

BLACKFRIARS ACADEMY CURRICULUM PLAN



CLASS – PORTMEIRION

AUTUMN 2024

When deciding what Anchors 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 something that anchors all other learning?

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 this may mean helping them to use their ‘Voice’ to ensure their views, hopes and aspirations for what they want ‘their world’ to be like are heard. For others, this means that they can become more aware of the environment around them.

We are starting our academic year by focusing upon the anchor of **“IN THE BEGINNING”**

This gives us an opportunity, as a whole school, to explore who we are and where we have come from. Students have moved to a new class or a new school and the anchor encourages us to think about everything that has gone before – years in primary school, academic years at Blackfriars etc, to think about lessons learned and how they can be applied to the new and exciting things to come. We will also be looking ahead, developing an understanding that every day is a new day, starting with positive thoughts and expectations.

We will develop a ‘Preparation for Adulthood’ profile that not only establishes where we currently are but also your and our parent/carer aspirations for the future.

In the Questioning Pathway, we will focus upon resilience and developing our ability to reflect and move on.

Subject	Content to be covered
English	<p>This term, students will begin to work towards their qualifications in English studying AQA Step up to English at Silver (E2) and Gold (E3), AQA Functional Skills English at L1 and, for some students, working towards their GCSEs in English Language and English Literature.</p> <p>Shakespeare – ‘Romeo and Juliet’ will be studied this term, as will J B Priestley’s ‘An Inspector Calls’</p> <p>To build on their literacy skills students will be reading a range of newspaper and magazine articles, extracting and using the information for a given purpose. They will gain experience in crafting their writing across the full range of text types, including: letter writing, report writing, creative writing and persuasive writing.</p> <p>The above will be framed through the anchor ‘In the Beginning’ using a range of Fiction and non-fiction from the 18th century to present today. They will also study the history of the English language; how Greek, Latin and French influence the language we speak today.</p>

Maths	<p>This unit of work will build upon students' knowledge of number operations and order, as well as developing functional maths skills in practical and written activities. For students working at level 1 and above this will also include increasing their knowledge of prime numbers, factors and roots. As part of our anchor 'In the Beginning', students will be considering the history of number, as well as being encouraged to reflect on their previous learning journey, considering lessons learned and how these can be applied to the new and exciting things to come. We will also be looking ahead, developing an understanding that every day is a new day, starting with positive thoughts and expectations and will focus upon developing resilience and our ability to reflect and move on.</p>
Science	<p>In Portmeirion, we are going to be starting a lifestyle challenge unit called Biology – Living Systems.</p> <p>In this unit students will learn to identify plant and animal cells and understand their functions, as well as understanding the role of systems within the human body. They will then explore different ecosystems on Earth, examine the impact of human activities on these ecosystems and discover how species adapt to survive.</p> <p>Additionally, students will study the role of genes in inheritance and how variations occur within the same species. This approach will include a variety of teaching styles to engage all learners, including hands-on activities, group work and interactive discussion, encouraging students to question and investigate the living world around them.</p>
Art Award	<p>NCFE students will be starting their coursework / design brief which will be inspired by the intricate artwork of the ceramic/mosaic artist, Cleo Mussi. They will create a piece of work that will show the development of their plans from starting point to a final piece, which will form their design portfolio.</p>
BTEC Performing Arts	<p>This term, students enrolled in the Performing Arts NCFE qualification will focus on 'Preparing Performing Arts Work'.</p> <p>Throughout the lessons, students will be responsible for every aspect of preparing a performance, from initial planning to the final show. Students will participate in creating the show programme, auditioning performers, and considering stage design, costumes, makeup, and more.</p> <p>To achieve this, they will need a solid understanding of the various stages involved in planning and preparing a performance. This term's module is structured around three key elements: exploring stages and ideas, carrying out preparation roles, and performing. By the end of the unit, students will present their performance to an audience.</p>
Computer Science	<p>This unit of work will build upon students' knowledge of improving productivity using technology, including considering the ways that technology can be beneficial in the workplace as well as any drawbacks, following a brief to automate the processes for data sorting and retrieval and the combining of information from different software. Students look at real-life scenarios, plan, create and edit their work, checking that all routines work and fit with the given brief.</p>

	<p>As part of our anchor 'In the Beginning', students will be considering the origins of computer systems as well as being encouraged to reflect on their previous learning journey, considering lessons learned and how these can be applied to the new and exciting things to come. We will also be looking ahead, developing an understanding that every day is a new day, starting with positive thoughts and expectations and will focus upon developing resilience and our ability to reflect and move on.</p>
Home Cooking	<p>Students in these classes will start or continue their journey through their qualification of Life Skills Challenge. Continuing with units based on following a recipe, safely and hygienically and being able to clean up after themselves. Throughout their time in year 9, 10 and 11 they will gain 2 to 3 different units. This will help them to be able to follow and understand a recipe, rewrite recipes to make them easier for them to follow, creating a meal based on a budget and cooking healthy meals, all as independently as possible.</p> <p>Through this they will understand the importance of cross contamination and how to stop it happening, learning how to read and understand how to use a recipe, know what equipment is called and how to use it, applying heat in different ways, measuring and weighing, using safe techniques when using equipment, why it is important to wash our hands throughout the cooking process, understanding the dangers in the kitchen and how to be safe, understanding what a healthy balanced diet means and how to treat burns and cuts.</p>
Humanities: RE and History	<p>Portmeirion students have a transition year in Humanities from the KS3 National Curriculum at the start of the year, to KS4 independent life skills-based projects by the end of the year.</p> <p>RE learning will analyse and compare the evidence and arguments used when engaging with questions about the nature and existence of God focusing on the Bible story of Creation and then the Big Bang theory – can science and faith be reconciled?</p> <p>At the end of term we will illuminate our dark winter with a Festival of Light, exploring Hannukah, Christmas and Diwali.</p> <p>In History students will go back to the chronological beginning of our curriculum and investigate what life was like in Roman Britain 43-410 AD. We will address the question: What have the Romans done for us?</p>
PE	<p>For the first half of the Autumn term the Questioning Pathway will be developing their Personal abilities. Physical literacy is fundamental to this term's anchor of 'In the Beginning'. Each student will be supported to develop an understanding of their strengths and also their areas of development, helping them to feel good and function well, supporting their personal well-being.</p> <p>We will begin the new academic year with a Multi skills unit. This allows us to assess their retained skills and guide us on their development towards their EHCP and Preparation for Adulthood targets.</p> <p>For the second half of the term we will concentrate on their cognitive abilities. We will use problem solving activities and thinking games to again maintain and develop physical skills that are transferable to everyday life.</p>

<p>Preparation for Employment / Work Skills</p>	<p>This scheme of study aims to give students the skills, knowledge and understanding which will prepare them for working life, helping them to enter the world of work, training and further education and develop their future life as confident individuals who are able to contribute positively to society.</p> <p>These inter-disciplinary lessons cover aspects of careers, health, personal safety, employment opportunities, applying for jobs and personal finance. Preparation for Employment are practical lessons in which students learn skills such as how and where to find employment opportunities, how to apply for jobs and courses, and how to prepare for an interview.</p> <p>This term we are considering transferable skills and college courses and the role they play in employment.</p>
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