

## **DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, RELIGION AND PSYCHOLOGY**

### **Courses offered:**

#### **Religion, Philosophy & Ethics (RPE)**

Eduqas: A Level

WSFC continues to be one of the largest providers of RPE in the county. At present there are 2 groups in Year 1 and 2 groups in Year 2. We follow the Eduqas specification, with a focus on Islam as the chosen religion.

The department presently contains 4 members of staff with courses being available to students in A Level Philosophy, Ethics and Religion and Psychology. Many of our students wish to progress into higher education and are keen to enter careers that are related to the subject. We are continuing to develop links with higher education and the professions to offer students greater insight into the opportunities available.

We work closely as a department and hold regular meetings to share good practice. We are keen to achieve the highest outcomes for our students and to equip them with the skills necessary to succeed in their post-college choices.

The department has strong links with other local institutions, including University of Worcester. All staff collaborate to produce resources and support students beyond the classroom

## **INFORMATION ON ADDITIONAL SUBJECT AREAS**

#### **Psychology**

AQA: A Level

A level Psychology is a popular course at the college with a very good record of examination performance. At present there are five groups in Year 1 and four groups in Year 2. We follow the AQA specification. Staff work closely together and see being part of a team as important. All staff contribute to a common bank of resources, including notes, booklets and workbooks that are given out to students.

#### **Criminology**

Eduqas: Applied Certificate & Diploma

Criminology is a new and extremely popular course at the college with six groups of students having enrolled in September for the Eduqas Applied Certificate. The course was first offered in September 2019 and is continuing to grow, we presently have four groups of second year students completing the Applied Diploma. Many of our students wish to progress into higher education and are keen to enter careers that are related to the subject. We are continuing to develop links with higher education and the professions to offer students greater insight into the opportunities available. In terms of content, the course combines elements of law, sociology and psychology.

#### **Business & Economics**

Eduqas: A Level Business

Business Level 3 OCR Cambridge Technical (Applied)

BTEC Level 2 Technical in Business Enterprise by Pearson (Applied)

AQA: A Level Economics

Both Business and Economics have been running for several years, with four and two first year groups respectively. They are both well established and prove popular, offering students an insight to

the real world. We have a strong team of teachers who work together to help develop resources and promote engagement and success. A Level Business and Economics are assessed fully via exams. In addition, we offer Applied Business which has grown in popularity, offering students a different approach to assessment and study.

For Level 3 Applied Business, we offer a 1 block (1 A level equivalent) and a 3 block (3 A level equivalent) course, the assessment on these courses is a mix of course work and external assessment.

The Applied Business Level 2 course, the equivalent of two GCSE's, was introduced in September 2019 after an absence of several years.

## **Geography**

Edexcel: A Level

Fieldwork is an integral part of this course. First year Geography students visit local cities for their study on urban change and just before transitioning into the second year students spend 3 days in the Lake District developing their fieldwork skills. Department staff are expected to take a full part in the planning and delivery of fieldwork. The department offers enrichment fieldwork to all students across the department to locations such as Iceland, Italy and the Azores and are looking to visit Costa Rica in the near future.

## **Sociology**

AQA: A Level

A Level Sociology is a well-established and very popular course at the College with six first year groups and five second year groups in 2019-20. AQA Sociology involves the study of two compulsory units, Education with Theory and Methods and Crime and Deviance with Theory and Methods. For Paper 2 Topics in Sociology, the college offers Families and Households and Beliefs in Society. The course is delivered by an experienced team of teachers who work closely together, and all contribute to the maintenance of a well-resourced and successful subject area.