

June 2021

## History & Sociology Team

The History & Sociology Team at The Forest School is a well-established team with experienced staff who are committed to teaching lively and engaging lessons to boys at KS3 and KS4. In recent years, we have built a tight and cohesive scheme of work for KS3 as well as developing core writing and confidence building strategies which are embedded in the teaching and learning. All staff in the team use these strategies consistently and we work from the perspective of having a common dialogue between ourselves and the pupils. In History our 9-1 results at GCSE last year were 68% of pupils gaining 9-4 with 15% gaining a 9-7 grade. In Sociology our 9-1 results at GCSE last year were 69% of pupils gaining 9-4 with 16% gaining a 9-7 grade.

Our strategy and core values are based on the pupils building confidence in writing skills and expressing themselves analytically. We have spent a significant amount of time building strategies and systems to support this. Such approaches include writing skills, scaffolds, AfL provision and data analysis for effective outcomes. We work as a very tight-knit team and share best practice continually. As such there is abundant opportunity to develop one's own strategies so that we can also learn from others' practice and improve. We believe our success is due to the dynamic and open culture in which the team works together and contributes. We have outstanding teacher-pupil relations and the History & Sociology Team is continually well regarded by pupils in surveys.

There are currently four members of the team, all of whom teach at both key stages and have developed their own areas of specialisms and best practice. All staff are also required to teach the Respect curriculum across the year groups and we have developed well planned schemes of work, lesson resources and assessments to support this and maintain the high standards to which we aspire.

For GCSE History, we follow the Edexcel course (9-1).

- Thematic Study – Crime & Punishment in Britain c.1000-present (inc Whitechapel 1870-1900: Crime, policing and the inner city)
- British Depth Study – Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88
- Period Study – Superpower relations in the Cold War, 1941-91
- Modern Depth Study – Weimar & Nazi Germany, 1918-39

For GCSE Sociology, we follow the AQA course (9-1).

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology
- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification

In addition to this we have moved away from National Curriculum Levels at KS3 and replaced them with a 7-tier grading structure we call Flight-paths. As such there are many developments underway at KS3 and we continue to build new lessons in support of our established strategies and policies.

We also deliver Sociology at GCSE and therefore have many opportunities for staff development and career progression within the team by offering another subject at GCSE level. This is a time of great change for the team and we hope to move to even higher standards as time goes by.