

The Cherwell School

Opportunity, Responsibility, Excellence



Version at 11.09.17

This development plan is at the heart of our school's work as we continue to move forwards over the next 3 years. At The Cherwell we set our students and ourselves "no limits" and we embody the greatest ambition for all our young people. Our plans keep us rooted in that they embrace the attributes which has kept this school special over time but they also look to take the school on to the next stage of its development. The plan is designed to be open to all our stakeholders especially our students- It is their journey.

Opportunity

Individuals have the opportunity to develop their abilities and talents, and to be successful. We want everyone within our community to be nurtured, challenged and encouraged to make the most of opportunities.

Responsibility

As a community of individuals we recognise that we have a range of responsibilities. Team work and collective responsibility support the success of individuals, the school and the wider community.

Excellence

There is a commitment to excellence in all that we do. We have a culture of high expectations. We expect to do well both as individuals and collectively.

Themes and Priorities 2017 -2020

Success for All

An overall theme that is the intended outcome of all others. It clearly links to our wider school aims of opportunity, responsibility and excellence. We recognise that success comes in many forms. We will continue to put a significant amount of our focus of the success of our disadvantaged student and vulnerable learners.

***Success measures:** - Progress, achievement and attainment, attitudes to learning, engagement and success in extra-curricular activities will improve for all.*

Excellent Behaviour

High standards of behaviour are the bedrock of any successful school. We have a strong Behaviour for Learning system which is understood and effective.

We will now look to refine this further by teaching students as explicitly as possible the standards we expect both in the classroom and around our sites. We see this as moving beyond 'behaving' as compliance to exhibiting the right characteristics in all social situations to the benefit of the whole community. Like any other aspect of education the school has a responsibility to teach this effectively and embed these principles deeply within our culture

***Success measures:** Attainment and achievement (including rewards/consequences and exclusion data), attendance and punctuality, student participation/involvement outside of lessons, student satisfaction (through bi-annual survey)*

An Excellent Curriculum

What children learn in school is the biggest decision we take. As such we understand our responsibility to continually review this to the benefit of all. There has been significant curriculum change at KS4 and KS5 during recent years and our attention has now turned to KS3. We have the opportunity to create the best curriculum possible in terms of the knowledge to be learnt and the skills to be developed.

Success measures: *Attainment and achievement (including value-added and specific groups), behaviour (including rewards/consequences).*

Excellent Teaching

High quality teaching is essential. We will continue to put emphasis on the things which make the most difference. Our professional learning will be focussed on this. Teaching is a learnt skill and as a result we can all improve and enhance our practice. We recognise that groups of subject specialists working together on teaching and learning provides the best opportunity to promote excellence in teaching.

Success measures: *Attainment and achievement (including value-added and specific groups), staff feedback, student and parent/carer satisfaction (through bi-annual survey).*

An Excellent Experience

We recognise the broader experiences our students have in school are so essential to their growth as people. We will look to do everything we can to enhance the school environment to make sure that students learning and social times are as pleasant as possible. We will seek to be a leading school in the context of wellbeing and mental health. We will enhance further our extra-curricular provision and monitor participation carefully so that all of our students are benefitting from the richness which is available.

Success measures: *student participation/involvement outside of lessons, student satisfaction (through bi-annual survey)*

2017 -2018 The Narrative

Excellent Behaviours

We will focus on enhancing our routines so that all students understand what is expected of them.

We will work to a system of core principles which we will talk about all the time with students, parents/carers and staff. These core principles will emphasise the key habits needed for success in the classroom. We will help students by specifying very clearly the equipment they need for their lessons. We will also introduce a presentation code for written work which will aid all our students in taking pride in their work. As well as this we will model the exact behaviours that we expect from our students around the site and in the local community.

We will teach students explicitly (through tutor time and social wellbeing lessons) how to take responsibility for their own behaviour. We will teach them about the key characteristics we value at this school: kindness, commitment, responsibility and gratitude. Assembly times will be particularly focussed on these themes. We will increase our expectations of them and their own personal standards will improve as a result.

An Excellent Curriculum

In terms of curriculum development we will focus on KS3.

This is because the key stage 4 and 5 curriculums are specified and we have strong subject specialists who are well versed in handling examination specifications.

During 2017 – 2018 we will make sure that the content of our curriculum at KS3 is clear, with the precise knowledge required specified. We will make significant progress in the way we use assessment at KS3 to support learning

We will also introduce the GL assessment tests in English, Maths and Science so that we remain integrated with the national picture in relation to standards.

Excellent Teaching

At the heart of our work in this area will be a refreshed Teaching, Curriculum and Assessment Policy which will specify our core expectations.

In line with our focus on excellent behaviours we will also put increased emphasis on regular independent work as an expected feature of teaching as well as giving more emphasis to quality presentation. We will make challenge a key feature of our teaching at KS3 (to bring this into line with what is already the case at KS4 and KS5) and we will work closely with primary leads across the RLT to ensure that the standards of work we are expecting from Year 6 students moving into Year 7 are appropriately high. We will clarify what does and what doesn't represent acceptable tasks in class and for homework.

Faculty assessment policies will be applied so that it is clear that we 'do what we say we do'. We will also make sure that formative and summative assessments at KS3 are standardised.

An Excellent Experience

We will embark on a full redecoration programme on South Site which will mean that students have a fresher, updated environment in which to study. We will invest in toilet facilities with a new modern block on North Site. We will complete our garden rooms' projects on both sites which will enhance the calm and contemplative feel of both our sites. We will work closely with our premises staff and our cleaning/catering suppliers to make sure standards are kept as high as possible.

Because excellence at all levels depends on leadership we will make sure that high quality training and coaching is available for our middle leaders who will drive the changes in teaching, curriculum and assessment.