

The ARC of success at The Lion Works School

An introduction to our core values



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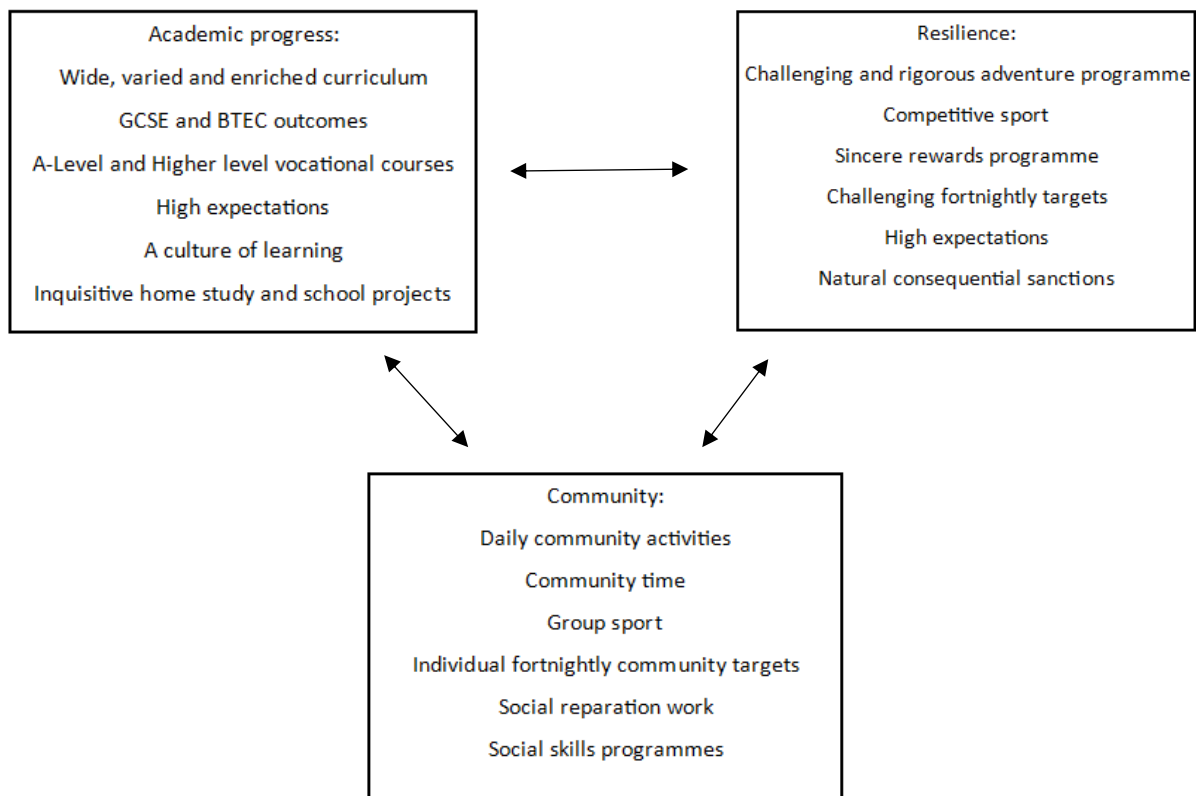
The Lion Works School is a specialist independent school that provides education to young people with needs that make a mainstream setting inappropriate. We are not second best to mainstream education; we are a space full of ideas, laughter, creativity, determination and understanding.

We address challenges head on. We do so with understanding and care but we never avoid asking the difficult questions or having candid conversations. We have very high expectations of our students and believe success comes from challenging yourself to achieve things that are difficult. We measure success in a variety of ways but the core of our student journey is measured through the ARC of success:

Academic progress

Resilience

Community



Academic progress is at the core of our value system. We are a selective Specialist School and only offer placements when we have a sincerely held belief that we can achieve nationally recognised outcomes for a young person at the end of their key stage of study with us (KS4 or KS5). Students will be on task and studying when in our lessons. If they are not we provide immediate and supportive intervention. Our 'normal' is to be working quietly with the support and direction of the teacher and support staff. We have a robust and effective system for challenging low-level behaviour presentations of need and implement this in all aspects of our school and learning. Students come to school for a range of reasons but undeniably the most important reason is to learn. Without learning as an expectation, we would be failing our students.

Resilience is perhaps the most challenging part of the ARC. When the majority of our students arrive they will have experienced school breakdown and often have lasting self-identity issues. Low self-esteem is common across our cohort and is something that we address in a number of ways. Our environment is carefully created and is full of passion, interest and humour. Students come to understand that they are somewhere full of ideas and creativity, not a place of last resort because their mainstream setting didn't work for them. We create an ethos of resilience through adventurous and competitive sport. Sometimes we come second, third, fourth or even further from first, but we enter everything with the belief that we have what it takes to succeed. Sometimes we have to build up in incremental steps, but we exist to encourage and nurture success. We challenge by choice in adventurous pursuits but our 'normal' is to challenge ourselves. Sometimes our students need a little bit of help with this and sometimes a lot of help but through a culture of **resilience** and determination we help our students prepare for their next steps in life.

We are a small, caring and thriving **community**. Our students support their **community** on a daily basis through their actions and choices. Students have two-week targets centred around social communication and supporting their peers. Every day a different year group takes responsibility for cooking a balanced and delicious meal for their peers. Every afternoon each form group takes responsibility for cleaning and preparing an area of their school for the next day. Consequences from negative choices are community based and have natural reparations. If our actions take away from our community then we find a way to add to our community.