Millthorpe School

**Ofsted Feedback**

Subject: History

Feedback given by: Dr Michael Maddison

Date: Wednesday 5 March 2014

Dr Maddison thanked Sara and Ruth for their work. He asked that they please pass on his thanks to Adam and Lynn and also the students.

**Achievement**

* Results at GCSE are very strong and have been improving, following a three year positive trend. Good consolidation.
* Predictions for 2014 are also promising.
* Progress and learning are strengths, as evidenced by work in exercise books.
* Dr Maddison pointed out that KS3 lays the foundation for success at KS4 and the History department does a lot at KS3.

**Teaching**

The quality of teaching was highly effective over the time:

* one lesson at Grade 1;
* three lessons at Grade 2;

four lessons seen today.

**Strengths**

* Teachers’ questioning and probing of understanding
* Developing of students’ understanding
* Teachers’ subject knowledge
* Range and amount of extended writing – there is a good balance of discursive, analytic and creative writing.
* Students’ attitudes to learning in History are really strong
* The ‘inquiry question’ approach worked well in all the lessons
* There was a range of appropriate games and tasks suitable for all abilities, including the more able
* Modelling, eg how to create an effective paragraph
* The department does a lot to develop literacy – it is a real strength over both Key Stages and embedded at KS3

**Weaker Areas**

* Teachers do not always involve all students in question: in one lesson, ‘hands-up’ was too common.
* There was not always sufficient time to consolidate learning.
* Marking is really strong, but some targets need to be immediate if time is used at the start of a lesson to improve. Longer term targets cannot be used in this way. Consider two types of target, one for now and one for ‘the next time you do a piece of work like this …….’.

**Curriculum**

A range of interesting topics regularly refreshed. “Can a King do what he likes?”, Spanish Armada, Napoleonic Wars, Conflict 1066 - 2009, local history.

The department is constantly improving its curriculum but should occasionally let the ink dry.

**Leadership**

The two leaders work well together in a spirit of collaboration and have high expectations.

SEF is highly evaluative and not descriptive. It may be slightly lenient in its grading.

Link with The Mount is interesting and the Charter Mark too.

Some of the leadership actions are having a positive impact on whole school.

Minutes of department meetings tend to focus a little too much on administration.

Overall, high expectations and high ambitions.

**Areas for Improvement**

Continue to develop practise in marking and feedback.

New National Curriculum will be an area of work too.

Assessment models, and the use of levels, will also be an area of development.

Dr Maddison requested help in collating school’s plans for the new KS3. He also pointed out the descriptors from History subject survey visits were updated in December 2013 and showed how this could be used for subject self-assessment.

Tania to consider using these in other subject areas.