

Curriculum intent

At Todmorden High School, our core aim is to offer an ambitious curriculum that supports learning in and out of the classroom, underpinned by our school values of Ambition, Respect, Care and Honesty (ARCH). Through offering a wide range of subjects and extra-curricular opportunities, which are reinforced by excellent teaching, we work tirelessly to unlock individuals' unique potential.

What does this look like?

Our knowledge-rich curriculum ensures all students access a broad and deep academic diet through a full three-year Key Stage 3 (Year 7, 8 and 9) experience across a range of traditional, creative and cultural subjects, including the teaching of Latin. Students are supported to build their life skills in digital and academic literacy across all their subjects and, through our coherent curriculum and simulating learning experiences, we nurture the character of our students alongside their academic work. The first three years create an excellent grounding in preparation for rigorous national assessments at the age of 16.

At Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11), students are able to choose from a wide range of academic and vocational qualifications. All students follow the core curriculum comprising of English, maths, science, PE, and our personal development provision, known as ARCH. All students have the option to study the academic English Baccalaureate pathway that sees students studying history and/or geography alongside Spanish. Students leave Todmorden High School with the qualifications and character to make the best choices in life.

Our personal development curriculum promotes British values, and covers both the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) and sex and relationships (SRE) curricula. Teachers support the development of students' personal development in every lesson, focussing on promoting on British values, developing students' cultural capital, developing clear routines and positive modelling. In addition to this, there are six personal development 'ARCH days' each year, specific form time sessions each week and opportunities woven through each subject's curriculum. We see the successes of developing students' personal development through improved personal resilience and improved outcomes for students.

Our students are active citizens of Todmorden, Britain and the world. Through shared values of empathy, tolerance and diversity, our students care about others and have respect for their environment. This development is supported through our extra-curricular offer which includes the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, gardening club, individual music lessons, ski trips and education visits off site, alongside a wide range of sporting clubs.

Our staff are dedicated professionals who care deeply about our students. All of our staff will 'go the extra mile' and know their students well. Teaching staff are experts in their subjects and our professional development programme focuses on the best available educational research. All our staff are committed to their own personal development and we believe, as a community, that learning is a lifelong pursuit.

Our lessons are focussed environments, always beginning in silence and focus on the recall of previous learning to strengthen long term memory. Students learn to show the core value of ambition by answering questions, working independently and demonstrating the resilience which ensures they improve. Debate and discussion are a feature of much of our curriculum and underpin written work. Our embedded routines for classroom entry and exit ensure that every minute of learning matters.

Our home learning provision also focuses on the learning and recall of core knowledge for each subject. Through this simple but effective technique, students have the knowledge they need to succeed at their fingertips and are able to apply it to more challenging tasks in lessons.

Our three-way partnership between students, staff and parents ensures parents are kept well-informed about their child's achievements and successes. Careful tracking and mentoring programmes are in place to provide challenge and assistance to all our students. Information on progress and attitude to learning is communicated regularly to parents through our online app, ClassCharts, parents' evenings and assessment reports.

It is our intent that, by working together, we provide a whole learning experience in order to unlock individuals' unique potential.