

The Centre School Curriculum

Aims

The main aim of our curriculum is to enable young people to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.

What is a successful learner within the context of The Centre School?

- A successful learner will participate in all opportunities offered to them and begin to understand that learning can happen in a wide variety of contexts.
- A successful learner will be able to transfer skills learned from one area of the curriculum to another. They will be able to use skills gained to help them progress.
- A successful learner will begin to understand that literacy and numeracy underpin their learning and they will take a keen interest in assessments, targets and progress.
- A successful learner will understand that progress and targets are individual and all efforts are valued and recognised no matter how small the steps towards identified goals seem to be.
- A successful learner will be motivated and take pride in their work.

How does our curriculum enable learners to become confident individuals?

The Centre School recognises that our students are not confident about their abilities, particularly with regard to literacy and numeracy. We aim to:

- Instil confidence in small ways and in different areas. We recognise areas in which a student may feel confident and encourage them to use skills gained in other areas which they find more difficult
- Give students opportunities to learn in environments in which they do feel confident e.g. developing reading skills in the kitchen whilst cooking
- enable students to experience opportunities to learn a wide variety of skills
- give all students opportunities to experience some success each and every day
- celebrate success in a wide variety of ways

- Ensure that confidence building underpins everything that we do. Students that are experiencing difficulties and problems need to know that they can get help
- Build confidence of parents/carers in the school so that students know home is supportive of the school and our work.

What do students learn that helps them to become responsible citizens?

- Many of the extended learning activities take place in the community. Students learn at an early stage that the use of public facilities brings with it a need to understand what is and what is not acceptable behaviour.
- All students experience work placements and learn to understand key issues around the world of work, e.g. Health and Safety.
- Students participate in community projects e.g.
 - we have painted rooms in a local hall
 - we provide Christmas lunch for a group of elderly people

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- Teachers plan opportunities for work that develop creativity and value the spoken word alongside the written.
- Students are encouraged to be adaptable and transfer learning from one subject to another.
- Teachers should respond to all learning opportunities and be flexible and creative about doing this.
- The curriculum has been designed to meet the needs of the student body and to provide that body with learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom.
- Assessment is an important part of the curriculum and students are regularly informed of their progress. The school continues to strive to provide a bank of assessment materials that are fit for purpose.
- Formative assessment is becoming a key part of each lesson and extended learning activity. Improved staff understanding will ensure that students are involved in this process and it is hoped that we will improve learners' self esteem and enthusiasm for their learning.

- The Centre School aims to use its resources creatively to meet the learning needs of the student body and to provide opportunities for classroom based and extended learning activities that are rich and varied.

Accreditation is built into the curriculum in a variety of ways.

- All students can take Functional Skills tests from Entry Level 1 through to Level 2. Maths and English are assessed regularly during Key Stage 4, although all students will begin at Entry Level 1 in year 9 and steadily build up their qualifications throughout years 10 & 11.
- GCSE Maths, English and Science are all offered where appropriate, in addition to Functional Skills.
- The extended Curriculum is accredited through the Gateway qualifications Scheme, our aim being to get as many students as possible to Diploma Level either at Entry 3 or Level 1.
- BTEC courses are offered in PE, Art and Construction.
- Humanities is also offered at Entry Level or Level 1.
- Bespoke courses for students are also offered e.g. GCSE PE alongside Cottenham Village College students.

Values

How does our curriculum reflect the core values in our statement of intent? How do we promote these values?

- The Centre School rewards progress in a wide variety of ways to ensure that all members of the community feel valued.
- Students have opportunities on a daily basis to work in small groups with adults.
- The daily routines are important and are clearly understood by students.
- Students' achievements, no matter how small, are recognised both in and out of the classroom and they begin to learn to value these achievements.
- Students are encouraged to take an active part in the functioning and running of the school and to make suggestions for improvement.