

Our Curriculum

At **Nightingale Community Academy**, our curriculum has been re-designed to ensure every learner, from primary through to sixth form, is provided with a clear and purposeful pathway to success. Our approach recognises that our students have unique strengths, needs and aspirations, and we are committed to offering a curriculum that is ambitious, inclusive, and rooted in real opportunities for progress in education and life.

Our New Pathways

To support personalised learning, we have introduced three distinct pathways across the school:

- **Nurture Pathway** – providing a highly supportive, primary-style curriculum for pupils who need additional time to secure core skills, communication, and confidence in learning. This pathway builds strong foundations in literacy, numeracy, and personal development.
- **Create Pathway** – offering a practical, hands-on curriculum for SEMH learners who thrive through vocational learning and project-based approaches. Students access a balance of functional skills, creative subjects, and vocational areas such as Construction, Hair & Beauty, Land-Based Studies and Hospitality.
- **Accelerate Pathway** – designed for learners working towards GCSEs and Functional Skills at Level 2. This pathway stretches academic potential while still embedding vocational and enrichment opportunities, preparing students for college, apprenticeships, and employment.

Each pathway has been carefully mapped to ensure **smooth transition between Key Stages** and progression routes into KS4 and KS5 qualifications.

Our School Focus: The 3 Rs

Our curriculum is underpinned by our whole-school focus on the **3 Rs**:

- **Reading** – developing confident readers through daily practice, cross-curricular literacy, and targeted interventions.
- **Remembering** – strengthening recall and knowledge retention through regular assessment, retrieval practice, and sequencing of learning.
- **Resilience** – building the personal and emotional skills learners need to overcome challenges, manage setbacks, and succeed in education and beyond.

These three drivers shape every lesson and help learners develop both academically and personally.

SHINE Curriculum

At the heart of our personal development offer is the **SHINE curriculum** – standing for **Social, Health, Independence, Nurture and Enrichment**. SHINE is more than a subject: it is the framework that brings together **PSHE, RSE, life skills, and personal development** across the school, from primary through to sixth form.

Every student at Nightingale Community Academy has an **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)** which identifies their strengths, needs, and long-term outcomes. The SHINE curriculum has been **designed around these outcomes**, ensuring that what is taught directly supports learners to make progress in areas such as social communication, emotional regulation, independence, and preparation for adulthood. Teachers plan SHINE lessons with these personalised targets in mind, so that progress is not only measured by knowledge gained but also by the development of life skills that will make a real difference in each student's journey.

What SHINE looks like in practice

- **In Primary**, SHINE lessons focus on building self-awareness, positive relationships, and confidence. Learners begin to explore how to manage feelings, stay safe, and make healthy choices. These foundations support a smooth transition into secondary.

- **In Secondary**, SHINE develops into a wider programme of PSHE and RSE, tackling themes such as mental health, managing risks, identity, relationships, online safety, and preparation for vocational learning.
- **In Sixth Form**, SHINE prepares students for adult life, covering independence, financial literacy, employability, community participation, and health and wellbeing – giving them the confidence to take their next steps beyond school.

Why SHINE matters

- It **links directly to EHCP outcomes**, ensuring every learner is supported to achieve personal as well as academic progress.
- It builds the **resilience, independence and social skills** learners need for adulthood.
- It ensures a **progressive curriculum** – so what starts with basic personal and social skills in primary grows into independence, employability and community contribution in KS4 and KS5.
- It helps every young person prepare for their **next step** – whether that is moving up a key stage, starting a college course, or developing the life skills to live more independently.

The SHINE curriculum ensures that our learners do not just leave with qualifications, but with the confidence, independence and resilience to thrive in the wider world.

Our New Changes

Our curriculum has been shaped through consultation, reflection, and innovation. The key changes include:

- Clear **curriculum pathways** ensuring appropriate challenge and progression.
- Stronger emphasis on **vocational qualifications** at KS4 and KS5, mapped from KS3 onwards.
- Embedding the **3 Rs** into every subject area to drive consistency and impact.
- A re-designed **assessment cycle** combining ongoing formative assessment, half-termly summatives, and personalised feedback.
- **Cross-curricular links** in reading, writing, and oracy to strengthen literacy across all subjects.
- Enrichment through **projects, outdoor learning, and community opportunities**.

Together, these changes mean our learners experience a curriculum that is ambitious, inclusive, and future-focused – preparing them not only for qualifications, but also for independence, resilience and positive life choices.