



# TOOT HILL SCHOOL

## Year 9 Personal Development Curriculum



**"Courage is like — it's a habitus, a habit, a virtue: you get it by courageous acts. It's like you learn to swim by swimming. You learn courage by couraging." Marie Daly**

As they continue their school journey and reconnect with their peers and teachers, our Year 9 students will embrace new experiences and unique challenges. As they continue to grow and their learning deepens, both academically and personally, we will scaffold their knowledge and guide them towards the wider support in school and the community. By developing their independence and confidence that they have begun to hone so well in the last two years, they will continue to embody our ethos of Work Hard, Be Kind, and Take Pride. These characteristics are central to the development of our year group as well-rounded individuals, who continue to develop a strong moral compass and hold high aspirations of both themselves and others. Our year group will be expected to continue to contribute to their school community as excellent role models for those younger students in school by supporting them, as they have received support before.

We will know our students well and combine this with our Personal Development Curriculum, extracurricular activities and expert mentorship. Our staff will continue to model and embrace our ethos through our Personal Development Curriculum. As students cultivate these relationships with staff and peers, they will have open dialogues around their own character development and wider relationships in their community. They will shape their skill-set, built upon purpose and integrity, allowing them to be able to discuss with sensitivity, topics such as intimate and sexual relationships and coercive control. All of which will help them build upon their understanding of themselves and their beliefs and will equip them to make well informed choices.

As we begin as a year group to examine big questions about the local, national and global community, such as how the role of democracy affects us, and what it means to be a global citizen, our students will develop the skills to put forward their own views and critically evaluate those of others in a respectful way. Through their engagement with the Personal Development Curriculum with topics such as Black History Month, the Holocaust and Wellbeing Wednesdays, each student will further become thoughtful and articulate, with a greater self-awareness and understanding of where they are on their personal and educational journey. By doing so they will be confident and courageous enough to be able to stand up for their own beliefs grounded in the knowledge they have acquired, whilst being empathetic to other viewpoints. All of this together will mean that Year 9 will begin to deepen their understanding of the impact they have on their immediate circle and in much wider society.

As well as representing themselves as part of our school community and year group through Student Voice and Prefect Scheme, our students will further embrace those extracurricular activities most pertinent to them. By immersing themselves with all of these opportunities each of our Year 9 students will grow in confidence and through these new experiences be able to champion an interest in their favourite subjects. Their independent scholarship skills, such as self-assessment and self-reflection will be evident in their work, as well as wider reading. As we move through the year, our students will work with integrity and purpose, in and out of the classroom, allowing them to flourish in their self-development. Through discussion, debate and their reflections using growth mind-set they will set purposeful goals, unique to them allowing them to carve out their own path to the future.