Our Curriculum

Levenshulme HIGH SCHOOL

At Levenshulme High School, we celebrate our identity as a diverse community at every opportunity – instilling great value in our differences as well as ensuring an even stronger understanding of what makes us the same. We are committed to developing a feeling of belonging: to our school, our city region, the UK and one peaceful world.

Who we are at Levenshulme High School

We are an 11-16 average-sized high school for girls, with around 1000 students on roll. There is no academic selection on entry. The proportion of Pupil Premium students is above national, averaging over 55% year-on-year. Our school is in inner city Manchester and recruits from around 42 primary schools. Analyse School Performance also places the school in the highest percentile in the school deprivation indicator (and this has not changed over time) as many students reside in post code areas which are amongst some of the most deprived wards in the third most deprived city in the country.

The proportion of students with special education needs is broadly in line with the national profile. Some students leave the school suddenly because their families leave the country to migrate onwards or return home.

Prior attainment at Key Stage 2 is consistently significantly below national averages in all year groups. Approximately 95% of students come from a wide variety of minority ethnic groups and a wide range of home languages are spoken. The proportion of students with special needs is broadly in line with the national profile.

For over 78% of the school population, English is not their first language. There is a high rate of transience in this part of our city, and we have stability of around 85-88%. Historically, we receive a high number of in-year admissions, many of whom arrive from abroad with low levels of English.

Attendance is consistently above national averages for girls – our students value our school, enjoying the opportunities, learning and friendships that are part of everyday school life.

We want every child to have the knowledge, skills and experiences to thrive as a 21st century global citizen. We are **dedicated to achieving dreams** – realising potential, redressing disadvantage and reaching equality. We recognise that the school experience is fundamental to the wider life of our students in its capacity to expose them to opportunities that they may not get elsewhere.

Our Levenshulme High School Intent

Our curriculum is how we reach our goals – developing a strong sense of identity, belonging and dedication to making the world a better place. We do this through an ambitious, broad and balanced curriculum which meets the needs of all students.

Our student and teacher learning is informed by up-to-date research. We use our subject specialists to plan and deliver thoughtfully sequenced learning built around each subject as a distinct discipline. Learning is carefully constructed to build on that which has been learnt before and accelerate knowledge and understanding of learning yet to come.

We carefully plan and provide many rich opportunities for cultural engagement – be this through guest speakers, workshops, trips and visits or events organised in school.

Our curriculum is inclusive and diverse, drawing on all aspects of our different communities to celebrate culture, recognising that fostering creativity enables deeper levels of critical thinking, the ability to question, innovate and problem solve. We maintain a clear perspective on life beyond the school by working in successful partnership as part of a multi-academy trust with our feeder primary schools, other secondary schools, and further and higher education providers and employers.

Our Levenshulme High School Aims

Our curriculum:

- Provides powerful knowledge combined with both specific and transferable skills to empower all students, regardless of starting points and individual learning needs, to achieve their ambitions
- Encourages an inquisitive and exploratory approach and rewards students who develop these habits
- Challenges all students to achieve their full potential in a broad range of subjects and other learning opportunities through high expectations and inspirational content
- Further develops the skills students arrive with, alongside building independence and resilience, to prepare them for success in their lives beyond LHS

To achieve these aims, our curriculum is always evolving in response to the latest research and international developments and our students are provided with opportunities to reflect on, celebrate and set targets to improve their progress. Subject curricula have been collaboratively planned and are continually reviewed to ensure content is sequenced to support learning over time. Guided by strong practitioners in all elements of school life, we expect students to be dedicated to achieving their dreams and to understand their place in the world.

Progress is fundamental to our curriculum and we expect that all students make significant and sustained progress in each subject they study. We provide them with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to succeed in whatever they set their minds to and we expect them to manage their learning in order to achieve this.

Basic Skills

Literacy
Our clearly defined whole school approach to literacy further reinforces a commitment to the idea of disciplinary literacy. Students develop the stamina and skills to write at length, with accurate spelling and punctuation. Deliberate practice in: vocabulary building, challenging reading, supporting writing for creativity, accuracy or specific audience and purpose is being taught by teachers across different subjects.

Reading
It is our belief that the ability to read and interpret written language is a fundamental skill which enables access to the curriculum and lifelong learning. With this in mind, every student at Levenshulme High School is taught to read with fluency and understanding. All students develop the skills and confidence to read increasingly challenging texts independently in order to support them in all aspects of their curriculum. Intervention programmes are used to improve the reading skills of those who join the school with low reading levels. Our well-resourced library inspires students to read more widely and to get involved in national and local initiatives that promote a love of reading. We believe that a wide vocabulary will empower students to articulate their thoughts, emotions and ideas effectively, as well as enabling them to engage more deeply with the written and spoken word. Vocabulary is explicitly taught across disciplines at Levenshulme High School to enable students to understand the relationships between words and nuances of meaning.

Numeracy
We believe that confidence in numeracy and other mathematical skills is one of the fundamental life skills needed to achieve success in further education, employment and adult life. Teachers across the curriculum use their relevant subject to develop students' mathematical fluency and reasoning so that they understand and appreciate the importance of mathematics in everyday contexts.

Oracy

We believe that if students are to become accomplished speakers and listeners, it is vital that our teachers also set high expectations for the quality of their students' oracy by establishing, communicating and upholding conventions for speaking and listening. Students at Levenshulme High School are supported and provided with opportunities to: present and justify ideas with reasons, ask questions to check understanding, develop vocabulary and build knowledge, negotiate; evaluate and build on the ideas of others and select the appropriate register for effective communication.

Study skills

Our curriculum has been designed carefully to create opportunities to revisit work, reflect on progress and review on learning. Our students are provided with a wealth of opportunities, both in academic and pastoral settings to: improve memory skills, develop effective study skills, increase self-confidence, understand the importance of reflective practices and regular review in order to become independent learners.

E-Learning/Literacy

We believe that the use of ICT is an essential part of education. The Internet and other digital information technologies are powerful tools, which have changed the way we live and learn and which open new opportunities for everyone. Across a range of subjects we aim to provide the students with consistent teaching of key skills.

Students have opportunities to evaluate online content and recognise harmful behaviours and misrepresentation. They consider the value of their own personal data and learn when it is appropriate to share information online as well as how to keep themselves secure. There is practical advice and support around the social pressures of using technology and its impact on self-image and mental health.

In addition to safe and responsible use of technology, students learn key digital skills to allow them to use technology to support learning and living. They practise using technology to communicate effectively, learn how to organise themselves and collaborate with others. They undertake challenging tasks to give them practical experience of a range of specialist digital skills and understand the value of these skills in the local economy.

Personal Development

Healthy Relationships
We provide students with the knowledge, skills and understanding to be able to recognise the characteristics of healthy relationships and the different types of relationships they may encounter across their lifetime.

Physical and mental health
We ensure that all students gain the knowledge and understanding that will enable them to lead physically, mentally and socially positive lives. They are taught how to access support in these areas, should they need it at any point in their lives.

CEIAG (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance)
We provide students with the knowledge, skills and ambition to make positive and informed choices regarding their futures beyond school. There is explicit reference to the local labour market alongside wider national and global opportunities.

Character Education and Leadership
Personal Development is woven through our wider curriculum, the form time programme, Focus Friday and Focus Days and the additional wider opportunities presented to students during their time here at Levenshulme High School. Students' experience of PSHRE (Personal, Social, Health and Religious Education) helps them to acquire the knowledge, values and attitudes that allow them to access and contribute to modern Britain in a safe and fulfilling way. Through their inspiring interactions with adults, students are confident, ambitious and empowered in their decision making regarding their relationships, self-care and planning for their futures.

Cultural Capital

Cultural capital is the accumulation of knowledge, skills, behaviours and experiences that a student can draw upon and which demonstrates their cultural awareness, knowledge and competence. We recognise that, for our students to aspire and be successful academically and in the wider areas of their lives, they need to be given rich and sustained opportunities to develop their cultural capital.

Levenshulme High has a curriculum which builds our students' cultural capital within the context of the school through a strong emphasis providing a range of opportunities both subject based and outside of the classroom. Our students profit from a broad range of cultural visits, clubs and experiences which allow students to showcase their talents as well as develop their leadership abilities, aim high and achieve their dreams.

Student Voice

Listening to students' voices is an embedded part of our school values and we fully subscribe to the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child articles 12 and 13 which state:

Article 12

"Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously…"

Article 13

"Every child must be free to express their thoughts and opinions and to access all kinds of information, as long as it is within the law".

Our extensive student leadership programme ensures the voices of our students are heard, acted upon and celebrated. Our student leaders have played an important role in developing practices, our Pledge and our motto *Dedicated to Achieving Dreams* as well as regularly representing our school with passion and pride at school events.

Our Values

Our school values are the driver for every decision that we make. They are high profile with the whole school community with reference made to them through learning experiences for students and staff, for training purposes and in relation to how we all conduct ourselves and treat other people. The form time programme is built around a more in depth look at a value per half term so that we are teaching our students what they look like and how to live them.