



The Successful Lives Curriculum: Enabling Students to be Highly Successful in School and Life

Ormiston Rivers Academy

Using the Successful Lives Curriculum

Successful Lives is a 63 lesson curriculum, created to give teachers the resources needed to inspire students to be more independent and help them to achieve their goals.

“We have seen an incredible change in many of our students and they have made exceptional progress. While this is down to much more than just the Successful Lives programme, I know that it raised student aspiration and helped them to set and achieve high goals.”

Ormiston Rivers Academy is an 11-18 co-educational, sponsored Academy, which works in close partnership with the Ormiston Trust family of academies. It is set in a semi-rural location.

- In 2014 the school received an award in recognition of being in the top 10% of schools nationally for value-added.
- The proportion of pupils eligible for the pupil premium and for free school meals is below average, while the proportion of disabled pupils and those with special educational needs is above average.
- There are very few students from minority ethnic groups or who speak English as an additional language.
- The school achieved an Ofsted rating of 2 in its last inspection in July 2013.

“Successful Lives has enabled our students to grow in confidence and develop the essential skills required for learning and life.”



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SUCCESSFUL LIVES CURRICULUM CASE STUDY

Challenges

The school is situated in Burnham-on-Crouch and due to its semi-rural and more remote location many of the students are isolated from London and other major towns.

Too many of them show a lack of ambition and we wanted to provide them with examples of achievement, as well as encouraging them to develop some of the wider skills needed for school, work and life.

Why Successful Lives?

We had worked with Les and Mark in developing leadership and they asked us to help with developing and using their new resources for students.

We were already looking into how we could raise the ambition and achievement of our students so it was an ideal fit.

How were the resources used?

We used the programme with our year 7 students in an hour a week and also used it with cohorts of year 11 and sixth formers, to develop those wider skills we know they will need to make the most of their talents.

Results

We have seen an incredible change in many of our students, and some of them have made exceptional progress.

In our latest Ofsted inspection (July 2013) we received a 2 rating, with many outstanding features, moving from a school previously in special measures.

While this was down to much more than the Successful Lives programme, I know that it raised student aspiration and it helped them to set and achieve high goals.

The resources have enabled our students to grow in confidence and develop the essential skills required for learning and life. They enjoy the collaborative learning style and have transferred this knowledge into all aspects of their school life. Students come into the lessons enthused, motivated and the energy in the classroom is fantastic...a real buzz. The curriculum has made a real difference.

Students were very positive about their experiences and this is what some of them have to say – they all took the lessons in year 7.

“It teaches you really valuable life lessons that you need to know for school and the rest of your life. It made me feel that no matter what got in my way it didn’t matter. I could get to my goal.” **Rebecca**



Successful Lives made me think more about what I want to do and what I am going to do to achieve it.

“You spend time taking inspiration from people who have already succeeded and there is a lot of planning to help you think about how you can be successful too. It takes a lot of confidence to stand up in front of people, and now I feel I can do that and I am doing it quite well.” **Amy**

“I learnt that if you don’t try what you are scared of, then you are never going to get any better. I wasn’t that great at speaking in front of other people but now I am a little bit better. The lessons helped me with my confidence and made me a better learner.” **Chris**

“If something is hard you can use something learnt from the curriculum. Not to just think that’s too hard and ask the teacher, but to talk to others, help them and share ideas. So it has helped me in lessons, for example English. “The confidence I have gathered from the different topics has made it easier to learn in other subjects because I am now not afraid to ask questions and find out what I want to know.” **Jamie**

