

Our Curriculum Intent

Our ambitious and bespoke curriculum is designed to allow all students to realise their life chances and dreams. Inclusion and destinations drive all our decision making. We aim to ensure that every child is fully engaged in learning and gains and retains a deep body of knowledge. This ensures they are ready for a successful transition to the next stage of learning and onwards to employment.

We value everyone, care for each other and achieve excellence.

Every child has the right to a broad and balanced curriculum with a quality experience in the Arts, Technology, Science, Ethics, Philosophy and Religion, Physical Education, a Modern Foreign Language and the Humanities, alongside a strong core subject experience in English and Maths.

The school is committed to a 3-year Key Stage Three experience with 22 subjects on offer. At Key Stage Four students learn a broad, balanced and academic curriculum of 9 or 10 subjects. Sixth Form is the stage of school where our students begin to focus on and develop their academic passions. At Tapton, students can choose 3 or 4 subjects from a broad curriculum offer of 29 subjects allowing a focus on the subjects that really matter to them in preparation for further study or employment post-18.

At every Key Stage we build the composite knowledge and skills for progress and future success. Our broad, knowledge rich curriculum ensures engagement and allows students to discover their own passions and make appropriate learning and life choices. Our vision is to embed cultural capital across all groups.

We believe the heart of our curriculum must be academic because this is the best guarantee for student destinations and removes obstacles for social mobility. Our curriculum offer is personalised to the individual needs of young people, particularly those at risk of disengagement and exclusion. As a Vision Support school, we deliver independent living skills for Visually Impaired students and where appropriate other students with high needs.

We are a values-driven school that celebrates the diversity of our community. Students learn and live out these values through the Tapton Seven. Ethics, Philosophy and Religion are an integral part of the curriculum for every student from year 7 to 11. Universal values of tolerance and understanding are deeply embedded within our Ethics, Philosophy and Religion, Personal Development and Form Time programme as are LGBTQ+, anti-sexism, anti-racism, anti-bullying and online safety.

Learning at Tapton

A culture of excellent teaching and learning is at the heart of everything we do at Tapton.

Everyone's learning matters to us and we are proud to make a difference to the personal development of our students. Our students learn and live out the values of our school through the Tapton Seven

1. We are responsible for the world around us
2. We are kind
3. We work hard
4. We follow the rules
5. We are responsible for our learning journey
6. We make the most of the resources available to us
7. We believe we are all capable of excellence

These are our high expectations, and we encourage all students to follow these principles in order to achieve success.

We also know that learning goes hand in hand with relationships and trust so staff at Tapton work hard to get to know each student they teach. We make learning exciting, engaging and inspirational. Quality first teaching has been proven over and over again to have the biggest impact on student attainment and outcomes; we therefore invest heavily in staff development.

Learning is not the sole preserve of the classroom. Learning outside of the classroom is of equal value. Through this we foster a lifelong love of learning and the independence and flexibility our students need to embark upon a bright future.

Our staff work together as a professional community to ensure the best outcomes for all. We recognise that we are all learners with the capacity to develop and improve. Our teachers collaborate to form a shared understanding of what great teaching and learning looks like.

Our Teaching and Learning Principles have been developed by our teachers in collaboration with colleagues from across Tapton School Academy Trust. They inform our professional development programme and help us evaluate our lessons.