. Students are taught in form groups in Year 7 and then mixed ability groups in Year 8 and 9. Students then opt to study Geography, History or RPE at GCSE. Many students take a combination of humanities subjects at KS4. This is an exciting time for the Humanities Learning Area, and Oldfield Sixth Form as a whole, with significant growth in the number of sixth form students studying Humanities A Levels in recent years. We have a strong record of achieving good results at post 16. Our current extra-curricular programme offers enrichment at all key stages. In particular, there are many curriculum trips across the learning area to a huge range of destinations. Subject specialists have also arranged numerous visits, visitors, workshops and other out-of-classroom learning experiences to inspire and broaden learning.

High quality teaching and learning is the foundation of all that we do within the learning area. As a team we are passionate about the curriculum design and ensuring that across all key stages, it is academically rigorous, containing broad and deep subject-specific content, all of which aims to stretch and challenge our students. One thing each of our diverse subjects have in common is that they are content heavy subjects. We work together to embed strategies such as spaced practice, retrieval practice, interleaving, the use of concrete examples and dual coding into our Humanities classrooms. Ensuring we are researched informed in central to our learning area, all members of our team work to support students with retaining the content and cognitive overload.

Ultimately, we are looking to recruit a high-quality member of staff who will work collaboratively within the team, contributing not only to the quality of teaching, but also the curriculum design and implementation.