Policy: Character Education at Gloucester Academy

At Gloucester Academy we believe there is a strong link between character and attainment. We believe that anything is achievable when you work hard and be kind. The aim of Character Education at Gloucester Academy is to develop a student who is confident, compassionate and is an effective contributor to society, a successful learner and a responsible citizen. A focus on the development of a student's character can help develop a student's self-esteem, understanding and respect for others, an awareness of wider spiritual and cultural issues and the fulfillment of their potential. At Gloucester Academy we have a role to ensure we develop our students holistically to ensure they are ready for the next step and become well rounded individuals. Character Education is seen all around the Academy, including (but not limited to); displays, lessons, assemblies and ethos. We strongly believe the role we have as staff members here at Gloucester Academy encourages positive feelings of self worth and we play a significant part in 'shaping' our students' future through developing their character. Through Character education we are increasing their chances of success in life.

Goals:

When each student graduates from Gloucester Academy they are prepared for adulthood. At school our students will become responsible for themselves, for each other, for their community and for the world they live in. We aim for our students to enter the next stage of lives being able to:

- Make the most of opportunities
- Have the ability to be independent and use their initiative
- Make reasoned, informed and ethical choices
- Understand right and wrong
- Be reflective, flexible and creative
- Have high self-esteem
- Take responsibility for their actions
- Develop a sense of belonging
- Have a voice and influence others
- Be good parents / role models for future generations
- Value diverse lifestyles, cultures and faiths
- Care for the environment
- Contribute to a multi skilled and flexible workforce

We also wish for our students to develop a set of character traits, attributes and behaviours that underpin success in their education and work. Our 3 core values are:

- Ambition
- Excellence
- Pride

Our students will work hard and be kind. They will belong to a 'house' and regularly take part in house competitions as well as build strong rapports with other students in their year and across the Academy. Our house system is built around Russell Group Universities; Bristol, Cambridge, Exeter, Oxford, Warwick and York.

Our character values run throughout the whole school experience and we systematically ensure it is embedded across all areas. Some examples of these are:
- Lessons
- Assemblies
- Guest talks
- Enrichment
- Staff
- Parents / Carers

How does Character Education support teaching and learning?

Through our students' journey through Gloucester Academy the values and character education traits will help them to grow up as responsible, independent, open-minded members of society but it also enhances their learning across the curriculum. By teaching and embedding character, we are encouraging students to develop skills that are necessary in every lesson in school.

As a student develops from year 7 we believe that we are giving them the right tools to not only succeed in life but when it comes to examinations in year 11 they will feel 'ready'. A student must have the emotional resilience that character education develops to ensure that they succeed and are ready for their next steps.

Monitoring and evaluation

The delivery and impact of character education is a continuous and ongoing improvement process. There is no one specific way in which to measure the impact but we triangulate a variety of different processes /methods including:
- Achieving character Badges that are awarded for achieving challenges and tasks in each value
- Student feedback
- Parent / Carer feedback
- Staff feedback
- Behaviour improvements
- Attendance improvements
- Student work / displays
- School evaluation tool