



Curriculum Overview

Year 11 – Personal and Social Development 2021-2022

Rationale for Year 11 Personal and Social Development

Personal and Social Development provides an opportunity for students who need time and intensive support to work on their literacy, numeracy, self-esteem and understanding of the wider world. We welcome students who have learning, language and emotional needs into our groups. The groups are smaller than other classes which enables students to work more successfully both in small groups and independently. Personal and Social Development is an important part of students' preparation for and participation in GCSE studies and allows students to learn new life skills and to approach their wider learning in a more measured way. We also focus on developing resilience through preparing students to sit accredited qualifications and to support their learning across all of their subjects.

What will students learn and why?

From January 2021, students will follow the Personal Social Development BTEC course from Pearson- an organisation familiar with meeting the needs of individual students in an appropriate and measured way. Students will complete units from a range of areas including; work, health, personal identity and community, diversity and relationships amongst others.

Students will also participate in the shared reading of suitable fiction texts to develop their love of reading and language. This also introduces them to new vocabulary, genres and encourages confidence with interpreting and enjoying literature. The stories are read to them using audio CDs featuring professional actors and readers to model language and to sustain interest. This will support their study of GCSE texts as they have more time for language analysis and response. Students are also given time to complete tasks for their other lessons. This encourages independence, time management and self-discipline. Staff and resources are on hand to support students with this important area of personal management.

We also work closely with sixth form colleges to support our learners with their next transition. Taster Days, tours and interviews are all built into the Personal and Social Development experience.

How will students learn?

The skills delivered through the KS4 course are important for the personal and academic development of our students. We promote the use of dual-coding and the importance of encouraging the retrieval of information to be used in new areas of learning. The links to the PSHE curriculum are strong and reinforce the importance of wellbeing, careers and personal responsibility. Through delivering the information in a 'chunked' approach this enables students to experience success, encourages retrieval and application of knowledge and reinforces the key learning messages of the course. We will be linking our work with the Skills Builder suite of resources to promote employability, independence and self-awareness. Learning is personalised with learners progressing at a pace that is suited to their needs and skills.

How will students be assessed?

Students are assessed through external moderation of portfolios for their PSD course. Completion of portfolios is all that is required to pass the PSD qualification and since all of the group will be working on the same task simultaneously, the learning journey here is clear and manageable for all. Students also complete personal reviews and skill profile sheets to support their portfolios.

What is the aim for learners by the end of the year in comparison to the previous year?

The aim is for all learners to complete the course with greater understanding and awareness of the world around them and the part they can play in their local communities. We hope that the experiences afforded to students during the KS4 Personal and Social Development course will enable them to complete their academic studies in a calm and supportive environment whilst promoting independence and a sense of self-responsibility for their progress and well-being.