

The Humanities Team at Durrington High School

The Head of SME post is an exciting and important role for our school, which would be ideal for a leader seeking a new challenge or a fantastic first leadership role for a highly ambitious individual. You will lead a large and highly committed team who want to be a leading department nationally.

Humanities at Durrington High School, currently consists of thriving subject teams with a range of experience, including Chris Runeckles who is Assistant Director of Durrington Research School and author of 'Making every history lesson count'. Our aim is to continuously improve the standard of teaching and student outcomes within the Humanities area. In essence, we want to be one of the best humanities teams in the county and the country. In order to achieve this we are continuously evaluating our curriculum and our provision, as well as looking beyond our local area to the work that is conducted by the Geographical Association, Historical Association and PSHE Association at a national level. In addition, the Humanities area is beginning to take a clear lead in whole school developments. As one of only 23 Research Schools in the country, we are at the forefront of using research from the world of education and cognitive science to develop our teaching, and also to support other schools with developing their practice. The humanities team have embraced this approach fully and have been pivotal in terms of sharing how they use these approaches to improve their teaching, with other teachers in the school and beyond. So you are joining a team of teachers who are energised and enthusiastic about teaching their subject.

At KS3 we follow a broad and balanced programme of study which is strongly linked to the current National Curriculum. At KS3 history, geography and SME (Social and Moral Education, a blend of RE and PSHCE) are taught as distinctly separate subjects, however there are clear links between topics and teaching skills. At KS4 students have the opportunity to study either history, geography, RE or citizenship as separate GCSEs; with many choosing more than one subject in their KS4 subjects. Geography and history are both extremely popular subjects at KS4 and there are currently students studying both subjects in year 11 and year 10. In 2017 GCSE results within geography and history were again very strong – in geography 84% A*-C (45% A*-A) and in history 63% A*-C (30% A*-A). However, this did represent a dip in A*-C performance in history, which had been above 70% for three years previous (highest 80%). Addressing this will be a key aspect of this role. In 2016 67% of students achieved an A*-C in RE (21% A*/A) whilst 61% achieved A*-C in Citizenship (13% A*-A).

Durrington High School sets high standards and expectations but will also provide a very supportive and friendly environment. The leaders across all of the subjects will work very closely with the successful candidate to further develop their leadership and teaching qualities. The humanities team has a range of personalities and qualities, but we are always open to new ideas and want to ensure that we secure the best outcomes for our pupils, based on the best available evidence from research and successful history teams elsewhere.

If you are an ambitious, hard-working, conscientious and enthusiastic leader and teacher, interested in evidence-informed practice and looking for a leadership role, who can inspire all students to successful outcomes and has the ability to work with, and develop staff to go 'beyond their best' then we would like to hear from you.