

The Research-Based Curricula Programme

www.researchbasedcurricula.com

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AIMS: The Research-Based Curriculum aims to support student attainment and university progression by providing classroom resources about cutting-edge research at local universities. The resources are designed to:

- ✓ promote intellectual curiosity through exposure to academic research
- ✓ stretch and challenge students to think deeply about content that may be beyond the confines of the curriculum
- ✓ develop core academic skills, including critical thinking, metacognition, and written and verbal communication
- ✓ inform students about how subjects are studied at university, and provide information, advice and guidance on pursuing subjects at undergraduate level

CONTENT: The programme represents a unique collaboration between universities and schools. Trained by AccessEd, PhD Researchers use their subject expertise to create rich resources that help bring new discoveries and debates to students.

The Research-Based Curriculum offers ten modules suitable for either KS4 or KS5 study. The modules span a range of disciplines, including EBacc and A-level subjects, as well as degree subjects like biochemistry. Each module includes six hours of teaching content, supported by student packs, teacher notes and slides. All modules are available online and free of charge for teachers at select schools.

DELIVERY: Resources are designed to be used flexibly by teachers. The resources can be completed by students individually or in groups, in or out of the classroom. Here are five examples of delivery:

1

Extra-Curricular Subject Enrichment Clubs

The resources can be completed in small groups (4-8 pupils) across a series of weekly lunch clubs or after-school clubs. Groups can reflect on their learning by presenting a talk or poster on the subject matter at the end of the course.

These clubs can be led by a subject teacher, an NCOP Graduate Intern, or another mentor in the school

Example: 'Happiness Club' (KS4 Psychology RBC)

2

University Access Workshops

The resources can be used by students to explore subjects that they are interested in studying at university. This can inform their decision making with regards to university degree courses, and allow students to write more effective personal statements by including reflections on the Research-Based Curriculum.

This could be facilitated by the subject teacher, sixth form team member or university admissions coordinator

Example: 'Explore your degree subject'

3

More Able and Talented Extension Work

Stretch your high attaining pupils by giving them the pack in your subject to complete independently or in pairs. This “plug and play” approach provides a structure for students to engage in independent, academic work and broaden their understanding beyond the curriculum.

This could be facilitated by the subject teacher

Example: 'Go beyond the curriculum'

4

Research Challenge

The resources can be used to ignite curiosity in new topics and encourage independent research. Schools could hold a research challenge across a class or year group to submit a piece of work based on the resources. Pupils could submit individually or in small groups, with a final celebration event.

This could be led by a subject teacher or more able coordinator

Example: 'Why is it impossible for a solar cell to be 100% efficient?' (KS4 Physics RBC)

5

Summer Project

Resource packs can function as 'transition' projects over the summer, serving as an introduction to the next level of study between KS3 and KS4, or KS4 and KS5. Students could present their reflections on the experience in a journal.

This could be facilitated by a subject teacher or key-stage coordinator

Example: 'Summer project: the next level'

EVIDENCE: The Research-Based Curricula programme builds on the University Learning in Schools programme (ULiS), which was successfully delivered and evaluated through the London Schools Excellence Fund in 2015. The project was designed in a collaboration between Achievement for All and The Brilliant Club, the latter of which is the sister organisation of AccessEd. ULiS resulted in the design and dissemination of 15 schemes of work based on PhD research for teachers and pupils at Key Stage 3. The project was evaluated by LKMCo. Overall, pupils made higher than expected progress and felt more engaged with the subject content. The full evaluation can be found here: [ULiS Evaluation](#).

PARTNERS: AccessEd is a non-profit organisation that works to increase university access for under-represented young people globally. We work in partnership with universities and schools to deliver programmes that mobilise researchers to share their academic expertise

QUESTIONS: For more information contact AccessEd, hello@access-ed.ngo

