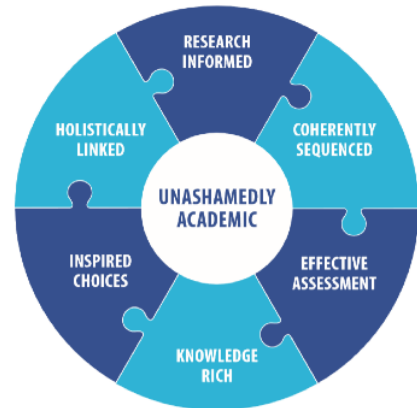


## The principles that underpin the West Exe curriculum

**Unashamedly Academic:** Our curriculum is academic, rigorous and challenging: tier two vocabulary and complex concepts are taught from year seven. We provide students with a breadth of contextual knowledge that well exceeds the requirements of the national curriculum and GCSE specifications. Indeed, we endeavour not only to teach knowledge and skills to obtain optimum GCSE outcomes but also to develop a love and passion for subjects and learning, developing life-long *curious* learners in the process.



**Research Informed:** Our learning model and sequenced learning are underpinned by the cognitive science work of Daniel T. Willingham. Led by research, we embed the teaching of proven study skills and opportunities for critical thinking and analysis across all areas of the curriculum. Designed with long-term memory in mind, our curriculum ensures that students' knowledge, skills and understanding are cemented by frequent and systematic revisiting.

**Coherently Sequenced:** At the core of our ambitious learning culture, is a knowledge-rich curriculum that is cohesive, cumulative and highly sequenced. Our curriculum is based on the understanding that students arrive with significant prior knowledge, a foundation that we build upon from day one. By planning with the end in mind, we consider our students' career pathways and aspirations, as well as the context of our local community when making the painstaking text selections for the canon, when debating the merits of particular case studies in Geography and when deciding upon the new digital pathway for our computer scientists of the future.

**Effective Assessment:** At West Exe, we believe that Assessment is an intrinsic part of successful curriculum planning and effective teaching and learning. We are committed to using frequent, efficient assessment both to empower students to become highly effective independent and *resilient* learners and to reduce teacher workload. We use data and assessment systematically to inform planning to ensure rapid and sustained progress for every student. Through regular retrieval practice, spaced learning and interleaving, we embed knowledge into the long-term memory.

**Knowledge Rich:** At West Exe, we believe that acquiring knowledge does not just help students gain optimum GCSE outcomes, it also develops both cultural capital and cultural literacy, preparing our students for life well beyond our borders. The depth and breadth of knowledge develops memory retention for the greater amount of knowledge stored in our long-term memory; the more we learn and store, the more we are able to learn and store.

**Inspired Choices:** We believe that our students have the unalienable right to a five-year learning journey which is not just about an end-point of GCSEs but a time of discovery and of awakening a passion for subjects. With this in mind, we provide a curriculum which rich and varied, allowing them to specialise in their foundation subjects, fostering that passion early, whilst providing additional time for Geography and History, subjects pivotal to learning about our place in the world around us.

**Holistically Linked:** Through the delivery of strategies like The West Exe Literary Canon and The West Exe Baccalaureate, we promote our community beliefs of *compassion, courage* and *citizenship*. We are able to create an interconnectivity between the academic and pastoral curriculum because we are all teachers of reading, of SEND and of life skills. Our 'Student Habits of Excellence' programme runs through every area of the school and through this, our students know what success looks like. Thus, they are able to...

**Dream more**

**Do more**

**Become more**