

BLACKFRIARS ACADEMY CURRICULUM PLAN

CLASS – PORTMEIRION

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 Portmeirion will further develop their English reading, writing and spoken language skills through our teaching and learning anchor 'Stories'. The lessons are based on the AQA syllabus for Step Up To English and GCSE English.</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 Fiction, Crime fiction, Short Story and Poetry in the form of Ballads. Texts studied will include: Edgar Allan Poe's 'Tell Tale Heart', excerpts from Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein' and Ray Bradbury's 'Whole Town Sleeping.' as well as Robert Browning's famous poem 'My Last Duchess'.</p> <p>Through these texts they will develop a further understanding of the writers' craft, so crucial in all aspects of exam work and improve their ability to analyse the writer's viewpoint and impact in their reading. Students will also have the opportunity to further develop their creative writing skills through a range of tasks called Challenge 200, where, in a timed period they will engage in a specific task, with a minimum word count of 200.</p> <p>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>
<p>Maths</p>	<p>This unit of work will build upon students' knowledge of money, time, measure, shape and space. The lessons are based on NCFE and AQA Entry 2, 3, level 1 qualifications.</p> <p>This term students in Portmeiron will continue to work towards their qualifications in mathematics, completing units of work towards this. This half-term, students will be revising and developing their work across all strands of mathematics as well as working on STEM challenges to improve their problem-solving skills.</p> <p>Throughout maths this term, we will be using the school anchor 'stories' to focus our learning. Students will put the skills they have learned over the course of the year into practise during revision sessions, as well as through a series of problem-solving challenges and real-life scenarios to improve their knowledge and mastery of their functional maths. Through questioning, students will be able to further explore their understanding and justify their answers, so that they become more expert at applying this knowledge in real-life situations.</p>
<p>Science</p>	<p>Students will study the '<i>Science and The Human Body</i>' unit of the ASDAN Lifestyle Challenge. They will learn about the functions of major body systems, such as the heart, lungs, brain, stomach, liver and kidneys and explore how these systems work together to maintain health.</p> <p>Students will also investigate factors that can affect human health, including lifestyle choices and environmental influences. Through practical investigations, they will examine how exercise impacts the body, particularly how heart rate changes with physical activity and draw conclusions about the relationship between heart rate and fitness.</p> <p>Additionally, students will identify ways in which the body protects itself from infection, exploring defence mechanisms like the immune system and skin. This unit will help students develop a deeper understanding of the human body and the importance of maintaining good health.</p>

Art Award	<p>Students are continuing their course in producing a body of developmental work that shows their progression from a starting point to a final completed composition. The theme of the work is 'Celebration' and students have chosen their own interpretations of this title. They will present their artwork on design sheets which will form their own portfolios.</p>
BTEC Performing Arts	<p>This term, students enrolled on the Performing Arts NCFE qualification will continue working on and complete their current unit of study as they prepare for their end-of-year summer performance. Building on the skills they have developed so far; students will take part in rehearsals and behind-the-scenes preparations to bring a performance to life. They will deepen their understanding of the performance process by exploring key areas such as character development, stagecraft, and teamwork.</p> <p>The term will conclude with a live performance in the summer show, where students will have the opportunity to share their talents with peers, staff and families - celebrating their hard work and creativity while successfully completing their unit of work.</p>
Computer Science	<p>This unit of work will build upon students' knowledge of presentation software. The lessons are based upon the level 1 and level 2 NCFE ITQ qualifications.</p> <p>Throughout computer science this term, we will be using the school anchor 'stories' to focus our learning. Students will challenge themselves to improve their knowledge of presentation software, alongside developing their keyboard skills and question how they can edit their work to improve the quality and its appropriateness for the given brief and target market.</p> <p>Students will have a range of learning opportunities that will extend their knowledge of types of presentation software elements, input devices and file formats, as well as provide them with opportunities to practise their computer skills and present to the class.</p>
Home Cooking	<p>They will be continuing with finishing off the last parts of their ASDAN Life Skills Challenge unit "Cooking a Variety of Breakfast foods".</p> <p>Once this is complete, they will be cooking recipes from stories, as this is the anchor for the summer term. We will 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.</p>
Humanities	<p>Students in Portmeirion are learning about our local heritage, with a specific study on Josiah Wedgwood and the Pottery industry. They will complete a Lifeskills Challenge Certificate at Entry 3 or Level 1 dependent upon their ability. The topic encompasses an overview of the Industrial Revolution in this area, including the mines, canals and railway.</p> <p>Students could be supported in this learning at home by visiting our local pottery museums, observing remaining Pot Banks or even just taking a stroll along the canal.</p>

PE	<p>For the first part of the summer term we will be visiting a local Boxing gym. Boxing in PE will focus on building fitness, coordination, and discipline. Students will learn basic boxing techniques such as footwork, punches, and defensive manoeuvres. Boxing will be approached with an emphasis on controlled, non-contact drills and games, ensuring that students develop both physical strength and mental focus.</p> <p>As students' progress, they will engage in creative boxing-related challenges, where they can tell stories through movement, expressing personal growth, resilience, and determination. 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.</p> <p>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>
Preparation for Employment / Work Skills & PHSE	<p>This scheme of study aims to give students the skills, knowledge and understanding which will prepare them for working life. The course focus develops the students understanding of the personal qualities, skills and abilities they will need them to enter the world of work, training and further education and develop their future life as confident individuals, who are able to contribute positively to society. Through this understanding, they will recognise these abilities within themselves.</p> <p>The scheme of work cover aspects of careers, health, personal safety, employment opportunities, applying for jobs and personal finance. Preparation for Employment are practical lessons in which students learn skills such as how and where to find employment opportunities, how to apply for jobs and courses, and how to prepare for an interview.</p> <p>This term students are completing a unit of work towards their Life Skills Challenge Qualification, focusing on creating a three year Personal Progress Plan.</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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