

The History, Politics and RE Department.

The History, Politics and RE Department at Valentines is an innovative department, with an excellent record of academic success. Attainment at all Key Stages is above the national average. Students are provided with an outstanding learning environment which allows them to achieve high levels of attainment. Progressive and engaging teaching methods are employed to enhance student understanding and enjoyment of the topics studied. The members of the department pride themselves on developing stimulating resources and a challenging curriculum. Opportunities are provided for teachers to advance their own CPD through in house provision training as well as via external providers. The school has Teaching School status, which offers increased options for advancing one's professional development.

Structure

The History, Politics and RE Department consists of a Head of Department, a 2 i/c, a Head of Philosophy and five other members of staff who are specialists in at least one subject. All members of the department are expected to teach across the full age and ability ranges of their first subject. Every member of the department is also expected to contribute to the development of the curriculum and resources within an area of the department. Maintaining high standards of lesson preparation, teaching, marking, assessing, record keeping and reporting student progress are integral to the effective running of the department. The Department has excellent teaching resources and is based in five specialist teaching rooms with each class room has an interactive whiteboard. All resources are available to students and staff via the school's learning platform, Firefly. They are regularly updated and improved to keep them topical, relevant and to meet the needs of the new KS3 curriculum and recently introduced GCSE and A level specifications. The schemes of work are regularly reviewed and where necessary amended and improved.

History and RE classes are taught in their Houses in their year groups throughout Key stage 3 and in mixed ability groups at GCSE. History is a popular option at GCSE with 4 classes currently taught within each year group in Key Stage 4. History results are consistently strong and attain well above the National Average in both headline measure with 77% 9-4 compared to national average 64%

History, Politics and Philosophy are popular choices at A Level with over 80 students studying one or both subjects across the A Level cohorts'. Results in these subjects are consistently excellent with 86% of History students achieving A*-C grades in 2018, ALPs grade 3 in History, ALPs grade 2 in Politics

The Department works in a collaborative manner, where all members are expected to participate in the development of Schemes of Work and resources and share good practice to ensure that outstanding teaching is consistently delivered in lessons.