

Lightcliffe Academy

Our Curriculum



Curriculum Intent

The curriculum at Lightcliffe Academy is designed to give all learners the knowledge, skills and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. It is ambitious, with the National Curriculum and EBacc at its core, encouraging students to aspire to achieve their very best. The curriculum is designed and sequenced to successfully develop the knowledge and skills that students will apply with increasing fluency and independence. Students study a broad range of subjects, exemplified by the national curriculum, throughout Years 7 to 9. Our SHARED character, alongside a focus on literacy, reading and oracy are integral to our curriculum.

We believe that the promotion of reading is central to the development of informed young adults who have a passion for lifelong learning, a love of discovering new ideas and a desire to experience new worlds. Our Forensic Reading programme in Key Stage 3 is an essential part of ensuring that students have reading as part of their routine educational experience. Forensic Reading will expose students to challenging, complex and academic texts which will not only develop students' vocabulary but also their ability to appreciate what makes a great writer.

We want students to become more critical, more confident and be in a position in the future where they can participate in debate and discussion in an incisive and articulate manner. We are passionate about the place of oracy within our curriculum and our aim is to ensure that our pupils learn both through talk and to talk, supporting them to be the confident communicators of the future. We work in strong partnership across our Trust to develop our oracy provisions aiming for each and every classroom to be talk rich.

Through high expectations and expert teaching, all students will achieve. The academic curriculum is enriched by a varied PSHE programme (which includes the RSE statutory curriculum) and an enrichment programme, thus creating a well-rounded experience for Lightcliffe students, with the development of skills that will help them to succeed in further education and employment. The curriculum is tailored to meet the needs of our students and the needs of our local community.

Curriculum Principles

At Lightcliffe Academy, we place a great deal of emphasis on our SHARED values and they underpin our curriculum.

- Service
- Health and happiness
- Ambition
- Resilience
- Equity
- Dignity

Our curriculum aims to give all students the very best chance of succeeding and becoming well-rounded, happy individuals who are fully prepared for their next steps in life by:

- Providing a holistic education, including a comprehensive extra-curricular offer;
- Enabling students to develop

knowledge, understand concepts and acquire skills, and be able to choose and apply these independently;

- Supporting students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development;
- Supporting students' physical development and responsibility for their own health, and enable them to be active across all areas of the curriculum;
- Improving student engagement in the curriculum, which in turn will improve attendance and behaviour;
- Promoting a positive attitude towards learning;
- Ensuring equal access to learning, with high expectations for every student and appropriate levels of challenge and support;
- Providing subject choices that support students' learning and progression, and enable them to work towards achieving their goals;
- Developing students' independent learning skills and resilience, to equip them for further/higher education and employment;
- Promoting student wellbeing.

Curriculum Model

We have a five-year curriculum plan in place for each subject. We offer an ambitious three year Key Stage 3 programme of study, guaranteeing that all students are in receipt of a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum that builds upon their prior Key Stage 2 studies. Each subject area has crafted a Key Stage 3 offer that is knowledge rich, both meeting and exceeding the National Curriculum.

At the end of students' year 9 studies, they will continue to follow the core subjects of English, Maths, Science, Core PE, PSHE and Character but will also select their option subjects for GCSE. They will be supported to make these decisions through a robust transition programme ensuring informed decisions linked to students' future aspirations.

We operate a two-week timetable.

Implementation

Teaching and Learning

All lessons at the academy follow the LIGHTR teaching and learning model. This is a structured and cyclical approach to planning and teaching lessons, ensuring there is a consistent approach across all lessons, focusing on: high quality learning, iterative learning, independent tasks and challenge for all students.



Home Learning

Home learning is an essential part of students' education at Lightcliffe Academy. In order to become lifelong learners, students must learn not only to study when supervised in the classroom, but also independently. Teachers carefully plan and set tasks that not only consolidate learning from previous lessons, but also contain new challenges so that students continue to progress beyond the classroom.

Curriculum Enhancement

At Lightcliffe Academy, we view enrichment as a central part of the curriculum, where learning is enhanced and complements the main curriculum. The enrichment offer, and student engagement with the programme, is a unique feature of the Academy, and the variety of the offer allows every student to find or develop an interest, hobby or skill that they are passionate about, which can be developed and sustained overtime. This could include courses such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award, alongside volunteering within the Academy and the local community. Every students' participation will be acknowledged, and successes celebrated.

Impact

Assessment and Feedback

Teachers use assessment to help students embed and use knowledge fluently and to check understanding and inform teaching. Assessment is regular and proportionate to curriculum time. Feedback methods include: verbal, peer and self-assessment, written and whole class feedback.

Inclusion

Students with Additional Needs

At Lightcliffe Academy, we have an inclusive curriculum and plan for students based on their individual needs to ensure everyone can access the curriculum and reach their full potential. We adopt a flexible approach to curriculum adaptation and delivery. We also balance any potential benefits of flexibility against the need for students to meet standard criteria for accreditation and certification, and to prevent adapted curricula from becoming too narrow.