

# Glebelands School Curriculum Statement

## Key Curriculum principles

- Our curriculum is ambitious allowing students to strive for personal excellence
- It is coherently planned and sequenced to develop both deep knowledge and the skill of applying this knowledge
- Broad and balanced; many of our students follow an EBacc curriculum but we place equal value on the contribution that creative, practical and vocational learning makes to every child's development
- Our curriculum is challenging and fosters a love of learning
- Disadvantaged students, and those with SEND, are at the centre of our curriculum thinking and planning

## Context, starting point and ethos

Glebelands School is an 11-16, mixed comprehensive school with just over 670 students, which serves a largely rural community. Nearly 20% of our students receive the Pupil Premium and around 17% are SEND. Our student's KS2 prior attainment is in line with the national average.

Our aim is for exceptional progress for all students including SEND and disadvantaged, which places us in the top 10% of schools nationally. In addition, we have a 5-year strategic vision for all departments' results to be in the top 5% nationally for progress with minimal group variation. We strive for the highest standards of Teaching and Learning, which underpins excellent progress for all students. The school ethos is 'Respect and Achieve' and we value all individuals by respecting and supporting each other. Our current school progress is significantly above the national average with our basics measures being also significantly above national average and on an upward trend. We are proud that our disadvantaged students achieve progress scores in line with national non-disadvantaged students.

The Glebelands school curriculum is under constant review. We make changes to what students learn across school and within subjects based on their feedback, progress and aspirations. We are immensely proud of the outcomes our pupils achieve through our curriculum, including their exceptional GCSE results in the core and EBacc subjects (EBacc Average Points Score was 4.55 in 2019) and in becoming independent, hardworking and caring young people.

## Intent

Our curriculum is ambitious allowing students to strive for excellence. It is coherently planned and sequenced to develop both deep knowledge and the skill of applying this knowledge. The school development plan sets out our clear intentions for our students.

*"Glebelands will be a school which is committed to providing a curriculum that is broad, balanced, challenging and fosters a love of learning. We match our curriculum to the abilities, interests and aspirations of our students, to give every child the opportunity to strive for personal excellence. We value the contribution that creative, practical and vocational learning brings to a child's development alongside the traditional subjects. Every child who leaves Glebelands will have the qualifications, skills, knowledge and character to access aspirational Post-16 opportunities and to lead a life that includes positive relationships, resilience and financial independence".*

We are very proud of the fact that many of our students follow an English Baccalureate curriculum (Maths, English, Science, Humanities and Languages) to GCSE but we place equal value on the contribution that creative, practical and vocational learning makes to every child's development. In our context we believe around 50% of our students should follow the EBacc. We expect 100% of our students to go onto further education or employment with training.

Through our curriculum and our Behaviour for Learning strands, we aim for students at Glebelands to be lifelong learners, responsible citizens and prepared for the future. Students' progress in these three areas is developed across all aspects of their school experience: subject lessons, tutor time, assemblies and wider curricular opportunities. This means that our curriculum in every subject is planned to ensure pupils leave with exceptional outcomes, both in their examinations and in their personal development. We ask every child to strive for personal excellence as well as leaving with the right qualifications to prepare them for the next stage.

We have high aspirations of our disadvantaged and SEND students in that they follow a broad curriculum so they have the chance to develop their cultural capital. We offer focused support in KS3 for students to develop their reading and literacy skills as we feel this is vital in ensuring high levels of progress.

### *Our student's personal development*

Glebelands will be a school where every student, irrespective of their background, gets opportunities to participate in activities that enrich their education outside of lessons. Our students will be taught how to be safe in a 21<sup>st</sup> century society and will be educated about making healthy choices for their bodies and mental state. Parents and staff will also be involved in this education so that they can support the students. Our focus on Behaviour for Learning will develop student character and every student will get numerous opportunities to focus on life after Glebelands enabling them to become effective citizens.

Beyond the classroom, we aim to give our students a wide range of experiences. All subjects provide additional learning contexts including annual school productions, educational visits and sports teams in the majority of disciplines.

### *The mechanics of our curriculum*

We have a 3 year Key Stage 3 curriculum which we do not narrow. The curriculum journey in each subject covers the content of the National Curriculum and puts high challenge, enjoyment and breadth of experience at the heart of learning. The students learning from primary school is built upon and knowledge and skills are developed to prepare pupils for the next stages of their education.

Alongside Mathematics, English, Sciences, Humanities (History, Geography and Religious Studies) and Core Physical Education, all Key Stage 3 students study a broad range of non-core subjects from day one. Art, Design & Technology, Performing Arts, Information Technology and Learning for Life which exposes pupils to creative, technical and vocational aspects of learning. Students study French and Spanish until the end of Year 7, when they are asked to choose which language to continue until the end of Key Stage 3. A small number of pupils who are "not secondary ready" in English follow a "Lexia" programme in place of Modern Foreign Languages. This bespoke intervention aims to fill the gaps in pupils understanding, identified from their Key Stage 2 assessments in order that their literacy levels are not a barrier to them accessing the rest of the curriculum.

We have a 2 year Key Stage 4 curriculum. Through a highly flexible options process, we meet the statutory national requirements and provide a bespoke curriculum for Years 10 and 11 to study. This gives our students as much choice and flexibility as possible, whilst ensuring they follow examination courses that lead to positive outcomes and give them access to aspirational Post-16 opportunities at the correct level. All students at Glebelands must study both English Language and Literature. In addition to their assessed curriculum, students' physical, religious, moral and spiritual education continues in core Religious Studies, Learning for Life and PE lessons.

Students are guided towards an options 'pathway' according to their ability and individual needs with all routes embedded in high aspirations. Students who are on the 'Accelerated' pathway are required to study Triple Science, a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanity subject. The 'Core' pathway students must opt for either a Humanity subject or a Modern Foreign Language but may opt for both. For students guided towards the 'Support' pathway we believe strongly that the currency of a standard pass is vital for their future opportunities. We therefore assist students in having aspirational Post-16 ambitions by giving an additional period of English, Maths and a teacher led study period. This provision along with their three options choices ensures that they have both the cultural capital and currency to move onto a wide variety of Post-16 opportunities.

As well as the Ebacc subjects, students at Glebelands have a full range of options to study at GCSE (Additional Maths, Art, Computer Science, Design Technology, Drama, Cambridge National I-Media, Latin, Physical Education, Religious Education and Cambridge National Sports Science). Depending on the individual pathway students are asked to choose up to four options subjects. As well as the traditional subjects, through our Federation of local secondary schools and Sixth Form College we offer vocational qualifications (Child Development, Hairdressing and Beauty, Construction, Engineering and Motor Mechanics) for all students at Key Stage 4. Students who wish to study one of these courses spend one whole day off site studying the subject with other students from the Federation schools.

## Implementation - The Glebelands Way

We have a clear vision in our school development plan for the implementation of our curriculum at Glebelands in that we aim to:

*Establish consistent high-quality teaching across the school with minimal variation between teachers. Embed an overall strategy of Teach – Boost – Teach ensuring teachers systematically check for recall to identify student's misconceptions and intervene within lessons to ensure they are corrected. Developing an instruction strategy based on 6 key principles of learning (challenge, modelling, feedback, explanation, deliberate practice, questioning) which have been identified in educational research as key to establishing excellent student progress. A built in CPD programme based on these 6 key principles will allow our teachers to meet regularly, with a flow to their CPD sessions so that ideas can be shared, trialled in class and then reflected on in a continuous cycle of improvement. Students will love the challenge of learning, be eager to improve and demonstrate outstanding behaviour for learning.*

It is our aim that in every lesson at Glebelands when the context is appropriate teachers will:

- Begin every lesson with a short review of previous learning – this could focus on both recently learnt material and material from previous weeks/months
- State the learning objective - explain what the students are going to learn and how it fits into the Big Picture of the subject or series of lessons.
- Guide student practice – This should be both students rehearsing new material and summarising, rephrasing or elaborating on new material so that it can become stored in long-term memory
- Ask a large number of questions and check the responses of all students. This checking for understanding identifies whether students are developing misconceptions as well as providing some of the processing required to move new learning into long-term memory.
- Have a 10 minute period of quiet independent practice.

We plan and deliver lessons based around our 6 pedagogical principles to help ensure excellent progress for all, including disadvantaged and SEND students. When delivering their subject our teachers will:

- Provide **models** - Examples include: step-by-step worked examples with explanations of each step, teacher model answers/work, previous student's answers/work.
- Plan **deliberate practice** by regularly testing students to check for understanding and demand a high success rate.
- Plan tasks that **challenge** students. They will dip into content from the level above/complex material but provide scaffolds (temporary supports) for these difficult tasks.
- Plan their **explanation**.
- Ensure **questioning** involves a wide range of students and develop responses through further questioning. They will include questions to deepen thinking and check for misconceptions whilst encouraging reluctant responders through scaffolding.
- Have a good mix of **feedback** based on their department feedback policy. High impact feedback will be specific and encourage students to think. They will allow time for students to respond to high impact feedback in green pen so progress is clear.

At Glebelands we deliver a series of lessons using the process Teach Boost Teach. This involves:

- Teaching a series of lessons focused on our key 6 principles.
- Identifying whether students have made progress through assessment, this could be through a test (not necessarily written) or teacher judgement. This will then lead to the identification of misconceptions or weaker areas
- Allow dedicated time to Boost on these weaknesses before returning to new material

All subject areas implement the delivery of their curriculums based on a Teach Boost Teach curriculum map with precisely planned low and high stakes assessments ensuring students have spaced practice and revisit material over time. These maps also show how homework supports knowledge development as this is vital to the delivery of our curriculum at Glebelands.