

NOVEMBER 2021

This weekly bulletin for parents and carers shares the practices that are shaping our successful journey as a school. Each week will see a different focus covering aspects such as teaching & learning, curriculum, assessment, pastoral care, attendance, careers, well-being, personal development and much more.

Personal Development

As a Church School, Sir Thomas Boteler Church of England High School prides itself on the development of the 'whole child'. Our Personal Development curriculum is designed to support students to become confident, healthy, resilient and respectful citizens, who are fully prepared for life and work and are ready to tackle the challenges and opportunities of today and tomorrow.

Our intent is to:

- Ensure students have the knowledge and skills to make informed choices to enhance and enrich their own and other people's lives.
- Develop a strength of character and resilience that will help students to overcome the challenges they are likely to encounter in adult life.
- Promote spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, increasing their awareness and self-confidence and create opportunities for students to explore their relationship with God.
- Help students develop independent skills and a positive attitude toward learning.
- Ensure that all students understand how to stay safe.
- Provide an appropriate range of opportunities and experiences to allow students to succeed in the next stage in their education, training or employment.
- Prepare children for life in modern Britain. We will ensure that the fundamental British values are introduced, discussed and lived out through the ethos and work of the school.
- Provide a range of opportunities and experiences which act a vehicle for furthering understanding and deepen and develop understanding beyond the local community.
- Develop skills in communicating ideas and opinions to influence social change.
- Develop student understanding of healthy relationships through age appropriate relationship and sex education.

We will achieve this through our structured Personal Development curriculum, bespoke tutor and CEIAG programmes, assembly programme, enrichment initiatives (including our Wider Curriculum) and the support of specialist external bodies

Our Personal Development (PSHE) lead is also a Mental Health First Aider and has carefully developed schemes of work that look at educating students around stigma of mental health issues, building resilience, whilst offering advice and guidance.

Further to this, the Personal Development (PSHE) curriculum delivery is also supported by and addressed within other areas such as Religious Studies and pastoral time. We also ensure that all national focus days and weeks are highlighted and programs available (e.g. anti-bullying week) where students have the opportunity to explore the issues in a safe and structured environment.

The programs of study include:

- critical thinking skills
- revision techniques
- wellbeing (including dealing with exam stress and preparation)
- Sex and Relationships (including consent and the impact of social media)
- CIAG
- Transitions
- Personal hygiene
- Communities
- Healthy living
- Drugs and alcohol
- Harm minimisation
- Equality and human rights
- Crime and criminality.

Further information regarding the curriculum can be found here:

<https://www.boteler.org.uk/pd-curriculum>

Protected Characteristics

Within the personal development program, we ensure that all protected characteristics are represented and covered with respect. As a church school we celebrate diversity and respect those of all backgrounds and identities remembering that 'we're all one in Christ'

Within the PD curriculum we cover equality, LGBTQ+, racism, multicultural societies, Islamophobia, prejudice and discrimination. All protected characteristics are represented within the curriculum throughout the school PD curriculum.

The assembly program also covers key international focus days and weeks including Black History Month, Pride month and other events. We have our own LGBTQ+ extra curricular club running on Thursday lunchtimes called Proud Space.

Wider Curriculum

Our wider curriculum includes all of the additional activities, events and visits that we encourage students to take part in outside of lessons. These are both face to face and on teams.

This includes important enriching opportunities that enhance our students' personal development, encouraging them to perform with Hope, Endurance and Compassion in the pursuit of excellence.

Our wider curriculum aims to promote the benefits of students taking part in competitive and non-competitive extra-curricular activities including educational trips and visits.

We encourage all students to get involved in our extra-curricular programme and have a very wide range of activities available. These include a large variety of sports clubs and numerous music clubs as well as all subjects offering clubs providing many opportunities to enhance their learning. Clubs and activities take place before school, at lunch times and after school. Please use the website for further information.

The school aims to offer all students the opportunities to take part in trips including international tours and ski trips. We have a very successful Duke of Edinburgh Award programme which many of our Year 9 and 10 students are actively engaged with.

Part of our wider curriculum is our student leadership and ambassador programme where we encourage students to take on roles of responsibility in school and outside the classroom, to be custodians of what is right and what is good, putting others needs first and being a true Boteler role model.

House System

The house system enables all our students to develop their key skills through healthy competition, engagement and leadership opportunities and gives all students a sense of belonging. Through the house system students collect individual rewards for taking part in house activities, extra-curricular, council

meetings and competitions as well as showing outstanding pieces of work, and being respectful citizens and ambassadors. Each house is led by a member of staff and the student house captain, assemblies take place to celebrate the work of the house and to develop students' key skills.

Student Leadership

Student Leadership at our school is exceptional. We respect and value the views and opinions of all our young people, and we create a range of opportunities for them to make a difference to the school community and the lives of others. Students can be part of a vibrant, effective and democratically elected School Council, Eco Council, Ethos Council, Well-being Council and TCAT Parliament, which all play an active part in policy making, fundraising and many other aspects of school life. Our student leaders have gained recognition at local, regional and national events.

The Student Leadership Body consists of Head students, their Deputies, Lead Prefects, Head of Ethos, Head of Boteler Wider Curriculum, Head Ambassador, Head of Well-being and the Heads of House. These young people have a major role to play within school and have an active voice. There is an effective prefect system, and the prefects have roles and responsibilities at lunchtimes.

Our popular Ambassador Programme is widely recognised and respected for the outstanding leaders it produces. Students have opportunities to develop their leadership skills through many different platforms and by taking responsible roles during our many events in school and the community events.

'Future in mind' – promoting, protecting and improving our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing'.

We are a pledge school within Warrington following the publication of the Future in Mind document by the Department for Health.

As a pledge school we will strive to ensure that all students feel that our school deals suitably and consistently with issues which concern them, as well as feeling that they are guided towards appropriate and effective support when required, through our mission statement 'Through God, We Care'.

Please contact Assistant Head Teacher Mrs A Mawby if you have any questions.

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