**Key Stage 3 Curriculum**

At Portland, we use GL Assessments to baseline each pupil in **Maths** and **English**. This allows us to identify appropriate *flight paths* for every student, ensuring targeted

support and challenge from the outset.

As pupils transition into **Key Stage 3**, we move away from our *literacy immersion curriculum* towards a more **structured and emotionally supportive learning model**. Lessons are delivered either by **form tutors** or **subject specialists**, depending on the needs of the group and subject. We follow the **full Key Stage 3 Programme of Study**, ensuring comprehensive coverage of all strands. However, we enhance this by providing pupils with increased **subject-specific teaching** to better prepare them for **accredited courses** in Key Stage 4.

This structure allows us to:

* Offer a more **nurturing environment** for pupils who benefit from this approach.
* Utilise staff who are **skilled in supporting diverse learning needs**.
* Ensure that all pupils, regardless of ability, have access to **high-quality teaching and learning**.

While some pupils may have low literacy levels, **not all do**, and we differentiate activities within lessons to ensure **every pupil can make good progress**.

**Assessment and Intervention**

Pupils are assessed **termly** against:

* **National Year Group Expectations**, or
* **Adapted objectives** from the Key Stage 3 Programme of Study.

Our aim is for **all pupils to make at least good progress**. For those who do not meet expectations, we provide a range of targeted interventions:

* In-class support from **teachers and teaching assistants.**
* Access to **Phonics -** each KS3 class has access to a Phonics session in the morning (Read, Write Ink and Fresh Start).
* **Intensive differentiated work** in mathematics.

**Reading and Literacy**

We place strong emphasis on **reading for pleasure and purpose**. Every pupil is encouraged to read for **at least 20 minutes daily**. For **reluctant readers**, we offer alternative.

reading materials such as **newspapers and news websites**, which also serve as a platform for discussing **current affairs and areas of interest** relevant to young people.

**Personal, Social, Health, and Relationships Education (PSHRE)**

Our PSHRE curriculum is both **reactive and responsive**. It is informed by real-time trends identified via **MyConcern** and supported by the **Jigsaw PSHE programme**.

Topics covered include:

* **Online and personal safety**
* **Grooming and Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**
* **Positive, healthy relationships**