

CITIZENSHIP

In Key Stage 3 the students have one lesson a fortnight of Personal Development. At KS3 Personal Development includes Citizenship and PSHE/ RSE.

In Key Stage 4 Students have one lesson a week of Personal Development. Personal Development Lessons also occur in drop down Careers lessons and in Personal Development days. In KS4 Personal Development includes Citizenship, PSHE/RSE and compulsory Religious Studies.

In both Key stages Personal Development is also delivered in drop down Careers lessons and in Personal Development Days which are carefully planned to include a range of visiting speakers and outside agencies.

Vision and Purpose of Citizenship

Our intention in Citizenship is to provide a vibrant and engaging curriculum that will not only ensure students have an awareness of the system of government in the UK, but also foster an enthusiasm so they leave school as young people who want to play an active part in society. We endeavour to provide topical lessons that are reflective of current affairs so that every student can access and understand the world around them. Lessons are carefully planned and reviewed to reflect the context of our school and instil a clear understanding of British values.

Curriculum

The key principles that underpin our curriculum reflect British Values. We recognise the importance of ensuring every student leaves school with an understanding of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, and a shared understanding of different faiths and beliefs. Our curriculum exposes students to real world issues, offering the opportunity for debate and reflection. We recognise the importance of having a curriculum that is culturally enriching so will be taking advantage of school trips re-commencing, with visits to Parliament and Courts of Law being planned in 2023 to complement classroom learning and raise career aspirations.

VISION AND PURPOSE

Our spiral curriculum complements other subjects within Personal Development to ensure students have a deep understanding of complex issues. At Key Stage 4 students study Politics in Year 10 and Law in Year 11. Politics will provide students with an understanding of parliamentary democracy, key elements of the constitution of the United Kingdom, methods of political participation and different electoral systems used in the UK and beyond. Such topics allow students to develop their critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills.

Law is taught concurrently with Religious Studies through the topic of Crime and Punishment. Students learn about the legal system in the UK, different sources of law, how the law helps society deal with complex problems, and the diverse religious and ethnic identities in the UK and need for mutual respect and understanding. Lessons will foster empathy and invite students to respond respectfully, sensitively, and emotionally to real world issues.

We study Citizenship because we believe it is our responsibility to ensure every student understands their role in shaping the world around them. We want our students to leave school knowing they have a voice, and the importance of championing their beliefs whilst also being prepared to defend the beliefs of others. Students must understand their rights, responsibilities, and ways they can work with others to solve problems, to navigate the world successfully.

Our lessons lend themselves to developing a variety of employability skills, particularly those involving working with others such as communication skills, teamwork, negotiation, and valuing diversity. We endeavour to challenge the misconception that studying Politics or Law is only of use to an aspirational Politician or Lawyer. Students will leave school with an awareness of the array of career prospects that can come from studying Citizenship. Personal Development days are carefully planned to enrich our curriculum with guest speakers and links to industry to brighten the horizons of our students and raise career aspirations.