

**OUR CURRICULUM**

Young people will excel if what they are learning is challenging, inclusive, relevant to them and taught well.  We provide a curriculum with academic rigour which is delivered consistently and effectively to stretch and challenge every learner.  Our curriculum is underpinned by the development of skills, knowledge and understanding in English and mathematics, affording students the opportunity to access all other subjects at every level.  Our curriculum builds on the foundations laid down at Key Stage 2 and prepares learners for the demands of Key Stage 5. We work collaboratively with a shared pedagogical practice to enhance the daily lived curriculum experiences of the young people at Duke’s Aldridge Academy producing creative, resilient and successful adults.

**Our Curriculum Model:**

Our curriculum model is based on the Aldridge Standard focusing on

* Intent
* Content
* Delivery and
* Experience

This model also utilises the pedagogic sequence and model:

* Teach
* Revise
* Assess and
* Reteach

The success of this sequence requires teachers to consider how to make all four elements cohesive, active and therefore truly meaningful for students in terms of retention and the development of higher level application and skills. The “review” element of this model facilitates closing of the gap for students with their knowledge acquisition and retention.

**What we teach:**

Literacy and Numeracy skills are vital for all next steps, for career acquisition, for life advantage and for earning potential- therefore we prioritise these. These skills need to underpin every practice and action for the students at Duke’s.

Our curriculum provision at KS3 allows students study a broad range of subjects over two years. In addition to a core of English, Mathematics and Science, students are taught Humanities: Geography, History and Religious Education, a Modern Foreign Language: French or Spanish, Design Technology: Food Technology, Textiles and Resistant Materials, Art, Computer Science and Information Communication Technology, Performing Arts: Drama and Music, Sport & Physical Education, Personal, Social& Health Economic education.

At KS4, we provide students with the opportunity to personalise their experience by providing differentiated pathways based on prior attainment and progress made in addition to input from additional professionals involved with the student. Our wide GCSE offer allows students to achieve the EBacc with the number of students studying towards these qualifications increasing over the last five years. Our curriculum design consisting of traditional GCSEs, vocational courses and foundation learning enables students to build individualised course packages meeting the needs all; from the most academically inclined, to those who are best motivated by practical approaches to learning. We provide opportunities for students to sit GCSEs in their home language.

**How we teach:**

We aim for mastery in all subjects- i.e. moving from concrete to abstract, being able to apply knowledge previously learned to new situations and topics, making links from prior learning and being successful in new learning situations not previously encountered. Thinking like a writer, thinking like a historian, thinking like a geographer, thinking like a scientist etc.

**Cultural Capital:**

We have an extensive enrichment curriculum linked with the wider appreciation that the curriculum is indeed the everyday experience of each of our students as individuals. We also enrich wider curriculum experiences for our students through subject specific events and drop down sessions. To support the careers and guidance education, students in every year group are also exposed through mentoring to professionals from the worlds of higher education, business and commerce. The Aldridge Attributes; Passion, Determination, Risk taking, Teamwork, Problem solving and Creativity are interwoven into the curriculum at Duke’s to further enhance the employability skills of our students.

Our academy invests heavily in developing teachers and assuring quality learning in our classrooms. Our teachers feel valued. We have a dynamic and effective team of teachers capable of developing long term relationships with our students, helping them to achieve excellent results. Teachers set high expectations for all students, using appropriate assessment to set ambitious targets and plan challenging work for all student groups. Additional SEND And EAL support is provided throughout the curriculum to ensure that every student exceeds their potential. We are a NACE (National Association for Able Children in Education) school and have been named Master School for Accelerated Reader for the last five years.

We have an extensive enrichment curriculum linked with the wider appreciation that the curriculum is indeed the everyday experience of each of our students as individuals. We also enrich wider curriculum experiences for our students through subject specific events and drop down sessions. To support the careers and guidance education, students in every year group are also exposed through mentoring to professionals from the worlds of higher education, business and commerce. The Aldridge Attributes; Passion, Determination, Risk taking, Teamwork, Problem solving and Creativity are interwoven into the curriculum at Duke’s to further enhance the employability skills of our students.