

Personal Development Studies

Curriculum intent

By the end of their education, a student of PDS at Dixons Brooklands Academy will:

- Have the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to manage their lives, now and in the future.
- Know how to stay healthy, safe and prepared for life and work in modern Britain.
- Have the resilience and mental self-awareness to manage situations in a balanced and pragmatic way, with access to a toolkit of strategies, both within themselves and in their environment, to support them to navigate any challenges that may arise in their academic, personal and social lives.
- Understand what healthy relationships look like and have knowledge and strategies to make informed decisions about how they interact with the people around them.
- Know how and when to ask for help, and where to access support if they need it.

It is the vision of the PDS department at Dixons Brooklands Academy that students were prepared for adult life and have had support with their current opportunities, responsibilities and experiences.

The PDS curriculum at Dixons Brooklands Academy fits into the wider Personal and Community Development of our students by supporting the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, at school and in society.

In order to achieve a true understanding of PDS, topics have been intelligently sequenced based on the following rationale:

- PDS at Dixons Brooklands Academy follows a spiral curriculum. We revisit topics on multiple occasions to ensure students have the most up to date and age-appropriate information.
- PDS delivery is structured to allow for students to access knowledge in a safe classroom setting which gives students the time and space to discuss relevant issues in a smaller group setting with their peers in a safe and respected environment with their class teacher.

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

- As with all learning at Dixons Brooklands Academy, PDS is designed around the most vulnerable learners. Within PDS lessons social disadvantage is addressed through key literacy skills, consideration of memory and retrieval through low stakes formative assessments and scaffolding. All students are supported in PDS through increasing and fading scaffolding in response to students' gaps based on assessment, 'teaching to the top' meaning that all students receive the same level with effective classroom management, as well as individual interventions and small group work where needed. PDS also contributes to the Cultural Capital of our students, through exposure of different beliefs, lifestyles and communities giving them the skills to become successful in the wider world.

We fully believe PDS can contribute to the personal development of students at Dixons Brooklands Academy:

- PDS can greatly aid a pupil to lead a full-filling adult life, students will develop a lifelong love of learning and celebrating difference and inclusion. We want learners to understand that the world is forever adapting and changing, and that they can be a part of that process. The PDS curriculum allows students to successfully climb their mountain to succeed at university, or a real alternative, thrive in a top job and have a great life, they need knowledge that will enable them to use their autonomy to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships. They also will need to know how and when to ask for help, and to know where to access support. PDS at Dixons Brooklands is a core part of safeguarding our students.

At KS3 and KS4, our belief is that homework should be interleaved revision of powerful knowledge that has been modelled and taught in lessons. This knowledge is recalled and applied through a range of low stakes quizzing and practice.

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

- Throughout all key stages, students will enter a wide range of vocations and courses. Students will be exposed to these different vocations and courses through our drop-down days and assemblies. This allows students to see what life is like outside of school, as well as the qualifications needed to succeed in these roles. The PDS department at Dixons Brooklands will arrange external trips and visitors to promote different vocations and professions of work.