

The Thomas Hardy School

Social Science Department

The Social Science Department has a team of ten teachers and an administrative assistant. It comprises of a supportive, focused and enthusiastic team who are always looking for innovative and exciting ways to engage students. Teachers strive to provide students with the skills that will allow them to progress to their full potential. Within the department there are Teaching and Learning Responsibilities attributed to: Curriculum Leader of Social Science, Head of Business and Economics, Head of Psychology, Head of Sociology and Head of Law.

The department has designated subject teaching rooms, three ICT rooms and 15 laptops available for booking. Each room has a projector, and every teacher has a laptop to make use of the school network and interactive white boards. Wireless internet access is available throughout the department and many software packages are installed on the school network.

Business comprises of KS3, KS4 and KS5 taught by a team of four teachers. At KS3 all Year 9 students have one lesson per fortnight. There are currently two GCSE groups in Year 10 and two groups in Year 11 who study the Edexcel Exam board. The WJEC exam specification is taught at AS and A Level, currently with two groups in each year group. The B-TEC Level 3 Business qualification is being introduced in September 2016. A Level Economics is currently one group at AS and one group studying A2 following the Edexcel Specification.

Pupils are given the opportunity to take part in a number of different enterprise activities including national competitions and enterprise workshops with local businesses. Year 12 and 13 Business and Economics students attend a revision conference. There are regular visits to local business and visiting business speakers to enhance the curriculum. This year our Year 10 students have won a place in the South West regional finals of the Coca Cola Real Business Challenge. Lunchtime groups such as the Politics and Economics debate club is a thriving weekly club run by Year 13 students with support from the Economics teacher and is attended by a wide range of year groups as well as teaching staff.