

Key Stage 3 - Years 7, 8 and 9

Parent Information Evenings

Parent Information Evenings take place in early September. Here, parents and carers are able to attend seminars in which a range of information is given out. This includes any changes to the curriculum or assessment, advice and guidance on supporting young people in Mathematics and English, High Prior Attainers, teaching and learning, student and parent/carer services, attendance and many more.

Learning and Activity Days

As part of the Raising Aspirations Programme, PSHE (*Personal, Social and Health Education*) and CEIAG (*Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance*) students participate in a number of bespoke programmes. 'Future Matters' is a theatre presentation which explains the importance of education, inspires students to set achievable goals and increases motivation, whilst raising aspirations for the future.

Subject Specific Assemblies

The Raising Aspirations programme aims to enhance student learning by delivering a range of enjoyable assemblies for different subjects. Some of these assemblies are designed to combine with the different topics the students are studying, while some are aimed at raising interest in certain subjects.

University Taster Day

Students will visit a local university to get a taste of university life. As well as participating in university workshops, they will get an opportunity to tour the campus and meet with university students and lecturers.

Mentoring

Students who are at risk of under-achieving will be mentored their form tutor, Progress Leader or a member of the engagement team. Some students may be supported by a peer mentor or prefect. The aim is to identify the individual support they require and work to improve their engagement in learning, through a positive support programme.

Specific to Year 7

During this important transition year, the Raising Aspirations Programme aims to embed a culture of praise, achievement and ambition within the Year group and to develop the skills that students will need to be successful this year and for the rest of their time at The Pingle Academy and beyond.

Going to University Assembly

All Year 7s will join in on an assembly presented by a local university's student ambassadors. The assembly will focus on the range of subjects, type of qualifications, extra-curricular activities and routes into university. Year 7s are given the opportunity to ask their own questions at the end of the presentation.

Specific to Year 8

Year 8 is an important year, with students beginning to decide on their GCSE options. The focus on the Raising Aspirations Programme is therefore tailored towards getting students to think about their subject choices and potential university and career choices. The programme will also continue to focus on developing important transferable life skills.

Specific to Year 9

Year 9 is an important year for students as they choose the subjects they will study at GCSE. To reflect this, contact with key staff increases, with a focus on post-14 options.

Options

In January, the Year 9 options process begins in earnest. Year 9 students are invited to take part in a programme of options taster sessions and assemblies, where they can test what different GCSE subjects offer.

Parents and carers are invited into an information evening, dedicated to options specifically, and this can be followed by a one to one consultation between parent/carer/student, and a member of the leadership team. It is our aim that each student should be supported in making the right choice for higher 'specific' post-14 pathway.

University Experience Day (Progression Pathways)

The progression pathways session at a local university is specifically for Year 9 students. It looks at the types of higher education courses available in the UK and offers students an insight into university life.

Year 6

Before students join us at The Pingle Academy, we are thinking about their future career path.

All Year 6 students receive an introduction to Raising Aspirations letter in their introduction pack. Then during induction days, they meet our team, so that they can be put a name to a face from day one. We also attend induction evenings to meet parents and carers, so that they are aware of whom we are and know how to contact us during their child's time at The Pingle Academy.

Year 6 and Year 5 students are routinely invited to participate in aspirational programmes, such as The Brilliant Club, STEM events, university tasters and their parents/carers are invited to talks from universities.

Contact Details

Our aim is for the Raising Aspirations Programme to be responsive to the needs of the students in each Year group, and we want to work with parents, carers and the wider community to provide the best possible opportunities for the young people of The Pingle Academy.

If you have any questions relating to the programme, or any ideas/suggestions, please contact Mrs Janet Gostick at jgostick.pingle@defererstrust.com