

Intent, Implementation and Impact Statement for English

Intent

Our intention is that our students become the very best communicators, readers and writers possible so that they can access information effectively and explain and express themselves clearly in both written and spoken English. The knowledge they develop over time, through exposure to high quality texts, will also ensure they build the cultural capital necessary to navigate modern Britain, and feel able to have a voice within society.

English forms the basis for our development, relationships and our understanding of the world around us. The study of English is key to our personal growth and, through the development of effective written and spoken communication, it is the foundation of learning. The ability to communicate effectively, confidently and with clarity is crucial both in school, and as a member of wider society. Effective communication is key to accessing the world of work and in navigating adult life. We aim for English lessons to be a place where our students feel safe and confident in expressing their thoughts, feelings and opinions.

Implementation

As soon as students start with us at On Track we use a variety of approaches to assess their level of knowledge and skill, and identify any gaps in their learning. We then begin to build on their prior knowledge, fill gaps and move their learning forward through our coherently planned and progressive curriculum.

We aim to expose students to a wide range of high-quality literature. We promote reading for pleasure and as a means to acquire knowledge, explore the world, and develop students' cultural and emotional literacy. We use the Fresh Start Phonics Programme and Accelerated Reader to identify barriers students may face in reading and also to engage, teach, track and monitor their progress. We promote a love of reading through strategies, such as 'drop everything and read' and provide opportunities and reasons to read across a wide range of curriculum subjects.

As our students progress through the English curriculum, they develop their reading skills through exposure to increasingly challenging fiction and non-fiction, including works by 19th, 20th and 21st century authors. Our students will engage with a range of texts in order to develop their skills of decoding and comprehending increasingly complex texts, evaluating texts, making predictions and inferences based on evidence within texts, and developing the ability to explore multiple texts and compare writers' viewpoints. The development of these skills feeds directly into their study of spoken language and the importance of verbal communication in accessing the world around them. Students are provided with opportunities to debate and discuss their ideas through a range of individual and group presentations, speeches and reading aloud. We firmly believe that exposure to these opportunities builds confidence and allows students to develop their life-long skills in verbal communication.

Confidence, control and accuracy in a range of writing is developed through frequent opportunities to write within a range of genres and text types, and for a variety of audiences and purposes. It is important that students use writing as an opportunity to formulate, plan and develop their ideas, and as a way to

think critically about a topic and express their point of view. Across all writing activities, students are taught the importance of accuracy and will learn how to review and revise their writing for effect and impact. Students are encouraged to expand their use of ambitious vocabulary in order to enhance their written and spoken clarity and expression.

The English curriculum at On Track, Barnstaple is systematic and robust so that students can build long-lasting skills and knowledge for the future. Subsequently, we offer a curriculum that is appropriately supportive and challenging for all students and that aims to allow students to flourish in the skills required for success in further education and adult life.

Impact

We are ambitious about what our learners can achieve in English and resolve to improve their life chances along with their aspirations through literacy and a love of learning. Progress is measured using On Track's Milestones which are aligned to award certificates and accredited qualifications. Lessons in writing nurture creativity, build confidence and develop broad and varied vocabulary. Students are encouraged to experiment with a range of genres and text types and to freely share their thoughts, feelings and opinions about them. Where possible and appropriate we will enrich the English curriculum through theatre visits, author visits and workshops from outside agencies. Students are encouraged to gain formal accreditation for their learning from the earliest opportunity and we have high expectations about what our learners can achieve. This is achieved through a range of awarding bodies, such as the AQA Unit Award Schemes, Functional Skills qualifications and GCSEs. The aspirational goal for all students is that they leave with a GCSE English Language qualification.

Opportunities for reading

All teachers of English are expected to be aware of and monitor each student's current reading age using STAR READER tests, and will support learners to build on this through encouraging reading for pleasure, not just in English lessons but across the curriculum. Teachers will use Accelerated Reader, where appropriate, to track reading progress and encourage learners to choose and read books that are within their ZPDs. Time will be allocated during the school day to read for purpose and for pleasure.