



GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Walton High opened in 1999 with 120 Year 8 students. Since then the school has grown significantly and now has over 2,000 students on roll, including 300+ Post 16. The school has an excellent reputation and is consistently oversubscribed.

In November 2016, Walton High expanded onto a second campus that is two and half miles away from the Walnut Tree Campus at Brooklands. The Brooklands campus opened with 270 students across Years 7 – 9 and now has nearly 1000 students in Years 7 – 11 growing to 1,500 students, including 300 Post-16, by 2022.

When both campuses are at capacity, Walton High is one of the largest secondary schools in the country ensuring excellent opportunities for career progression.

A single system of governance, organisation, leadership and management operates across both campuses

In 2011 the Governors of Walton High founded Milton Keynes Education Trust with the following aims:

Milton Keynes Education Trust Statement of Aims

The educational aims and objectives of Milton Keynes Education Trust (MKET) are based on our commitment to securing social justice through high quality education that promotes inclusion and embraces diversity.

The Trust aims to **enhance** and **enrich** the lives of children and young people by **enabling** them to make the most of outstanding learning opportunities within and beyond the curriculum; instilling an appreciation that there are **no limits** to what they can achieve and developing the attributes needed to successfully shape and respond to the future.

A clear secular moral framework will promote honesty, integrity, tolerance and respect as well as an appreciation of individual and collective responsibility.

In this way we will bring out **the very best** in our children and young people.

We will realise our aims and secure sustainable school improvement through high quality transformational leadership, professional development and collaborative partnerships.

The schools that are currently part of Milton Keynes Education Trust are:

- New Chapter Primary School, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes
- Heronsgate School, Walnut Tree, Milton Keynes
- Kents Hill Infant School, Milton Keynes



The creation of the multi-academy trust has enabled more cross phase working and the schools within the partnership have pooled resources to provide additional educational services to support children's learning, e.g. Educational Psychologist, Education Welfare Officer and Speech and Language Therapist.

WALTON HIGH'S APPROACH TO LEARNING AND TEACHING

Walton High is committed to making personalised learning a reality. Our flexible and varied curriculum is an essential foundation for this, providing as it does personal learning pathways which are challenging, relevant and significant.

Personalised learning and teaching is a commitment to ensuring **all learners** reach or exceed expectation, fulfil early promise and develop latent potential. At the heart of personalisation is the expectation of participation, fulfilment and success. Personalised learning sets ambitious objectives, challenging personal targets, rapid intervention to keep students on trajectory and vigorous assessment to check and maintain progress.

Core components of personalised learning are:

Assessment for Learning - the process of seeking and interpreting evidence for use by learners and their teachers to decide where they are in their learning, where they need to go and how best to get there;

Developing students' capacity to learn - by building the confidence and capacity of the learner and developing personal skills and strategies to enable self-management and self-direction;

Teaching and Learning strategies that actively engage and challenge learners - Walton High's approach to lesson planning ensures all the key elements of outstanding learning are considered.



SUBJECT LEADER OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES (PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS)

Walton High is seeking to appoint a well-qualified, experienced and enthusiastic Subject Leader of Philosophy and Ethics to lead and develop the subject at our newest campus.

THE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS) CURRICULUM AREA

The Philosophy team are enthusiastic and dedicated teachers, committed to providing a high quality experience for students of all abilities, at all key stages. We aim to inspire and engage our students so they may develop as confident young Philosophers who do not shy away from asking the 'big questions' about life and existence.

The Curriculum Area is currently comprised of four subject specialists who deliver Philosophy and Ethics at all key stages. The department is well resourced and is constantly looking for innovative ways to improve our teaching and learning.

We are an active team, generous in our support of colleagues and to the wider life of the school. The Curriculum Area is well known for its success in supporting the achievement of disadvantaged students through involvement in the Disadvantaged Champions initiative. There are numerous opportunities for colleagues' professional development within the curriculum area and the school. For example, we run a Philosophy society where students are invited to attend a lecture and seminar style session led by a member of the team on a subject of their choice. This is aimed at preparing students for the rigours of university study, giving them the skills and experience which they may need.

Philosophy and Ethics is a key subject in the overall success of Walton High. We are an ambitious team and strive to exceed our targets. Our aim is to maximise upon the opportunities offered by a three year KS4 programme to enable all students to achieve a good grade by the end of the GCSE course. Philosophy is increasingly becoming a popular choice at A level where students study the Philosophy, Ethics and New Testament topics from the Edexcel Religious Studies exam.

KEY STAGE 3 RELIGIOUS STUDIES (PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS)

All students study Philosophy and Ethics in mixed-ability groups. Each student receives three 1 hour lessons every fortnight. The KS3 Philosophy programme is designed to enable students to investigate a wide range of different religions and to reflect on the beliefs of others by looking at philosophical questions about life. Throughout year 7 and 8 students study the following:

Year 7

- **Ultimate Questions**
- **Hinduism**
- **Buddhism**
- **Sikhism**



Year 8

- Judaism
- Christianity
- Islam

***Year 8 follow the specification above, however this will be phased out and replaced with a new SOW based on philosophical and ethical themes. This is planned to begin in September 2021.**

KEY STAGE 4 RELIGIOUS STUDIES (PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS)

AQA A New Specification (year 9, 10 and 11)

Religion 1 – Christianity

Religion 2 – Buddhism

Topic 1 – Relationships and Families

Topic 2 – Religion Peace and Conflict

Topic 3 – Religion Crime and Punishment

Topic 4 – Religion and Life

KEY STAGE 5 RELIGIOUS STUDIES – Philosophy and Ethics (Edexcel)

Religious Studies is a subject growing in popularity at A level. Students study the Religious Studies Edexcel course which is divided into three areas: Paper 1) Philosophy of Religions which covers big philosophical questions such as investigating arguments for the existence of God. 2) Religion and Ethics which includes study of key ethical theories and applying those theories to ethical issues. 3) New Testament studies gives students the opportunity to take a fresh look at the New Testament; critically evaluating a variety of viewpoints within the themes of the New Testament.

If you are passionate about teaching Philosophy, Ethics and Religious Studies and desire to lead a team of specialist colleagues, then your application would be most welcome.

Sharon Alexander

Principal

Philosophy and Ethics SL – March 2021