

Welcome to KS3

In KS3 all staff teams and specialist adults working with our young people aim to make the time your youngster spends in this department both happy and worthwhile. We aim to promote a four way partnership with parents/carers, other professionals working in and outside of the school and the young people, all having a major part to play.

The KS3 Curriculum offers two types of approach for our young people. We have a specialised curriculum for young people with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties which focuses on four main areas. These areas are:

Communication

Cognition

Independence

Physical Development

When assessing pupils with PMLD we will use Routes for Learning for Communication and Cognition.

The PMLD Curriculum and Routes assessment is a sensory based approach and is delivered alongside a similar curriculum, called Barr's Court. This is another specialised learning approach for young people in KS3 that offers different challenges. Alongside their class peers some pupils also follow an approach used in the Autism Resource Centre during First School. This incorporates the TEACH Approach which has proved very successful with some of our Autistic students.

We also have our own main curriculum for those young people with learning challenges that is not as sensory based and has the main core and foundation subjects. The areas covered are found in the long term planning grids on the website.

In September 2015 we decided to stream our maths groups to address the needs of our young people and this has proved very successful. It also gives our students an opportunity to work with different adults and peers in more of a secondary model way in preparation for Upper School.

The Foundation subjects are organised in a lower and upper KS3 age group and are supported by some exciting Educational Visits and visiting artists. The coverage is on the website for the individual classes.

We also have Arts Workshops every week to include our specialist teachers and the young people work together on a common theme, usually leading towards an exhibition or performance. As part of their P.E. entitlement the young people up to year 8 have an Outdoor Pursuits Programme, including Forest School, Bell Boating and Swimming. The young people in the top aged Middle School class do all their P.E. entitlement at the local High School. This is a very varied programme with much bigger groups and is a good way for the young people to work alongside other students of the same age at a different school.

During the school day our young people have a personalised curriculum approach with learning targets and next steps in place.

Any queries about your young person's curriculum please book an appointment at a mutually convenient time to see their class teacher.

Ruth Barton (KS3 Assistant Head)