

BLACKFRIARS ACADEMY CURRICULUM PLAN

CLASS – BRIDGEWATER

SUMMER 2025



When deciding what Anchors we wanted to develop as a team of staff working in a school for young people with varying needs and abilities, our starting point was 'What is the point?' – why would we choose 'this' as something that anchors all other learning?

In order to answer this question, we went back to our core moral purpose as a school which we believe is to educate our students, because education has the power to transform lives.

By educating our young people, we can help them to be more independent. For some this may mean helping them to use their 'Voice' to ensure their views, hopes and aspirations for what they want 'their world' to be like are heard. For others, this means that they can become more aware of the environment around them.

This term's anchor is 'Stories'.

We have prioritised this as a school because we believe that the thing that makes us human is the stories (real and imagined) that each of us has inside. We are all storytellers from the very earliest days of our lives. Helping young people to 'tell' their stories is very important to their social, emotional and cognitive development, especially communication and literacy.

We will be looking at different forms of story-telling – traditional books and oral story telling but also poetry, song, movement, pictures, and plays. Sometimes, our stories will be explored tactually exploring items collected on a walk, sometimes stories will be explored critically – do you think that this really happened or do you think the story teller was trying to teach us a lesson through the story?

We will also focus upon different types of stories – for those students leaving Blackfriars in the summer, we will be collecting together the story of their time here in our Academy, for other students, we will be focusing upon stories that help them to cope and develop – social stories that will support them to take their next steps towards adulthood. The stories that we will all be focusing upon will support the development of our students' memory and imagination. There will be an emphasis upon family stories and cultural stories which we hope will positively impact upon our students' mental health as they hear stories about diverse cultures and different identities.

Most importantly, stories help us understand others and ourselves. We feel empathy with the characters we encounter in stories. This ability to learn from stories is a skill that will help our students throughout their lives. In addition to academic goals, the stories will enrich their lives and provide guidance as they prepare for adulthood

Subject	Content to be covered
English	Through English lessons this term, Bridgewater will be using the school anchor of 'Stories' to focus our learning. Using their imagination, students will begin to create their own stories. During English lessons, students will have the opportunity to practise reading, writing, speaking and listening and developing their comprehension skills.

Maths	<p>During the Summer term, Bridgewater will focus on money. The students will be working towards recognising coins and notes. Bridgewater will then begin exploring how we use money, adding and subtracting money, as well as giving change.</p> <p>Bridgewater will have the opportunity to use their new knowledge of money in real-life situations and for those who it is appropriate continue to work towards their qualifications.</p>
Science	<p>In Science this term, Bridgewater will be developing their knowledge of plants. Recognising the names of the different parts of a plant, naming gardening tools and how to use them safely. Following on from the work on seasons and calendars in maths during the Spring term, students will use this knowledge to establish a well-functioning vegetable and flower garden, working on what to plant when. The knowledge students gain in Science, will be put towards their ASDAN Award, for those it is appropriate.</p>
Computer Science	<p>Bridgewater will continue their work in ICT, to prepare for their adult life. Students will be exploring using different types of technology, including iPads and computers. Students will then move onto exploring how to stay safe online. A number of students will use this knowledge to complete their ASDAN Award.</p>
Music	<p>In Music, during the Summer term, Bridgewater will be exploring war songs, in relation to the 80 year celebration of VE day. Students will understand the purpose of war songs and begin to understand how they lifted peoples' spirits.</p>
Art	<p>Over the Summer term, students will be looking at different stories that some artists want us to see when we look at their paintings or artworks. We will explore the relevance of the colours and techniques that the artists use to tell their story.</p> <p>The first artist whose work we will be looking at is Vincent Van Gogh and we will use research to understand the times and the culture of artwork of the period that he produced the main body of his work. Students will learn to use similar techniques to paint, collage and print in Van Gogh's style and produce their own artworks.</p>
Humanities: History and RE	<p>In a multi-sensory and practical way, students will explore stories covering some momentous events in British history, including the outbreak of Plague 1665 and the fire of London 1666.</p> <p>In RE stories will come from the holy texts of major world faiths and students will reflect on the meaning of stories to modern believers, as well as themselves.</p>
Preparation for Adulthood and Café	<p>In Bridgewater, students will continue their work towards their life skills journey. Life skills are taught across the school to enable our students to be prepared for life during and after Blackfriars. This term we will explore social expectations when in shops, Cafés and when using transport. Using the knowledge and skills we will develop in Maths lessons, we will also practise paying for goods and recognising and receiving the correct change. We will also explore savings and why it is important to manage your money.</p> <p>We will also focus on life skills during our two PSHE days this term; first a 'Healthy Lifestyle' Day, with a focus on how to keep our mind and bodies healthy. The second day being about 'The World I Live In', where we will be thinking about taking care of our environment, managing finances and preparing for adulthood.</p>

	<p>Another key focus of Preparation for Adulthood this term will be the school café, which will be run and delivered by Bridgewater students. Students will be required to access the community to purchase supplies for the café and therefore will be learning how to use the correct amounts of money, reinforcing the importance of coin recognition and coin value. Students will continue to practise money skills during the café sessions, where they will be appropriately interacting with customers to exchange money. The café will also provide opportunities for students to practise their culinary skills, independence within the kitchen and washing and cleaning abilities.</p>
PE	<p>For the Summer term the Exploratory Pathway will be concentrating on their social and physical ability skills linked into our whole school anchor of 'Stories'.</p> <p>Sensory PE Scavenger Hunts: are designed to engage students' senses as they search for clues or items within a defined space. The hunts will involve using sight, sound, touch, and sometimes smell to gather information, complete tasks, and solve puzzles.</p> <p>These activities encourage critical thinking, creativity, and sensory awareness.</p> <p>Students will also have the opportunity to work together in small groups, fostering communication and teamwork while encouraging them to develop their storytelling abilities based on the sensory experiences they encounter. All the activities are aimed at maintaining and developing transferable skills linked to their EHCP and PFA targets.</p>

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