

Discovery Department

The Lower School Department - known as Discovery - supports students across nursery, Year R, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Class groups can be mixed ages to support the needs of the students. Most students will be working at an early developmental level and progressing through our milestone pathways. Some pupils in Key Stage 2 will progress to work within our standards pathways. All of the lower school classes are working on a five-year rolling topic curriculum, where most topic headings are different to that of the upper school's programme. All learning is encompassed within the topic areas and the themes are the drivers to the development of new skills to support, awe and wonder, new experiences and generalisation of what is being learned. Some students who work in the standards will access some individualised Maths and English Lessons.

Discovery students are delivered an individual and multisensory curriculum to support the early stages of development. Learning has a sensory based focus embedded with play and exploration. Early communication and the development opportunities are paramount and at the focus of all learning and experiences. Students will be introduced to various communication methods that best suit their needs to begin to enable everyone to have a voice, however that looks. Students are given time to explore the world however best suits them with all learning individualised to cater for any need. A high level of adult support is available so each student is nurtured, challenged and given every opportunity to experience a rich and varied cultural capital.

PSHE lessons are focused through a five-year rolling topic theme where students begin to learn about themselves, others and the world around them. Students in Year R and Key Stage 1 will have PSHE embedded into their day, whereas students in Key Stage 2 will take part in bespoke PSHE sessions.

All students in Discovery will complete the "My Rachel Madocks" record of achievement where achievements, WOW moments, memories and new skills are documented and celebrated. This will then be presented to the students with a certificate when they start the next step of their journey to the Explorers departments.