

Non-Subject Specific (NSS) & Journey 2 groups

'Voyages'

Voyages lessons take place twice per week, every Monday & Wednesday afternoon (2022-2023). They include all the NSS classes and two of the Journey two classes.

Voyages provide our students with opportunities to develop in a range of areas that support their preparation for adulthood and future lives in the community after school. Voyages at Oaktree school isn't a journey to the unknown; the lessons aim at equipping all students with the necessary tools for their Voyage in life as adults, so they do not experience the community they find themselves in as an alien and unknown place; the lessons are designed to help them to access the support they need to sustain positive relationships with those around them and the overall community.

We offer our students four Voyages that aim at boosting their confidence and their life and communication skills, enhancing their independence in all possible aspects of their lives. This builds self-esteem, confidence, self-advocacy and ensures a sense of achievement, which in turn increases happiness and wellbeing.

Voyages lessons take place twice per week (teaching blocks 4 & 5). Journey 1 and two of the Journey two classes are part of our 'voyage' to PfA (Preparation for Adulthood). These five groups follow most of the 5 voyages depending on their needs. The voyages involve learning and focus on specific 'target areas' such as Areas of Needs-NSS curriculum, EHCP outcomes & termly targets while they provide cross-curricular links with other subjects (Humanities, PSHE, Language & Communications/English, Science, Cognition & Learning/Maths, Performing Arts, PE). This way we ensure that their EHCP outcomes are being achieved, as well as preparing students on how the community and future life will look like, like for example accessing higher education (for some of our students), independent living, being involved in the community as active members.

The 5 Voyages¹ are:

¹ Voyages' long term plan offer a detailed coverage of the topics and areas of engagement and their distribution

- *Community (NSS & Journey 2)*; develop positive relationships with the community; encouraging community engagement
- *Personal Development (Journey 2)*; teaching involves for example develop self-awareness, build resilience, understand expectations, social norms, have the right to choose and their own voice etc.
- *Health & Independence (NSS & Journey 2)*; teaching involves for example how to maintain good health and hygiene; become aware of their needs and able to look after their bodies, be physically healthy, learn to prepare small meals etc.
- *Creativity, Sensory Exploration & Communication (NSS)*; teaching involves for example, experiencing the wider world and other countries/cultures some students come from in a

Voyages encourage active community engagement therefore working experience opportunities are also very important particularly for Circle and Victoria class students (from Y9 and beyond). For this reason we are looking to provide opportunities with local businesses for volunteering and later on possible internships or jobs. At the present, a mixed group of students from Victoria (6th Form) and Circle class are visiting the 'Halo Dogs' Day care centre for dogs, once per week, while their peers who stay at school (Circle and Central) in mixed groups experience either the '*Creativity, Sensory Exploration & Communication*' or the '*Health-Independent Living*' Voyages.

It is an enjoyable working experience where are students learn specific skills like working in a team, time management, look after animals, develop empathy and social skills, but they can also practise their attention, communication and listening skills. In addition, helping with jobs around not only supports their independence skills but also their analytical skills such as problem solving, decision making and reasoning.

The second group of Victoria Class students engage in learning experiences and activities particularly on their life skills – practising both at school but mostly by going outside in the Community - that support their confidence and independence; for example self-care activities, communicating with others, cooking, keeping a room clean and organised and so on².

² **Voyages' long term plan offer a detailed coverage of the topics and areas of engagement and their distribution – Victoria Class**

NSS Groups

For the next academic year we are aiming at building strong links to the local communities, in order to increase partnerships with local business and offer a wider range of choices for working experience and community engagement to our NSS & Journey 2 groups. We are also aiming at continuing promoting learning tailored to our students abilities who they all thoroughly enjoy Voyages afternoons; this will be evident in the way they engage with their activities in their lessons cognitively, behaviourally and emotionally.

"We dream in colours borrowed from the sea."