

Subject name: Makaton KS5

General Statement of Intent

'Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression.'

(from Makaton.org)

In the Sixth Form Communication unit, we offer weekly Makaton sessions to our students. As a diverse school, we recognise that students can have a number of difficulties that can impact their communication and mean that some students could be considered non-verbal. Students that currently have limited verbal communication and/or are likely to make limited progress in their verbal communication into adulthood require additional tools that they can use to ensure their ideas, opinions and questions are heard in a meaningful and effective way.

Symbols can be used alongside Makaton to support a variety of texts and are intended to simplify messages and give additional clues to those that may struggle with reading or have limited comprehension.

Weekly sessions are designed to teach students new vocabulary through symbols and signs and develop skills such as:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Comprehension
- Memory/Recall practice
- Reading (by recognising symbols)
- Becoming a more independent learner
- Increasing confidence
- Improving social skills/opportunities

Assessment strategies including external examinations

Teacher observations and notes.

Any additional notes

January 2024 AS