



# TOOT HILL SCHOOL

## Year 9 Personal Development Curriculum



**"Courage is like — it's a habitus, a habit, a virtue: you get it by courageous acts. It's like you learn to swim by swimming. You learn courage by couraging." Marie Daly**

As our year group move towards the end of KS3 and continue through adolescence, they will be faced with novel experiences along with unique challenges. Throughout Year 9 each student will begin to encounter emerging issues, both academically and emotionally, and in supporting them we further scaffold their knowledge and guide them towards the wider support in school. Our students will build upon and develop their independence and confidence that they have so well begun to hone in the last two years and continue to embody our ethos of Work Hard, Be Kind, and Take Pride. These characteristics are central to the development of our year as well-rounded individuals, who continue to develop a strong moral compass and hold high aspirations of both themselves and others. Our year group will be expected to continue to contribute to their school community as excellent role models for those younger students in school by supporting them, as they have received support before. Personal experience shapes our actions; empathy and honesty are at the heart of this, and embodies everything we hope our students to be.

We will know our students well and combine this with our Personal Development Curriculum, extracurricular activities and expert mentorship. Our staff will continually model and embrace our ethos, and this will absolutely be demonstrated in the way in which they deliver the Personal Development Curriculum to our students. Our tutors and wider pastoral team will have expert knowledge and know each individual uniquely. Throughout this mentorship, staff will model those characteristics that are central to our ethos. As students cultivate these relationships with staff and peers, they will have open dialogues around their own character development and wider relationships in their community. They will build the skill-set, built upon purpose and integrity, allowing them to be able to discuss with sensitivity, topics such as intimate relationships, leadership qualities and organ donation. All of which will help them build upon their understanding of themselves and their beliefs and will equip them to make well informed choices.

As we begin as a year group to examine big questions about the local, national and global community, such as how the role of democracy affects us, and what it means to be a global citizen, our students will develop the skills to put forward their own views and critically evaluate those of others in a respectful way. Through their engagement with the Personal Development Curriculum with topics such as Black History Month, the Holocaust and Wellbeing Wednesdays, each student will further become thoughtful and articulate, with a greater self-awareness and understanding of where they are on their personal and educational journey. By doing so they will be confident and courageous enough to be able to stand up for their own beliefs grounded in the knowledge they have acquired, whilst being empathetic to other viewpoints. All of this together will mean that Year 9 will begin to

deepen their understanding of the impact they have on their immediate circle and in much wider society.

As well as representing themselves as part of our school community and year group through Student Voice and the Ambassador Scheme, our students will further embrace those extracurricular activities most pertinent to them. By immersing themselves with all of these opportunities each of our Year 9 students will grow in confidence and through these new experiences be able to champion an interest in their favourite subjects. As we move through the year, our students will work with integrity and purpose, in and out of the classroom, allowing them to flourish in their self-development. Through discussion, debate and their reflections using growth mind-set they will set purposeful goals, unique to them allowing them to carve out their own path to the future.