

Explorers Department

The Upper School Department - known as Explorers - supports students across Key Stage 3 and 4 where class groups are mixed depending on the learner needs and environmental factors. Some students within these key stages are continuing to work on the milestone pathway, however others, are working on standards and few working on levels. All of the upper school classes are working on a five-year rolling topic curriculum, where most topic headings are different to the lower school curriculum. Some of the topic headings are similar but the content taught is different. Alongside this, the classes with students on the treetop pathway are taught Maths and English as bespoke isolated lessons.

Communication continues to be at the heart of supporting our learners, those working on milestones are continuing to build on those early developmental reactions e.g., facial responses, reaching, pushing away, where the student is recognising that there is a communicative partner available for them. As students move into standards and levels, they begin to develop their understanding of the functional use of language through, requesting, commenting, describing and recognising personal preferences. Students are supported in their expansion of language working on higher stages of PEC's, aided language boards and communication books. In addition, students begin to widen their understanding of more Makaton signs through the varying levels within our school.

Students who access standards and levels will also begin to work on the key skill pathway which is when learners become more confident and controlled in their movements and learning the skills of early reasoning and problem solving. These skills are to be taught through a cross curricula thematic approach to enable students to generalise and consolidate their skills.

PSHE lessons also work on a five-year rolling topic theme, the focus is around learning about themselves, independent skills, feelings/emotions, community focuses and SRE. Students begin to learn about relationships and changes to their bodies as they go through puberty.

ASDAN

All Key Stage 3 students' study ASDAN New Horizons comprising five modules around areas of Personal (about you), Social (about you and others), Health (looking after yourself), Citizenship (caring for people and other things), and Relationships (growing up). Students will receive their accreditation at the end of Year 9.

All Key Stage 4 students' study ASDAN Transition Challenge which offers a learner-centred, activity-based curriculum that can be undertaken with as much support as necessary. It has been developed with SEND for learners aged 14-16. There are two levels we currently teach at school which are:

- **Sensory:** this programme offers a developmental perspective for learners with PMLD and rewards very small steps of learning and achievement
- **Introduction and Progression:** the activities in this programme cover the statutory programmes of study for the Key Stage 4 National Curriculum, along with activities to develop the skills required for adult living

All ASDAN achievements are assessed by allocating levels of support to show how the student has achieved the activity. They show individual progression and differentiation between students. All students compile a portfolio to demonstrate how they have met the requirements of these modules. These portfolios are internally moderated for Key Stage 3 students and externally moderated by ASDAN for Key Stage 4 students.