

SUBJECT INTENT STATEMENT

Our approach to the curriculum places reading and communication at its core, we offer an ambitious curriculum which is subject to an ongoing and rigorous review process, using our analysis of data and the wider ambitions of teaching and learning to ensure that the curriculum is effective in meeting the needs of all students.

We aim to produce confident, capable and articulate writers and fluent readers, who can work independently across the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing, using appropriate vocabulary and structures, whilst expressing opinions and offering justifications on a wide range of topics. We aim to produce a broad and balanced curriculum with flexible pathways through the key stages to allow students to maximise their attainment by developing the skills and talents that they already possess.

Students are provided with a well-planned and challenging curriculum, which sets high expectations for learners, regardless of their ability. Students are able to achieve and be successful in lessons. In the classroom, pupils are encouraged to be resilient, understanding that learning from their mistakes is crucial to success. At the heart of the curriculum sits reading; we need our students to have strong reading resilience and through Accelerated Reader and the class texts, our students will read a wide range of texts for both analysis and for pleasure. Reading is celebrated and promoted across the curriculum, students have access to a wide range of books through the AR program, personalised to suit their reading ability and challenge to ensure our students are encouraged to read for pleasure. As we have above national average SEND and disadvantaged students, on entry, our students are word poor; they often lack the vocabulary range to express ideas thoughtfully and critically, limiting their achievements. Our curriculum ensures students can build rich vocabulary banks; recall and resilience of vocabulary is vital for our students and we support this foundational knowledge through all units of work where poor vocabulary is challenged across the class. The spacing and interleaving of skills and vocabulary are evident across our schemes of learning and our curriculum gradually introduces increasing levels of complexity over time to stretch and challenge students. We explore texts that covering seminal works from the English literary heritage, to modern texts, all rich in cultural capital in order to provide students with a range of enrichment opportunities to help them become responsible citizens who understand the impact of Literature in shaping a society. We aim to develop students oracy through activities built into each unit of work to secure their presentation, discussion and debate skills.

World Book Day and National Poetry Day are celebrated each year to reinforce positive ideas around reading and its impact. We aim to enrich our student's cultural capital through theatre trips, the Brilliant Schools scheme and writing and vocabulary competitions as well as improve the confidence of our students through oracy workshops. This year we have secured an author in residence, Dan Smith, who will run writing workshops.