

PDS: Curriculum Principles

Our uniting 'sentence' is "the PDS curriculum left students prepared to understand, interact and succeed in the modern world, both online and offline".

By the end of their all-through education, a student of Personal Development Studies at Dixons Broadgreen Academy will:

- Know how to be safe and healthy
- Know how to manage their academic, personal and social lives in a positive way
- Understand the increasingly complex world and the positive and exciting opportunities it offers, but also the challenges and risks

In order to achieve a true understanding of Personal Development Studies topics have been intelligently sequenced based on the following rationale:

- the curriculum being delivered is appropriate for the age of pupils, and the context of the year group.
- the curriculum is responsive to pupils needs, keeping the curriculum 'live' ensuring that it can adapt and be changed in line with our ever changing social and academic environment.
- the content is designed to be remembered in detail and delivered in a spiral fashion. Revisiting topics through the year groups to ensure content is always up to date, and relevant to the age range.
- guest speakers have been selected to build cultural capital, develop character and value diversity.

The Personal Development Studies curriculum will address social disadvantage by addressing gaps in students' knowledge and skills:

- oracy can be a key determining factor in a child's future social and, ultimately, professional success. Unfortunately, students from disadvantaged backgrounds - and particularly with the cohort of students we serve - do not always have same level of social and cultural competence as their more privileged peers. As a result, the PDS curriculum prioritises oracy skills. DBA pupils spend additional PDS time in 'seminars', which are pupil led discussions, that enable them to explore content that was delivered in previous lessons. It is a great opportunity to encourage healthy conversations about topics that can sometimes be challenging or difficult to understand.
- PDS is delivered in lecture style "Big Teaches" in Morning Meeting spaces in order to ensure consistency and quality of the provision.

We fully believe Personal Development Studies can contribute to the personal development of students at DBA:

- supporting the wider work of the academy in helping foster pupil wellbeing and developing resilience and building character.
- giving pupils motivation to stick to tasks that will help them achieve goals, even when the reward may be distant or uncertain; and to recover from knocks and challenging periods in their lives.
- help pupils develop personal attributes including hard work, integrity and fairness.

Opportunities are built in to make links to the world of work to enhance the careers, advice and guidance that students are exposed to:

- the PDS curriculum is sequenced so that opportunities to link to careers and the world of work are maximised. We ensure that pupils are exposed to professional language by always modelling and encouraging formal terms in all the topics covered. Examples of which would include when discussing mental health, we will always explain the meaning of the correct medical terminology, so pupils feel confident using this rather than colloquial terms.

A true love of Personal Development Studies involves learning about various cultural domains. We teach beyond the statutory requirements.

- the PDS curriculum requires pupils to cover each topic at least once in their academic career, however we revisit topics on multiple occasions throughout all phases to ensure pupils always have the most up to date and age-appropriate information.
- through PDS seminars, pupils are encouraged to express their opinions in a safe and respectful environment in advisories. These sessions instill a much deeper level of understanding of not only the information but allow pupils to explore multiple opinions on a topic; and over time develop their own.
- whilst we take direction from the Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education guidance, and the Leeds PSHCE and Me scheme in Primary, we go above and beyond these requirements and choose resources that best fit the needs of our context.
- our overview and content decisions are aligned with those of the Dixons Academies Trust principles

