

Oak Class Curriculum Intent 2020

Oak Class was created to bridge the gap for Year Seven students starting Oakbank significantly below national average expectations in English and Mathematics. It also supports students in need of substantial emotional support as they transition from primary to secondary school.

Its aims are:

- To provide English and Mathematics lessons that unpick gaps and misconceptions in previous learning
- To accelerate student progress towards age-appropriate goals
- To provide a nurturing experience that feels like a primary classroom within a secondary environment
- To ensure students access a broad and balanced curriculum

Student Selection

Students are selected for Oak Class using assessment data and through discussions with their year six teachers and parents.

SATs testing, teacher assessment and CAT testing data is used to show which students are academically behind their peers. Priority is given to the students most in need of accelerated progress in both English and Mathematics.

Parent and primary school teacher views are gathered to help decide which students would benefit from being in Oak Class. Occasionally children with substantial emotional needs will be included, even though their SATs results are broadly in line with national expectations.

Organisation

Oak Class has one teacher delivering four English and four Mathematics lessons each week to the same class of learners. There are substantially fewer students in the class. A learning support assistant provides support for students with EHCPs or substantial SEND needs in addition to the class teacher.

The class replaces all English and Mathematics lessons without impacting on any other subject areas. Students have a standard timetable and join larger classes for other subjects.

Transition from Oak Class

Progress in English and Mathematics is routinely assessed. Students who have made accelerated progress are considered for transition into other classes if they are working close to the expected levels for year seven.

Decisions about transition are made through discussions with:

- Parents and carers

- The SEND team
- Heads of Department
- Learning Support Assistants

Other year seven classes are timetabled to allow students to join or leave Oak Class at any point during the year. Whilst most students attend both English and Mathematics lessons, some attend for one subject.

English Curriculum

Oak Class broadly follows the year seven English curriculum. Differentiation is used to ensure all learners can access lessons and make rapid progress.

Additional opportunities to develop literacy skills are included in lessons.

They include:

- 1:1 and small group guided reading
- Vocabulary building activities
- Phonics and spelling lessons
- Immersive whole-class reading
- Homework focused on spelling, grammar and punctuation

Lessons have an overarching 'Big Question' to answer. Learning is broken down into small chunks with clear success criteria. Scaffolding resources are routinely used to provide individual support.

Term	Focus	Additional Focus
Autumn	Immersive Reading Project 1 Theme: <i>Growing Up</i> Text 1: <i>Private Peaceful</i> Text 2: <i>The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas</i>	Writing challenges Developing understanding of writing sentences Word classes
Spring	Detective Fiction Text: <i>The Adventure of the Speckled Band</i> Students explore the genre with a specific focus on Victorian life.	Writing challenges Improving sentence construction 1:1 reading
Summer	Immersive Reading Project 2 Theme: <i>Finding Home</i> Text: <i>I am David</i> or <i>Welcome to Nowhere</i>	Introduction to Shakespeare Text: <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Developing spelling 1:1 reading

Mathematics Curriculum

Oak Class follow the White Rose scheme of work at a level appropriate for their mathematical understanding. Units are created by adapting year six planning, looking for

ways to bridge the gap to year seven. Key areas of learning are tracked back to previous year groups to uncover gaps and misconceptions to address.

Lessons are broken down into small achievable steps using the concrete-pictorial-abstract (CPA) approach used in 'maths mastery' teaching. Mathematical equipment is routinely used to demonstrate and scaffold learning.

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10	Week 11	Week 12
Autumn	Number: Place Value		Number: Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division				Number: Fractions				Geometry: Position and Direction	Consolidation
Spring	Number: Decimals		Number: Percentages		Number: Algebra		Measurement: Converting Units	Measurement: Perimeter, Area and Volume		Number: Ratio		Consolidation
Summer	Geometry: Properties of Shape		Problem Solving			Statistics		Investigations				Consolidation

Oak Class mathematics lessons have a heavy emphasis on understanding and using number. Additional opportunities are provided to improve numeracy, including:

- 1:1 times table testing
- Number-based starters
- Numeracy homework
- CGP Catch Up homework books
- Rote counting

Assessment

Oak Class uses informal assessments to track progress. This includes quizzes, games, activities and worksheets. Verbal feedback is routinely used to provide students with useful, timely and actionable advice. Written feedback is used minimally and personalised for each student.

A formal assessment is carried out for all year seven students at the end of the academic year. Oak Class students receive:

- Differentiated questions
- Testing in their usual classroom or a quiet separate room
- A reader as required
- Extra time to complete the test
- For Mathematics: access to concrete manipulatives and other resources such as Numicon, hundred squares and counters

- For English: access to scaffolding resources including sentence starters, prompt questions, Dyslexia-friendly fonts and modelled examples

Impact

The impact of Oak Class is that students have a smoother transition into secondary school. By focusing on key gaps in knowledge, learners can make rapid progress in a supportive environment.

A heavy emphasis on basic numeracy and literacy skills improves fluency and reduces cognitive overload. Spaced practice and retrieval means that more learning is remembered over time.

Most learners in this class have a form of Special Educational Need. Oak Class ensures they receive personalised support to enable them to thrive at secondary school.