

Curriculum Statement

Finborough School offers a broad and balanced curriculum which enables all of our students to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. Our curriculum design is based on the traditional curriculum, whilst retaining the flexibility necessary to respond to the needs of all students. From Early Years with an onus on moulding our curriculum to meet the interests and requirements of our children into the Prep School where we have the perfect balance between conventional subject choices and a creative approach in each phase allowing us to personalise learning for greater effectiveness and enjoyment. Not only are our students empowered through their daily engagement with our whole school approach to 'Learnability' but teachers are given full freedom to express themselves as professionals developing their own programmes of study and professional development. This encapsulates our whole school ethos which is geared towards engendering a 'growth mindset' for the entire Finborough family.

Teaching and Learning

All teachers produce termly learning plans which outline objectives that are differentiated through a Core, Support and Challenge model with all lessons following this pattern under the heading of a main learning focus. This means that all students have a curriculum that is tailored to their particular skill set and enables fully inclusive participation in all activities. These are published on our website each term. We have a strong focus on learning behaviour through 'learnability', which is a core theme across our entire curriculum. This ensures that none of our learning time is wasted focusing on seven principles of learning behaviours under the headings of attainment, learning in class, learning at home, being equipped to learn, presentation, accuracy and engagement with the review and improve process. These statements then allow complete individualisation because they are not ability focused but, in the spirit of achievement for all, inform a 'growth mindset' in terms of our development as learners.

Assessment

At Finborough, all teachers are actively involved in the application of our whole school assessment framework to subject learning. Further to this, subject leaders across all phases are encouraged to take ownership through mastery of their areas, in turn facilitating the same level of mastery among their students. Assessment begins in the classroom with 'Even Better' if formative assessment with pupils encouraged to engage with developmental comments and target setting. Our unique common assessment framework across the entire school, using percentages, provides a progressive continuum of knowledge and skill acquisition across all subjects. As well as informing a detailed approach to target setting, this gives students the opportunity to go beyond the ceiling of tradition levels. We have a six point assessment schedule where staff are required to assess all students in all subjects using the percentage and learnability framework. Assessment is reported to parents at key points throughout the year with the use of percentages rather than levels allowing a greater understanding of achievement.

Co-curricular Enrichment and Pastoral Education

Co-curricular activities including enrichment and clubs enhance our children's education. Learning takes place in all environments and through all activities; social interaction and communication, the art of winning and losing, how to argue and debate. The senior school enrichment programme provides for all of this and much more. Pupils in years 7, 8 & 9 have two hours of curriculum enrichment sessions within the school day per week. These sessions are on a half termly rotation and will consist of topics such as cooking skills, social etiquette, year book publishing and documentaries. At the end of the school day at 4.30 pupils can choose to go home, stay for supervised study or join in with another enrichment session. Examples of these enrichments are mechanics, drone building, performing arts, sport clubs and debating to name but a few. The Prep School enrichment programme has gone from strength to strength in recent years, with staff offered more interesting and exciting activities. Many parents can be heard commenting that their children just couldn't decide what to pick! Enrichment is available for all pupils, including Reception pupils from the Spring Term. Prep School Enrichment activities run from 3.30 until 4.25, Monday to Friday. The enrichment programme runs termly, so every term children can choose a new activity. Most recently we have run clubs for anything from Lego, to Cookery; from animation to cheerleading. There is always something someone wants to try and it gives pupils the opportunity to spend time with new children from different year groups.

Assemblies, Leadership and Buddies

Each week one pupil per form is nominated as leader of the week and gets their personal leaf added to the leadership tree. In the senior school all leaders of the week receive a VIP lunch pass allowing them to enter lunch at the front of the queue. Through the process of awarding 'Leader of the Week' pupils are able to recognise that they can lead quietly by example as well as being able verbally and physically to lead their peers. Every week there is a phase assembly (prep school, lower senior and upper senior) where pupils in those age groups get together to receive and share important information and messages. The whole school assembly is held every three weeks, and is taken by the headmaster. This is a formal event and pupils are expected to wear their school uniform (not sports kit).

Pupils in years 1 – 9 have the opportunity to take part in Learn to Lead sessions. These encapsulate Stephen Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, which focus on the skills for being effective learners. In year 10 & 11 pupils receive careers guidance and support including CV writing and interview skills. 6th form students follow a bespoke leadership programme aimed at improving and developing their leadership skills.

Pupils from year 1 are put into Buddy groups with 5/6 pupils within the same house across the whole school up to Year 13. The Buddy sessions consist of a variety of

challenges enabling cross phase pupil interaction and the opportunity for key relationships to form as well as leadership development.

Appendices

Learnability (pupils and whole class)

Assessment and Marking Policy

Curriculum models

SPACE days

Leadership

Buddies