

Information for Teacher of History & Politics post for September 2017

Aims of the School

Akeley Wood School is an independent co-educational day school. The Senior School houses 550 children aged from eleven to eighteen on two sites, Akeley Wood and Tile House Mansion.

The School's primary aim is that pupils should develop their individual talents and personal qualities in whatever direction they may lie, although we do place a particular emphasis on the best possible academic achievement. Most importantly, we hope that pupils will genuinely enjoy and value their time here and will take with them not only the best possible qualifications, but also a sense of purpose, a belief in themselves, firm friendships and a caring attitude towards those around them.

Akeley Wood has a long tradition, but a direction that looks to the future, preparing young people for life in the twenty-first century. It offers a friendly and purposeful environment, with small classes and enthusiastic teaching, where good habits of work and independence of mind can flourish. It is a school without pretension, but with a happy and civilized atmosphere and a demonstrable record of success.

The School has recently received a cash injection of £8 million in support of further development and growth. In May 2015, Akeley Wood Senior School obtained an **'Outstanding' Schools Inspection Report** across the board:

"The quality of the curriculum is outstanding. Coupled with excellent teaching, tight assessment procedures and critical use of data, it helps pupils of all abilities to make excellent progress from their relative starting points."

School Inspection Service May 2015

The History and Politics Department

The History and Politics Department at Akeley Wood School at present consists of three full-time specialists. It is the aim of the Department to encourage an interest in the past and to do so in as enjoyable a manner as possible. By transmitting our pleasure and enjoyment of History and Politics to our pupils we aim to achieve together the very best results which they are capable of at all levels.

At Key Stage 3, History is taught to pupils in mixed ability form groups. There are ten 35-minute lessons in the day and our Key Stage 3 pupils have two 35-minute History lessons per week in a single block. The schemes of work are structured with common assessments at set points each half term. The results are uploaded by individual teachers onto a Microsoft excel tracking document for analysis. A full range of teaching materials is available. Pupils are encouraged to address received versions of the past and subject them to critical examination. From September 2017 we will be moving to a two-year Key Stage 3. These year groups are based at the Tile House Mansion site.

Students at Key Stage 4 have moved to the new AQA History GCSE. To take into account the new specification from 2015 this course comprises the following topics:

Paper 1 – Understanding the Modern World

Section A 1D America 1920-1973

Section B Conflict & Tension between East and West 1945-72

Paper 2 – Shaping the Nation

Section A - 2A Britain: Health and the people c1000 to the present day

Section B - British depth studies and the Historic Environment: Norman England c1066-c1100.

The course provides a very useful form of preparation for the study of History at A-level. Class sizes are small (varying from between 13 to 20) and there are a range of text books and digital resources available. From September 2017 we are moving to a 3 year GCSE course. The core content will be taught after a preparation period and a revision period will be built into the end period. Key Stage 4 is taught at the Akeley Wood House site, in addition to Key Stage 5.

At A-Level the Department offers the OCR History A H505

Year 12 Unit Y107 England 1547–1603: the Later Tudors (25%)

Year 12 Unit Y221 Democracy and Dictatorships in Germany 1919-63 (15%)

Year 13 Unit Y100 Topic based essay (20%)

Year 13 Unit Y315 The Changing Nature of Warfare 1792-1945 (40%)

At the moment, there is one set in Year 13 and one set in Year 12. Both Year 12 units are taught by one member of the department, for eight 35-minute periods. From September 2017 the new member of the department will be responsible for both Year 13 units. There is a wide range of supporting text books and digital resources available. Therefore previous experience of teaching A Level History Coursework and warfare 1792-1945 would be an advantage.

Since September 2014 we have also offered A Level Government and Politics following the Edexcel Exam Board. There is the possibility for the new member of the Department to share the teaching of the Politics A Level if they are suitably qualified and motivated.

From September 2017 the Politics A Level will be the new Edexcel specification:

Unit 1 – Political Participation & Core Political Ideas

Unit 2 – UK Government & Optional Political Ideas

Unit 3 – USA Politics

The Year 13 will complete the A2 units of the current Edexcel specification:

Unit 3c Representative Processes in the USA – Elections, Political Parties, Pressure Groups and Racial & Ethnic Politics

Unit 4c Governing the USA – The Constitution, Congress, Presidency and Supreme Court

While the Department helps the students to achieve academic excellence, the Department regards visits to historic sites, museums, conferences and the local community as an integral and essential part of its teaching. Current arrangements include a Year 9 visit to the Somme and Ypres Salient to investigate WW1 Battlefield experiences and a GCSE trip to Berlin for studying the Cold War. For the Sixth Form there are A-level Conferences in London, a Trip to Auschwitz and a Politics Trip to Parliament and the Supreme Court.

The successful candidates will be encouraged to offer practical, creative ideas on all aspects of the Department's work and expected to take ownership of aspects of the Department's determined effort to deliver excellence to all.

Teacher of History required for September 2017

We are seeking to appoint a dynamic and inspirational Teacher of History with excellent communication, knowledge and team-work skills, to teach throughout the age and ability range, including A Level. There is the possibility of also teaching A Level Politics for a suitably qualified and motivated candidate.

An enthusiastic and highly dedicated NQT or experienced teacher is required who can contribute to the continual development of this popular subject area. Applicants will need to demonstrate the ability to accept new ideas, show a thorough commitment to student learning and a willingness to accept responsibility for aspects of curriculum development. We want staff with the vision and determination to ensure all our students receive a first class education and who will rise to the challenge of building on success.

Miss Sarah Jones, Head of History & Politics