

BLACKFRIARS ACADEMY CURRICULUM PLAN



GLADSTONE - SPRING 2020

The anchor that is being explored as a whole school is **CELEBRATION**

When deciding what anchor we wanted to develop as a team of staff working in a school for young people with varying needs and abilities, our starting point was 'What is the point?' – Why would we choose 'this' as an anchor. In order to answer this question, we went back to our core moral purpose as a school which we believe is to educate our students because education has the power to transform lives. By educating our young people, we can help them to be more independent, for some it may mean helping them to use their 'Voice' to ensure that their views, needs and wants are heard and for others that they can become critical consumers of information.

This rationale drove our choice of anchors, the second of which is 'Celebration'. No matter what pathway our students are working in, exploring the notion of celebration is vital to all of them.

Not only is a **celebration** a special enjoyable event that people organise because something pleasant has happened or because it is someone's birthday or anniversary, the meaning of the word has far greater significance for us at Blackfriars: we want to try to help our students to live 'in the moment' to actively seek out what is good and should be appreciated, this could be the ability to appreciate a great piece of art, the strength to walk or the opportunity to sing out loud. Celebrations provide opportunities for us to recognise that we are not alone in the world and that other cultures have their own traditions, customs and acts of remembrance. By the end of the term, we hope that students will have started to explore ideas about what do we need to value and celebrate.

Subject	Content to be covered
English	<p>Pupils continue to follow the exam specifications for English at GCSE, Functional Skills and Step up to English Silver and Gold. Through this structure students have an opportunity to explore the many aspects of celebration presented in fiction and non-fiction writing. Pupils understanding of Poetry, Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' and Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls' will be studied and consolidated, underpinned by the anchor of celebration. They will experience different genres of writing, developing skills and experience analysing the format and content, locating information for specific purpose, writing creatively and writing to inform. These will be used to inspire them to write creatively as well as compose opinion pieces to persuade and inform. Pupils study the correct rules of spelling, punctuation and grammar for one hour a week. They study the history of English language and literature, learning about how the identity of language has developed and identifying the influences that has shaped it over time.</p> <p>Students will experience differing aspects of fiction and non-fiction that were written to celebrate an event or person, noting how these characteristics shape their understanding, and interpretation of meaning. They will broaden their vocabulary of terms linked to celebration and apply these words in their written and spoken work. They will, also consider what is worthy of celebration, on a social and personal level.</p> <p>By asking a range of questions students will begin to develop their thinking skills, aided by Thinking Moves. Both asking and answering questions, can</p>

	<p>challenge ideas and opinions, their own and others. By asking the question “What is celebration?” they will see it’s layers: time, social, emotional, cultural and personal. Come to understand that it can be fixed but also ever changing. Through deepening their understanding of themselves and others they also enjoy additional social benefits such as better self-esteem and empathy for others.</p>
Maths	<p>Pupils in Gladstone will be continuing to work towards their BTEC awards in maths. For pupils following the level 2 course this will involve working with percentages and fractions and for pupils working entry 3 or level 1 this will involve working on shape and space, including angles, properties of shape and planes of symmetry. Pupils will use their skills in these areas to create celebratory items towards the end of the term.</p>
Science	<p>Gladstone this term will begin a new unit of work focussing upon developing the Blackfriars site to encourage wildlife. Students will work with the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to establish a suitable habitat for wildlife in our new Outdoor Learning Space. This unit will contribute towards the BTEC Science award.</p>
BTEC Art and Design	<p>Students will be continuing with celebrating the colourful paintings and sculpture of Niki de Saint Phalle and producing their own designs in her style. They will begin the term by completing their 2D relief work based on the ‘Nana’ or ‘Dame’ sculptures created by NdSP before completing their research and written work for the BTEC qualification requirements. It’s always interesting and easy to do some research at the work of the artists we use for inspiration.</p>
BTEC Performing Arts	<p>This unit will provide students with the tools to access other units within the specification as it will give the opportunity to practise improvisation and devising skills that will help them to access other units within the course.</p> <p>The work in this unit will focus on different acting styles and an in depth study of physical theatre with “Blood Brothers” by Willy Russell as the text focus.</p> <p>The unit will culminate in a mini performance to help promote self-confidence and showcase individual acting skills and the development of individual characters.</p>
Computer Science	<p>Pupils will be continuing to work on completing their BTEC in ITQ, finishing their unit on improving productivity and moving on to create celebratory items using desktop publishing software.</p>
Workskills	<p>In our BTEC Level 1 Certificate we are looking at Investigating portfolio careers and self-employment and Health and Safety at Work. As part of our anchor of celebration we will look at party hat businesses and the celebration economy.</p>

Food Technology	<p>Students are working towards BTEC in Home Cooking Skills and will produce a small folder of evidence to support this in Y11.</p> <p>Students will be given the opportunity to select, prepare and cook their own dishes as independently as possible. They are encouraged to take ownership, ensuring that they chose appropriate recipes for their families and have the ingredients available for each week's lessons.</p>
Humanities	<p>Pupils are studying aspects of the Asdan Beliefs and Values Short Course. Elements of their study will consider how and why different faiths celebrate different festivals and rites of passage.</p> <p>The Asdan course focuses on recording skills, learning, use of IT, Literacy, numeracy, teamwork and coping with problems. Through studying beliefs and values, pupils develop an increasing core of insightful knowledge concerning religions and beliefs, both in Britain and in more global terms. They develop a capacity to engage with ultimate questions and to formulate their own sense of identity and values.</p> <p>Pupils will develop their social, spiritual and emotional skills and dispositions appropriate to living well in a religiously plural and open society; By reflecting on the reality of religious diversity and on the issues raised by living in a diverse world they will develop skills of analysis and discernment in relation to prejudice, discrimination and bias, together with skills of self-awareness, moral judgement and responsible choice.</p>
PE	<p>In PE this term we will be focusing on celebration through team games and individualised activities. This will include; table top cricket, orienteering and dance. The aim of this is to promote leadership, self-progression and allow pupils to express themselves in a way that may not be possible outside a sporting environment. The importance of the involvement in physical activity and sport beyond school will also be encouraged.</p>
Swimming	<p>The objectives of our swimming sessions are to experience the sensory and physical aspects, to become as independent in dressing as they are able, to become confident in the water and to be aware of the rules of water safety where appropriate.</p>
Workskills	<p>Gladstone will be working on their BTEC accreditation focussing upon investigating careers and employment and the health and safety rules that need to be followed in the workplace. This will be in readiness for them taking part in work experience.</p>

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