

Quality of Education

Dixons Broadgreen Curriculum Principles

As a Dixons academy, our curriculum is aligned to a common set of Trust-wide principles which are underpinned by our mission to challenge educational and social disadvantage in the North. We believe that all students are entitled to an ambitious, knowledge-rich curriculum which will open doors and maximise life chances.

At Dixons Broadgreen, we challenge social inequality by instilling shared and agreed powerful knowledge through a broad academic curriculum. Each subject specifies, in detail, the knowledge, both substantive and procedural that students will remember. This knowledge is underpinned by the National Curriculum as well as wider subject domains. As such, in each discipline, students are prepared for national assessments, and importantly, secure knowledge from wider domains that builds and sustains cultural capital.

To allow students to achieve our aspirational mission of 'succeeded at university, or a real-life alternative, thrived in a top job and lived their best life' we have carefully considered the knowledge and skills that we want our students to have mastered in each academic field. Backward planning by high-quality subject specialists ensures that the curriculum is intelligently sequenced towards this end point. Intelligent sequencing of the curriculum builds on what has gone before and prepares for what comes after. This careful and meticulous consideration of what our students learn and in what order provides the richest narrative possible for our students.

Our curriculum is informed by the latest educational research on the science of learning. Cognitive science about memory, forgetting and practice enables us to support students to remember more and apply the best of what has been thought and said, often referred to as powerful knowledge. By employing our curriculum as a progression model, we make knowledge stick, so that it can be flexibly applied in a range of different contexts and across subject disciplines.

As an 11-19 secondary academy, sequential knowledge begins in Lower Peak (Years 7-9) with well-planned schemes of work, and resources provided by Dixons Trinity Chapeltown. These schemes serve to develop fundamental knowledge learning during their primary education and to build and strengthen schemas in our students' minds. During this Peak, we enable students to begin to think more coherently, critically, and creatively.

Lower Peak

The curriculum includes:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Two Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) , French and Spanish (students will study either French or Spanish)
- Humanities – History, Geography and Religious Education
- Creative and Performing Arts – Drama, Music, Art & Design,
- Technology – Design Technology and Food
- Computing
- Physical Education
- Personal Development Studies (PDS)

Transitioning to Middle Peak

Year 9 enables our students to have a transition year to Middle Peak whilst still experiencing the depth and breadth of the national curriculum. They have autonomy over their option subject choices so that they have the required



time to master them at Key Stage 3 level, while also completing a Carousel of the remaining subjects that they did not select so that they get the opportunity to learn the key, powerful knowledge within those subject areas before moving on. All students study Religious Education leading to the GCSE in Y10 as we believe strongly that the study of Religious Education enables our students to become global citizens and better equips them to understand the world around them.

Our Middle Peak (Years 10-11) curriculum is designed to be as broad as possible for as long as possible, so that all students can continue to engage with the powerful knowledge in a range of disciplines. Our GCSE offer is broad, with a strong core in the EBacc – English, mathematics, science, French or Spanish, and history or geography. All students can choose one options from a range of high value subjects. This means that all students will acquire powerful knowledge within high currency qualifications that will ultimately improve their life chances. It is the balance of examination preparation coupled with teaching to a wider domain which will equip our students to not only compete nationally, but, more importantly, change the world for the better.

Middle Peak

All students must study the following:

- English – Literature and Language
- Mathematics
- Science – Science Trilogy
- Humanities – history or geography
- Modern Foreign Language – Spanish or French
- Core Physical Education – no external examination
- PDS – no external examination

In conjunction with our subject specialist curriculum our stretch and co-curricular programmes enable students to have opportunities to learn beyond the formal curriculum. During these opportunities and within PDS students will develop resilience and confidence, as well as new skills such as chess and public speaking. Preparatory study to support revision will also take place during Middle Peak.

At Dixons Broadgreen we teach our students powerful knowledge so that they can understand and interpret the world and to think in new and unexpected ways. With the democratisation of knowledge, our students will be incredibly successful in high stakes examinations and will go on to use this understanding to achieve great things in the world.

Upper Peak

At Dixons Broadgreen, we aim to provide the very best sixth form experience that will help students to thrive academically and develop professional standards, conduct and curiosity. Our Upper Peak (Years 12-13) curriculum is designed to allow students to access an academic or vocational option alongside an enrichment offer, study skills, critical thinking and careers guidance. This allows our students to engage with the powerful knowledge found in a range of disciplines and aim for destinations at top Universities, apprenticeships or real alternatives. The qualifications that students complete during their time in sixth form will be the most challenging of their education so far. They are the academic crux, and we will ensure that students have the quality learning experiences and skills training needed to succeed, coupled with our culture that allows for personal character development and the curation of professional standards and conduct. The power of curiosity is a key component of the Dixons Broadgreen Sixth Form experience, encouraging students to be curious about interpersonal and societal matters, building a more accurate picture of local and global issues using Critical Thinking. Our students are empowered to act as professional learners, investing in their own education through independent study time and have the advice of their Guides to help them plan their time for maximum efficiency and effectiveness.

Upper Peak Subjects A-Level



- Biology
- Chemistry
- English
- Maths
- History
- Psychology
- Spanish
- Law
- Criminology
- Computer Science

Upper Peak Subjects

Vocational

- Business
- Health & Social Care
- Performing Arts
- Applied Science
- Applied Law
- Music
- Music Technology
- P.E.
- Health & Social Care (Level 2)
- Sociology (Level 2)
- Applied Science (Level 2)

