



TOOT HILL SCHOOL

Year 8 Personal Development Curriculum



“Character is doing what is right when nobody is watching” J.C Watts

Now that our students have settled into school life, our focus for the Year 8 Personal Development Curriculum at Toot Hill School is to enable our students to continue to flourish and fulfil their potential. As they approach their adolescent years, it is a key time to help them develop their self-awareness in doing what is right, and to recognise and cultivate the key values on which positive relationships are built.

The Year 8 programme is designed to deepen their knowledge of emerging issues they may encounter and encourage them to understand the importance of their contribution to their local, wider and global communities. During this school year and beyond, we aspire for our students to be daring and curious and ask questions about their own and others' attitudes, beliefs and values. This encouragement to be inquisitive and open-minded provides opportunities for students to be equipped with ways of respectfully and confidently challenging the status quo. Investigating topics such as climate change, consent, mental health, body image and staying safe online enables students to further develop their moral conscience and ask questions such as 'What do I stand for?' and 'Is this right?'

Our carefully constructed curriculum is planned to inspire a culture of kindness which emboldens students to act with bravery and take pride in challenging prejudice and discrimination directed at others. They will value the chance to be inherently kind to others and proactively look for opportunities to help and support their peers. As they continue to deepen and develop their understanding of the school ethos, our students will be committed to championing kindness to others in their community and they will have a genuine interest in reflecting, accepting and celebrating others that are different to themselves.

As Year 8 scholars, our students will build resilience during this time of great personal change. Alongside continuing to discover who they are, they will face academic challenges in the classroom and the task of taking further responsibility for their learning. To supplement their efforts in working with integrity, the Year 8 Personal Development Curriculum is designed to equip our students to think creatively; to find innovative solutions when they are 'stuck', and use their initiative to discover ways of solving issues and problems they are faced with. Our scholars, whilst exploring their passions, interests and strengths, will have the opportunity to consider which future pathway is right for them. Through this rigorous process, and taking part in wider school projects such as the able and aspiring programme or adopting prefect responsibilities, we are committed to our students growing to be well rounded, confident and informed young people.