

# Atelier — 21 —

a revolutionary response to school



## Mission Statement – The **Vision and Aims** of Atelier 21 Future School

Imagine a school where children have lots of time to choose what they want to learn and are encouraged and supported to master skills at their own pace. All set in a culture of respect where adults see themselves as researchers of children who are committed to delivering an entirely relevant and personalised educational experience to every child.

The aims of Atelier 21 will be to create a democratic space for children to learn that enables high levels of self-directed learning, assumes personal responsibility, and fosters innovation, curiosity and creativity which will help young people compete, contribute and thrive in an ever-changing modern world.

Without compromising academic opportunities, at Atelier 21, children will be taught how to think, not what to think. Their broad talents will be celebrated and encouraged and they will learn how to be resourceful, resilient and reflective. Atelier 21 serves to advocate for the rights of children and the protection of the culture of childhood, as an important time for rich connection with nature, other people and the wider world as the life long journey of self-discovery is embarked upon. Our pedagogical approach can be summarised as the following:

- **active:** emphasises learning by doing
- **interactive:** uses discussion and debate

- **relevant:** focuses on real-life issues facing young people and society
- **critical:** encourages young people to think for themselves
- **collaborative:** employs group work and co-operative learning
- **participative:** gives young people a say in their own learning

Atelier 21 will be a fee paying independent private school, however we are planning to offer as many bursaries as possible once we can afford to. Ultimately the school will be for children aged 4-16. Initially however places are open for children to enrol aged 4-12 years for September 2020 Autumn term.

Atelier 21 has an independently curated, emergent curriculum model, which is influenced by the Reggio Emilia Approach, the Montessori Approach and the National Curriculum - with underpinning principles from Guy Claxton's Learning Power Approach, where children exceed in mastering the skills that will be demanded of them in the future – thinking skills, interpersonal skills, emotional intelligence, mental agility and development of character. We are privileged and proud to announce that Guy Claxton will be the Patron of Atelier 21. He is excited to work with the staff in a consultancy role at the school.

Our unique Personal Responsibility Model enables children to largely manage their learning of the national curriculum in a totally revolutionary way, which gives them choices over what they learn, how and when, much of the time. They will begin to master becoming a responsible, self-regulating learner right from reception with their own progression diary, will chart their progress of becoming an 'intelligent learner', making the learning process less classroom-coercive and more personally motivating.

Atelier 21 Future School will also have some really exciting initiatives, such as WILD Fridays - where the whole learning community of children and adults go out into wild spaces every week. From rock climbing to Forest School, crabbing to wild swimming, raft building, kayaking and lots more.

The school will also operate a school business that the children will run. They will be responsible for designing products and services, building a website, marketing, and managing the finances. These sorts of experiences will be built into everyday life at the school, rather than token themed days, offering children the chance to get involved with relevant, meaningful, applicable learning of their own design. This will help them develop key skills for life as a creative, agile thinker, who is reflective and flexible in their thinking and sees challenges as opportunities to modify, re-examine and re-apply their ideas and actions in a multitude of ways until they work out the best way for them. I guess if Google had a school, we think it might look a bit like this one.

The overarching mission of Atelier 21 is to create a school which upskills the future generation by paying attention to what young people are going to need to thrive in the 21st Century. The world is a less certain place now and they will need more than just great exam results. Highest on the list of Future Skills are collaboration, self-regulation and creativity; top employers want to meet young people with a body of experiences who can be resourceful, resilient and with a growth mind-set.

In other words, interesting people, who know themselves well and know how to use their talents to help themselves and others. Atelier 21 is a carefully curated Personal Responsibility Model design by myself and my team which takes the best pedagogies of the most progressive schools from around the world and blends them with the UK's National Curriculum to make learning more pupil-centred, but most of all more relevant, meaningful and irresistible.

When pupils leave our school we want them to be the most motivated they have ever been to burst into the almost adult world, ready to make the most of their lives and assume responsibility for themselves and their place in the world. We want them to want to contribute, and to do that we promote the fundamental British Values.

Values won't be assumed because schools demand they are, particularly if they're very different from those at home: they have to be arrived at through mutual exploration, critical analysis and understanding.

'Fundamental British values' comprise:

- democracy
- the rule of law
- individual liberty
- mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs, and for those without faith.

Through strong teaching and quality lessons in SMSC development and PSHE we aim that we will:

- Enable every student to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Enable students to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of Britain.
- Encourage students to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely.
- Enable students to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in Britain.
- Further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling students to acquire an appreciation for and respect for their own and other cultures.
- Encourage respect for other people.
- Encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in Britain.
- Encourage respect for other people, paying particular regard to the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act 2010.

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