

'If you really look closely, most overnight successes took a long time.'
-Steve Jobs

Powerful knowledge for students with SEND

Our SEND curriculum permeates all aspects of school life including all other curriculum statements, with all teachers being teachers of SEND and all leaders being leaders of SEND. We foster and promote a culture of inclusion where every student has an equal opportunity to succeed and become the best that they can be. We have high expectations for every single student regardless of background or circumstance, and we want to foster a belief in our students that they can break any aspirational glass ceilings. Our students may have to work harder than their peers but know that all staff have high expectations of them, and their needs do not have to be limiting. Our curriculum locates individuals as unique and diversity is viewed as a positive. We build the knowledge in individuals that failures and mistakes are part of the learning process and any setbacks in academic progress can be overcome. Our curriculum extends beyond subject knowledge to include social and emotional competencies and communication skills, which we believe are crucial in order to ensure that students are happy and successful in school and their personal life. As such, we want students to have the knowledge that equips them with the skills to make a positive contribution to society following their education.

Curriculum features

Students with SEND are fully integrated into the mainstream curriculum using high quality differentiated teaching and learning strategies that provide access for all. Withdrawal from lesson time is avoided and is only ever replaced with high quality targeted intervention, which has a measurable impact on progress. We use a needs-driven SEND model, which supports individuals based on their presentation of need rather than relying on labels or diagnoses. SEND teams across The Laurus Trust comprise specialist members of staff, trained to deliver intervention in their respective areas. Intervention and support for students with SEND is high personalised and tailored to their specific needs.

Literacy

We want all students to have a level of literacy commensurate with their cognitive ability. Every student working significantly below their peers will receive targeted intervention from our literacy specialists. The intervention they receive will be matched to their specific needs and a range of diagnostic testing will be used to ascertain exactly what those needs are. The intensity of intervention will be driven by the severity of need.

Numeracy

We want all students to have at a level of numeracy commensurate with their cognitive ability. Students with significant difficulties will work as part of a small group supported by a numeracy specialists. Mathematical confidence and resilience will be nurtured as part of this group and will support students to develop their understanding of the mathematical models used across the curriculum.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health

We want all students to be emotionally articulate, self-aware and resilient. We recognise that our most vulnerable students may have experienced traumatic and adverse childhood events, and may therefore require extra support. Intervention in this area targets a broad range of behaviours and needs from anxiety, self-esteem and social skills to depression and emotional self-regulation skills.

The breadth of this intervention is matched with a wide range of expertise from pastoral and SEND staff. This team work together closely to triage the needs of students to efficiently identify the best response or intervention.

Other needs

Beyond the above features we work to support students with a broad range of needs, working with a range of external professionals to gain further advice and support. For some students we may offer a very individualised and bespoke curriculum offer, including smaller group teaching and high levels of additional support.

Co-Curriculum enrichment

Outside of the classroom, our Learning Support team provide students with opportunities to extend or consolidate their knowledge in specific subject areas through additional after school tuition. In addition to this, we provide time before and after school to deliver intervention to target life-based skills. Specific enrichment activities are planned each year to suit the needs and interest of specific cohorts, such as sports events for students with SEND. Educational visits to boost cultural capital and to raise ambitions include SEND students and this is monitored by SEND leaders. Individual interests and hobbies beyond school are celebrated through pupil voice within the School Focussed Plans.