

Oaks Class

Intent

Many young people face barriers to learning; amongst other reasons, anxiety around failure, peer pressure, lack of support from family mean that many young people do not access the education which they deserve and are entitled to. Many of the young people who attend Oaks class face these barriers and therefore the aim of Oaks class is to provide a safe, nurturing environment where our young people feel secure and respected.

The aim of The Oaks class is to ensure that all pupils regularly attend school, engage not only in the education of core subjects but also subjects which nurture their self-esteem and mental health and help to develop their interpersonal skills, understanding the importance of fostering positive relationships. In addition, enrichment activities will be planned for and delivered to ensure that the curriculum is well-rounded and engaging.

Many of the young people in Oaks class, but not all, have specifically identified SEND which will be taken into account when planning and delivering the curriculum to ensure that all of our young people are able to access the offering as well as make expected progress.

Implementation

Young people in Oaks will study the same core subjects as their peers within The Beacon Centre. In order to ensure that the young people are working at an appropriate level, on arrival at The Beacon Centre pupils will complete a range of base line assessments which will be scrutinised and utilised to ensure the young people are building on their prior knowledge, filling gaps and the work is appropriately personalised. Further assessments will be used throughout the academic year to ensure pupils are making the expected progress.

Alongside the core subjects English, Maths and Science, the young people will have the opportunity to explore and develop their creativity through a range of art and STEM based projects. It is believed that taking the time to nurture one's creativity helps to improve mental health, and therefore it is hoped that allowing the time within the curriculum to concentrate on a practical project will holistically nurture our young people.

Furthermore, in order to ensure our pupils are sufficiently prepared for the next part of their academic journey, Careers, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Vocational subjects will be offered to our young people; developing skills which will be used outside of the The Beacon Centre will give our young people an advantage when moving on.

Impact

There are many ways to measure success and it is understood that alongside gaining a range of qualifications, the success of the young people who leave Oaks will be measured by their secure sense of self and ability to navigate the ever changing world. It is hoped that the people who leave Oaks class will do so with the ability to recognise their own emotions and act on them, to make appropriate decisions about their futures and seize opportunities which present themselves.