



Curriculum Overview

Year 9 – Personal Development 2021-2022

Rationale for Year 9 Personal Development

Personal 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. This is initially aimed at students who have found studying a Modern Foreign Language overwhelming, but we also 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 Development can be seen as an important stepping stone to GCSE studies and allows students to learn new life skills and to approach their wider learning in a more measured way.

What will students learn and why?

Students follow the revised Personal Development Programme from ASDAN - an organisation familiar with meeting the needs of individual students in an appropriate and measured way. Students will complete six units from a range of areas including; the environment, communication, the world of work, our beliefs, number handling and health and survival to name just a few.

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.

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.

How will students learn?

The skills delivered through the Year 9 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.

How will students be assessed?

Students are assessed through external moderation of portfolios. Completion of portfolios is all that is required to pass this 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?

This is a one year course. 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.