

BLACKFRIARS ACADEMY CURRICULUM PLAN

CLASS – MIDDLEPORT

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	In English during the Summer term, Middleport will be exploring the whole school anchor, 'Stories'. English lessons will consist of exploring fictional stories around the theme of the circus. The knowledge that the students gain during English lessons will support them in developing their skills to be able to describe characters, create their own characters, creative writing and storytelling. Throughout all English lessons students will continue to develop their listening and communication skills.

Maths	<p>During the Summer term, Middleport will focus on measurement. Students will begin by completing a baseline assessment to show their current knowledge. Students will then go on to developing new knowledge and skills in all aspects on measurement, including, length, height, mass, weight, capacity and volume. Lessons will be delivered in a practical way and linked closely to real-life situations, to support the student's Preparation for Adulthood outcomes.</p>
Science	<p>In Science, during the Summer term, Middleport are using the school's Anchor "Stories" to explore the fascinating world of energy and electricity. Students will begin by exploring the basic principles of electricity, such as how it powers everyday objects and how circuits work. They will gain hands-on experience building simple circuits and experimenting with different materials to see how they conduct electricity.</p> <p>Students will also be introduced to renewable energy sources like wind and solar power, learning how they can contribute to a sustainable future. Science lessons will encourage students to ask questions, make predictions and record their findings. As they build their understanding, students will work on practical tasks, discovering how electricity is essential to modern life.</p>
Phonics	<p>To support the students across all subjects, Phonics will be taught weekly to develop the student's fluency in reading and spelling through segmenting and blending. Initially, students will complete an assessment which will determine their current knowledge and understanding. Phonics will be taught using the Twinkl Phonics Programme, with Daily Phonics follow up activities to help embed the knowledge.</p> <p>For those students who are fluent readers and so Phonics is no longer required, comprehension and spelling activities will support them in becoming critical thinkers, while improving their vocabulary.</p>
Reading and Communication	<p>Reading and Communication lessons will support the students in developing their reading skills and work towards their Preparation for Adulthood and EHCP targets. Students will have the opportunity to choose a story that they enjoy, to read to another student within the class.</p> <p>As well as reading practise, students will also be developing their listening and attention skills. Students will then be given time to play board games, this aspect of the lesson will help develop the students' communication and turn-taking skills and allow them to follow instructions.</p>
Preparation for Adulthood	<p>In Middleport, 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. We are striving for independence in the four key areas: independent living, health/leisure time, community inclusion and making friends and employability/volunteering.</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>

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>They will be continuing their learning of how to read and understand a recipe, to know what equipment is called and how to use it, reading through a recipe to understand what equipment to use, 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 they 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>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 will be designed to stimulate all five senses, encouraging students to explore their surroundings and engage in problem-solving through tactile, auditory, and visual cues. The hunts will be accessible, with simplified tasks and support to ensure that all students can participate fully.</p> <p>The focus will be on sensory integration, communication, and collaborative teamwork, allowing students to share their experiences and create narratives about the sensory items they discover, helping them connect more deeply with the world around them.</p>

Exploration of Anchor	<p>Exploration of the Anchor lessons during the Summer term will focus on the whole school anchor 'Stories'. Initially students will gain an understanding of what is meant by 'Stories', exploring the stories that we like to read.</p> <p>Students will then have the opportunity to explore the anchor through a variety of activities including research, and design and technology. All Exploration of Anchor lessons will support the students in achieving their EHCP and Preparation for Adulthood outcomes.</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. 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>
Performing Arts	<p>This term, our Performing Arts curriculum will centre around the school anchor 'Stories'. Students will be exploring the anchor through and develop their skill in acting. Students will gain knowledge of different acting styles, and the techniques used within them.</p> <p>Students will explore and have the opportunity to read and perform scripts of well-known fairy tales, freeze frames and puppetry.</p>
Art	<p>In Art during the Summer term, Middleport will be exploring illustrators from well know stories. Students will have the opportunity to research the illustrators and draw images inspired by them.</p> <p>Art lessons will allow students to practise the following skills, pencil control, using and mixing their own colours, paint brush control and abstract thinking, so that they become more of an expert at them.</p>

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