

'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.' Eleanor Roosevelt

Our Personal Development Curriculum has been carefully curated to welcome our new students into our sixth form college community so that they are sensitively challenged to think about adult issues. Through this, our students will be encouraged to engage with and challenge perspectives on potentially divisive issues such as prejudice and morality to establish what they stand for by the end of their time in Toot Hill Sixth Form College. Students are mentored by our expert tutor team who deliver an ambitious personal development curriculum in an age appropriate manner and through this programme they are encouraged to take responsibility, lead their learning and make the right steps to be informed. The vertical tutor groups help to foster the close community feel of College, whilst encouraging our Year 13s to lead quality conversations and debates which provide a model for Year 12 as to how to deal with sensitively, mature themes.

As they begin the next phase of their journey, students will be introduced to our sixth form college ethos 'Sapere Aude' or 'Dare to Know' which encourages both freedom of thought whilst also challenging students to equip themselves with knowledge that goes beyond the curriculum. This ethos lies at the very core of our ambition for our students and will encourage them to shape their own identities and beliefs through being inquisitive and ambitious to learn whilst promoting similar values to others, modelling this to the younger members of the Toot Hill community. We will explore the way our students use language to articulate concepts and constructs such as masculinity and gender and invite them to critique the representations of these in the media and within their social groups. In this important transitional period where our students are approaching adulthood, students will be encouraged to develop their understanding of diversity as they meet new students from a range of schools and backgrounds, appreciating the ways in which our differences, as well as our similarities, provide new perspectives and enrich our understanding of others.

In Year 12 we choose to focus on scholarship skills in the first half term followed by keeping safe in the second, this includes mentorship on making the right choices through topics such as drugs, driving and sexual health. In Year 13 we put a greater focus on serving the school; this is embodied by our Student Union who are sophisticated communicators of the students' beliefs and work on enacting our other strand of our ethos 'leave your legacy' through using student voice as a vehicle for change. The Student Union Representatives are ambassadors for our school and are carefully selected for their inspiring and relatable characters. All of our college students are encouraged to serve the school through interactions in lower school lessons and the community through charitable events such as the Tea Dance and the Infants' Christmas Party.

Our ethos 'Dare to Know' prompts our students to have a thirst for knowledge and students are actively encouraged to take responsibility for their learning by reading widely, joining subject societies and engaging with our year long scholarship programme in tutor time. We expect all students to be passionate about this challenge that they have chosen to embark upon and we will encourage our students to explore new concepts and challenge themselves to think and explore knowledge beyond the curriculum. Subject representatives, the leaders of our subject societies, will encourage this deep appreciation for their subjects and share their passion for learning which will ensure College students have an understanding of the discipline and its place within the world whilst becoming role models for younger students as they endeavour to enrich their understanding through engagement with the lower school community. Our students will be encouraged to be reflective of these experiences as they begin to seriously consider what the future holds for them beyond secondary education. Guided by our mentors towards ambitious destinations which include the most prestigious Universities and employers, or aspirational apprenticeships, our students are set on a pathway to success.

Our fundamental value of providing an ambitious curriculum is complemented by our guidance and support to encourage our students to have ambitious aspirations for their futures. Their engagement and our dedication will help them to secure their dream futures allowing them to continue to leave their legacies in real world professions and to make a difference to the world around them. Toot Hill Sixth Form College students will leave us embodying the ultimate Toot Hill learner. They will be thinkers and contributors with deep appreciation of: others, of varied perspectives and of art and culture who can appreciate and grow from diverse experiences. The ultimate aim is for them to 'leave their legacy' on the College certainly, but more importantly, on the rest of the school community – appreciating what it means to empower others also. This legacy will live on as our college alumni return to the Toot Hill community to enrich our students' knowledge and understanding with their experiences of the wider world.