



Humanities: Our DNA

Head of Department: Ms Austin

The Bolingbroke Academy Humanities department is committed in ensuring that all pupils make excellent progress in History, Geography and Philosophy and Ethics, through experiencing excellent teaching which engages and motivates them to work hard and succeed. All pupils have the opportunity to continue studying Humanities to GCSE and A-Level, and will have been prepared well so that they are ready and able to succeed following their strong foundation from their KS3 study.

Global citizens

We aim to create global citizens equipped to assess received opinion and make independent judgments, who are aware of the past, present and future of the world around them. Through questioning, investigation and critical thinking, Bolingbroke pupils are exploring their place in the world, as well as their own values and their responsibilities. Pupils learn to understand the past by developing their historical skills. They gain a sense of time and chronology, and their place in world history. They develop important skills of identification, analysis and evaluation through examining historical evidence and sources with a critical eye. They are investigating issues affecting the world and people's lives, in the past, now and in the future. They are given the tools to make sense of a complex and dynamically changing world, at all different scales. Pupils learn where places are, and about their different landscapes and climates. They learn how places and landscapes are formed, and how people and their environment interact in both positive and negative ways. They are also learning how a diverse range of economies, societies and environments are interconnected.

Cross curricular links

All lessons across the Humanities focus on developing pupils' knowledge and understanding, communication skills, enquiry and information handling, as well as interpretation and evaluation. Through engaging topics, pupils are able to develop their skills and knowledge concurrently, and use the skills that they learn and develop across their three Humanities subjects.

Depth before breadth

Humanities lessons focus on developing a strong knowledge and skills base which will give them a firm foundation for further study. Frequent formal and informal assessments allow pupils to know how they are progressing, and allows the teachers to plan according to the specific needs of their classes and individual pupils. We believe that a traditional approach to knowledge and skills development allows pupils to have the best possible chance to feel confident in their own abilities, and will offer a springboard to success for further study.

Independence

Pupils lead their own learning. Wherever possible, pupils are encouraged to seek out information themselves, through fieldwork outside of the classroom, and through group investigations using teacher guidance. In every lesson pupils are encouraged to ask questions, and have the opportunity to discuss with other pupils. They deepen their understanding of how and why the world is the way it is, and how it could change in the future. The classroom is a safe space, where enquiry is welcome, and where tolerance and acceptance of all viewpoints is embraced.

Personal professional development

All members of the Humanities staff team are lifelong learners, committed to continuing professional development, through both internal and external opportunities. We focus on learning from each other, and from other departments, through learning walks and frequent informal observations, to allow the opportunity to develop our own practice and support the development of others.