Humanities in the Senior School

Recent articles in the media have been highlighting the effect that the new structure of the SACE is having on different subject areas, one of which is the Humanities and Social Sciences learning area. Due to the reduction in the number of subjects needed to complete Year 12, there has been a significant loss of numbers studying the Humanities subjects in many schools. This is primarily due to students making selections based on prerequisites for tertiary courses such as engineering and healthcare, where they don’t want to cut off their options. Consequently, many schools have not offered many of these subjects if numbers are small. Some well-known schools have had to cut subjects from their curriculum despite having a long and successful tradition in these areas.

At Pembroke School we are delighted to say that our Humanities subject selections are healthy and popular. This is a testament to the quality of teaching and learning offered by the Humanities Department. Students and parents should be confident to select these subjects as they move into Stage One and Stage Two of the New SACE. Our Humanities teaching staff is very experienced and has worked with many students who have gone on to enjoy the highest level of success in these subjects. The Humanities Department is constantly working to review our curriculum to ensure that it is contemporary, relevant and interesting to our student body. We are early adopters of new technologies, for example Moodle and interactive whiteboards, and these are forming a regular tool in the delivery of our subjects. The commitment by the School to teaching the Humanities in the Middle School as separate academic disciplines staffed by subject specialists means that we have students moving into the Senior School with a rich background in the content alongside significant skills development. This ensures that the foundations for learning in the Humanities Department are very strong and provide a solid base for further success in the Senior School.

I would encourage parents and students to contact me if they have any questions about the Humanities subjects in the Senior School. We look forward to continuing to educate young people about the fascinating world (past, present and future) they live in.

Alexandra Piggott
Head of Humanities