

BLACKFRIARS ACADEMY CURRICULUM PLAN

CLASS - CHURCHILL

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	<p>This term Churchill will further develop their English reading, writing and spoken language skills through our teaching and learning anchor, Stories.</p> <p>Students will explore the tradition of oral story-telling, learning some of these ancient stories to retell in class. The emphasis on oral story telling allows students to internalize important aspects of story beginnings and endings, settings, characters, and plot lines. It therefore provides practice in</p>

	<p>expressing ideas using descriptive language, imagery, developing ideas in sequence, and choosing effective action words.</p> <p>Students will read and analyse fiction in a range of genre including: Gothic, Mystery, and Poetry in the form of Ballads. Texts studied will include Bram Stokes' 'Dracula', Michael Morpurgo's 'The Butterfly Lion' and the poem by Wilfrid Wilson Gibson, 'Flannan Isle'. Through these texts they will further extend their reading skills.</p> <p>Students will also have the opportunity to further develop their creative writing skills through a range of tasks called Challenge 50 -200 words, which will encourage them to extend their written sentences using adjectives and imagery. Lexia will continue to underpin the students work, with the expectation that they will undertake Lexia sessions at home for up to 30 minutes per week.</p>
Maths	<p>This term, students in Churchill will be looking at ratio and proportion, considering scale factors, as well as carrying out calculations involving negative numbers. This unit of work will build upon students' knowledge of recognising 'proportionality in contexts when the relations between quantities are in the same ratio (for example, similar shapes and recipes)'. For students working at level 1 and above, this will involve using 'the vocabulary of prime numbers, prime factors and composite (nonprime) numbers.</p> <p>Throughout maths this term, we will be using the school anchor 'stories to focus our learning. Students will consider the story of a building and what skills will need to be involved in each step of the building's story.</p>
Science	<p>In Science, during this Summer term, Churchill are using the school's Anchor "Stories" to explore how energy and electricity have transformed the way we live. Through hands-on activities, students will build series and parallel circuits, experiment with conductors and insulators and investigate how electricity flows through different materials.</p> <p>They will also learn about the ground breaking contributions of scientists such as Michael Faraday and Thomas Edison, gaining a greater appreciation for inventions in electricity and its impact on the modern world. By combining practical experiments with historical discoveries, science lessons will inspire students to ask questions, make predictions and record findings, deepening their understanding of the subject.</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>

Performing Arts	<p>This term in Performing Arts, students will be exploring the discipline of acting, through the anchor theme of 'Stories'. Students will discover how stories are brought to life on stage by exploring characters, settings, and key events through performance. Students will engage in practical drama activities, and they will work together to re-enact familiar stories. Throughout the term, students will develop important skills such as turn-taking, listening, and responding to others, while also learning how to use their imaginations.</p>
Computer Science	<p>This term during ICT, students will begin developing new knowledge and skills in two aspects of the ICT curriculum. During the first half term, students will explore emails and email safety.</p> <p>Students will complete practical sessions to learn more about, why we communicate online, formal and informal communication, how to send emails and how to stay safe when using emails.</p> <p>Students will then move on to explore multi-media during the second half term. Multi-media sessions will allow the students to develop knowledge of how to integrate multiple forms of media, including text, graphics, audio and video.</p>
Home Cooking	<p>As our anchor is 'Stories', we are going to be discussing our favourite stories and what food the characters eat or cook in the story. This could be something from the Great Hall at Hogwarts, the famous chocolate cake from Matilda or honey biscuits from Winnie the Pooh. They will then vote on the recipes from these stories they would like to do and then cook them each week, also learning something about that story.</p> <p>Students will be continuing their learning of how to read and understand a recipe, to know what equipment is called and how to use it. They will read through a recipe to understand: what equipment to use, know how to apply heat in different ways, measuring and weighing, using safe techniques when using equipment and preparing an array of meals.</p> <p>We will be exploring prior learning such as why it is important to wash our hands throughout the cooking process, understanding the dangers in the kitchen and how to be safe, understanding cross contamination and how to treat burns & cuts. Through all this, students will gain valuable independence and life skills, which will prepare them for adulthood.</p>
RE and History	<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>
PE	<p>The summer curriculum will introduce Churchill students to outdoor adventure activities that promote exploration, teamwork, and practical problem-solving. Activities such as orienteering, guided nature walks, and simple obstacle courses will be adapted to accommodate a variety of physical and sensory needs.</p>

	<p>Through these adventures, students will gain confidence and independence, while enhancing skills like spatial awareness, decision-making, and resilience. These outdoor experiences will also encourage students to engage their creativity, sharing their personal stories of discovery and achievement.</p> <p>We will also partake in cycling activities at a local lake facilitated by the Green Door Cycling Company. Cycling will offer the students the opportunity to improve mobility, coordination, and confidence. Whether through adapted bikes, tricycles, or supportive equipment, students will engage in safe, guided cycling activities that range from simple rides to fun, structured cycling challenges. The activity will help students improve their physical fitness while encouraging independence. As they cycle, students will be encouraged to imagine their journeys, using their experiences to tell stories of exploration, challenge, and achievement.</p>
<p>Preparation for Adulthood (PFA) lessons & PHSE</p>	<p>Life skills are taught across the school to enable our students to be prepared for life after Blackfriars. Initially the students will identify their goals and aspirations for the future. These goals and aspirations will then frame the PFA lessons to promote learning in the four key areas of the PFA curriculum: independent living, health, leisure time, community inclusion & making friends and employability/volunteering.</p> <p>We will focus on life skills during the two PHSE days this term; the first will focus healthy life styles and the second the world we live in. These will be explored through the prism on Stories.</p>

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