Beacon Academy Trust

A COMPELLING VISION FOR SUCCESS



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THE CALIBRE CURRICULUM



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The ‘CALIBRE Curriculum’

The curriculum represents the planned learning experience within each institution. This includes the content and sequencing of lessons and extracurricular activities, as well as the routines and the learning environment that students are exposed to. These experiences in totality make up each institution’s curriculum, and in turn they determine the knowledge and skills that students are expected to gain through each stage of their education. It is therefore essential that the Beacon Academy Trust has an approach to curriculum which supports and complements the Trust’s vision and values.

Students will be exposed to a wide range of learning experiences. The ‘CALIBRE curriculum’ that they experience will be carefully planned, and will be driven by the following key principles:

CALIBRE

Developing the knowledge, skills and aptitudes that will be necessary for the next stage of the learning journey. The planned learning experiences within the curriculum will allow our students to have the highest aspirations and to be of the highest calibre.

Cultural Capital and local Context
Learning experiences that develop essential cultural capital and a curriculum that is tailored to the needs of the students in our community

Ambitious
Providing suitable challenge, pushing all students to excel and achieve to the best of their abilities

Logically Sequenced
Structured in a way which supports development of conceptual understanding, with careful consideration of prior knowledge and next steps in the learning journey

Intelligent assessment
Using carefully planned, reliable assessment to support student progress, and to identify how teaching and/or the curriculum need to be refined

Breadth and Depth
Providing a broad range of experiences to allow students to identify their talents, and building a thorough rather than superficial level of understanding

Retention
Making use of recent research on memory and learning to support long term retention of the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding

Equality
A curriculum that provides parity for all groups of students, supporting equality of opportunity for all students

EACH ELEMENT OF THE CALIBRE CURRICULUM IS CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH THE BEACON ACADEMY TRUST VISION AND VALUES.

CALIBRE

Students who have developed the necessary knowledge, skills and aptitudes will build great relationships and will inspire others as leaders with passion and integrity. The Trust's aim is that through each institution's CALIBRE curriculum, students will receive the best education possible.

Cultural Capital and Local Context

The Beacon Academy Trust includes a diverse set of institutions. Ensuring that the curriculum responds to the local context at each institution will enable all students to make sound decisions and also support the creation of a safe environment. This allows our institutions to promote a collaborative approach whilst still responding to the needs of their students. Building our students' cultural capital ensures that we focus on the whole person and allows us to champion success.

Ambition

An ambitious curriculum ensures that students are provided with challenges. This also ensures that there are high expectations of our students, with research indicating the positive effect that teacher expectations can have on student outcomes.

Logically Sequenced

Careful sequencing of the curriculum is key to raising standards, enabling students to build their knowledge and understanding. This also requires a view of the entire learning journey of each learner, promoting collaboration with primary schools and Higher Education providers, bringing people together to support students.

Intelligent Assessment

Assessment should be used to identify gaps in student knowledge, as well as for summative uses to support quality assurance. The assessment that is used should allow for teaching approaches to be adapted for a particular class, as well as supporting continuous curriculum refinement. This drives change that is beneficial to students and helps to raise standards.

Breadth and Depth

The breadth in the curriculum allows students to broaden their horizons and to identify opportunities. A curriculum that is structured to support depth of understanding empowers learners.

Retention

Recent research is beginning to provide evidence that particular approaches such as spaced learning and retrieval practice will support students in transferring their learning to their long term memory. A curriculum that focuses on retention of knowledge allows for personal growth which will have a long lasting impact.

Equality

With a commitment to build an inclusive community, the curriculum must narrow gaps that might arise due to factors such as disadvantage e.g. in vocabulary development. The Trust's commitment to social justice means that the curriculum should support institutions to be proactive in challenging unconscious bias or attitudes which might act to limit the achievement of our students.





Beacon Academy Trust
CALIBRE Curriculum Rationale

The institutions that make up the Beacon Academy Trust are united by a shared vision and values.

beaconacademytrust.co.uk

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