

## **APPOINTMENT OF HEAD OF HISTORY AND POLITICS**

Highworth Grammar School is a successful 11-18 selective girls' school with approximately 89 boys in the Sixth Form. There are 1519 students on roll – 1,071 in Years 7-11 and 448 in Years 12 and 13. Our school is widely recognised as being innovative and highly successful. Highworth has a strong academic reputation and our students are recognised as mature and reliable young people. We aim to deliver the best possible education to all of our students in a safe and secure environment.

Our motto of 'Reach for the Stars' embodies the daily working life of the whole school community; students are encouraged to see learning as a lifelong activity. A key feature of our motto is happiness which is achieved through: excellent student behaviour in lessons; clear policies and guidance; strong leadership; and enthusiastic community spirit. It is important that both staff and students feel confident, happy and valued.

Students at Highworth are given rewards for creativity, problem solving, achievement, resilience and team work. We value the development of a full range of skills to offer students the best preparation for future challenges. Working here allows staff to share this balanced approach to education; embrace new ideas; and sustain a sense of enjoyment in their own learning.

We are proud of the many opportunities provided for achievement in music and the arts. We believe this is crucial in our ethos in encouraging our students to be independent, creative and highly motivated lifelong learners.

During the June 2013 Ofsted Inspection, the School was judged as an Outstanding School. Last summer, our A Level results placed us in the top 25% of schools nationally.

### **FEATURES OF THE SCHOOL**

These include:

- Vertical Tutoring
- High academic standards with a large proportion of outstanding lessons
- Caring, supportive and committed staff
- Commitment to professional development
- State of the art IT facilities
- 10 dedicated Science labs
- 3 Performing Arts studios
- Music Technology suite and recording studio
- DT suite with latest technology
- Research into use of new technologies/pedagogy
- Department areas suited
- Cover supervisors to minimise staff cover
- 10 day timetable with five one hour lessons per day. Current maximum contact time for full time teachers is 45 out of 50 periods plus Mentor Period

### ***Students***

The school has a wide catchment area, taking students from over 40 primary schools, many of which are situated in small villages within the Kent countryside. Entry at age 11 is by the Kent Education

Committee Selection Procedure, which aims to identify the top 25% of the ability range. Some students transfer to our school at 16+ from other schools.

### ***Staff***

We are fully committed to the professional development of all our staff. All new teachers and NQTs follow a well informed and structured induction programme. All staff are encouraged to pursue personal goals and the school fully embraces interest in pastoral and pedagogical innovation. Every member of staff takes part in the annual performance development scheme which also embodies our motto of Reach for the stars. We have a staffroom committee which organises a variety of social activities.

### ***Curriculum***

Our curriculum at Key Stage 3 includes all the National Curriculum subjects (Art & Design, English with Drama, Geography, History, Mathematics, Modern Languages - French, German and Spanish, Music, Physical Education, Dance, Religious Education, Design & Technology, Computing and Science).

In addition, in Year 8, students study a REACH programme designed to develop students in areas such as mindfulness, careers and revision techniques.

An options system operates in Key Stage 4 (Year 9 – Year 11) and students have the opportunity to gain up to twelve GCSE grades in Year 11.

We offer all Key Stage 3 subjects through to A Level together with Business Studies, Dance, Economics, Film Studies, Further Mathematics, Politics, Photography, Psychology, Sociology and Drama & Theatre.

In the current Year 12, students take three or four A Level subjects, continuing with at least three to full A level. They can also take the Extended Project. The majority of our students proceed to courses at universities and in the last academic year all students who made applications, successfully found suitable places in higher education.

## **THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT**

### ***The Curriculum***

In Years 7 and 8, history is taught in community groups. Our KS3 students study a broad range of historical periods in a thematic way. Topics included in our schemes of work vary, considering the impact of the Battle of Hastings during Year 7, as well as the Peasants' Revolt and the actions of the Tudors. In Year 8 students consider the implications of the Industrial Revolution as well as other more modern aspects of European History.

In Years 9 to 11, we follow the Edexcel GCSE specification. The units covered are: Medicine in Britain, c1250–present; Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588; Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91 and Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939.

At A level, we follow the Edexcel specification. We offer two different A Level options:

Option 1: Germany and West Germany between 1918 and 1989; the rise and fall of Fascism in Italy between 1911 and 1946; rebellion and disorder under the Tudors, 1485-1603; coursework.

Option 2: Britain, 1625-1701: conflict, revolution and settlement; Russia in revolution, 1894-1924; the Golden Age of Spain, 1474-1598; coursework.

We also teach AQA A level Politics in the department.

### **Learning Methods**

The department is innovative and creative. As a department we are continuously reviewing our teaching strategies and the learning processes of our students, maintaining an open-door policy that encourages the sharing of good practise and teaching and learning approaches. Differentiation is integrated into department schemes of work and caters for different learning styles. The department ethos focuses on students actively reviewing and taking responsibility for their own learning. As a department we are consistently encouraging students to improve their critical thinking skills. Independent thinking is encouraged from Year 7 to Year 13 and students find their studies challenging, interesting and engaging.

### **Educational Visits**

The department is committed to enhancement of learning through visits, which are integrated into Schemes of Work. Visits range from Year 13 History Conferences to World War I sites and museums in the vicinity of Ypres.

### **Accommodation and Resources**

The department is located in excellent accommodation. We have four large classrooms, three of which have sets of Chromebooks, and a departmental office. We have a wide range of resources including fixed wireless data projectors in all classrooms. All students have copies of a range of core textbooks at GCSE and A level. We have a well-stocked A Level library and a large number of reference books for lower school project work.

### **Staffing**

Currently there are four full-time teachers and two part-time teachers. The team are all accomplished specialists with a varied range of excellent subject knowledge and expertise.

*Highworth Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people. This post will require an enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)*