

BLACKFRIARS ACADEMY CURRICULUM PLAN



PORTMEIRION - 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 will begin to follow the exam specifications for English at GCSE, Functional Skills and Step up to English Silver and Gold. Through this structure students have the 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 no- 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</p>

	<p>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 challenge ideas and opinions, their own and others. By asking the question “What is celebration?” they will see its layers: time, social, emotional, cultural and personal and 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>This half-term pupils in Portmeirion will be working towards a BTEC qualification in maths. For those taking entry 3 and level 1, this will involve a unit in measurement, including length, weight and capacity and time. We will be using these skills to create some celebratory items towards the end of the unit.</p>
Science	<p>Portmeirion are in Year 1 of their BTEC studies. This term will begin with completing the Unit of study on Forensics – developing their own conclusions using the forensic methods learned. We will then move onto our next unit of study on Growing plants for commercial use.</p>
BTEC Art and Design	<p>Students will be continuing with the theme inspired by the artwork of Niki de Saint Phalle. They will begin the term by completing the 2D relief work based on the ‘Nana’ or Dame sculptures designed and created by NdSP before completing their research and written work for the BTEC qualification requirements.</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>This term pupils will be completing their unit on productivity for their BTEC qualification. We will then start a new unit to create celebratory products using desktop publishing software.</p>
Workskills	<p>Portmeirion 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 preparation for them taking part in work experience in Year 11.</p>

Food Technology	<p>KS3: Let's Celebrate</p> <p>This term we are going to celebrate the richness of celebrations throughout the year and across the world. We will focus on both secular and religious celebrations that shape our society and ask questions about the brief similarities and differences between different faiths and cultures. We are looking at ways that specific foods play a major part in such celebrations and asking questions about the role of various cereal crops in those dishes. Whilst doing this we are going to continue to learn new skills and reinforce others leading to an ever increasing level of independence.</p> <p>KS4: Students are working towards BTEC in Home Cooking Skills and will produce a small folder of evidence to support this in Y11. Students will be given the opportunity to select, prepare and cook their own dishes as independently as possible. Students will be encouraged to take greater ownership, eventually choosing appropriate recipes for their families.</p>
Humanities	<p>For the students in the Questioning Pathway, Celebration is an essential anchor because celebrating important events is fundamental to our human nature and human history. In humanities pupils will explore what events were and are celebrated by whom, when and why e.g. The Great Exhibition 1851, The Christian Easter Story.</p> <p>Pupils will question what they think is worthy of celebration and how events and beliefs should and ought to be celebrated. They will apply this study and the concepts developed to their own lives and experiences.</p> <p>By exploring this theme pupils will reflect on what it means to live in a diverse world. They will develop their skills of analysis and discernment in relation to prejudice, discrimination and bias, together with skills of self-awareness, moral judgement and responsible choice. They will have a greater knowledge and understanding of what was celebrated in the past as well as the present.</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>