

Year 10 and 11 Study Support

Hello! My name is Miss Mia Dodds and I am a Study Support and Health and Social Care Teacher at Balcarras School.

Study Support is a supported session where pupils are able to complete an hour of independent work, five times a fortnight for their GCSE subjects. Pupils can opt to take Study Support sessions as part of the Year 9 options process. My ethos is to build pupil confidence and support them in managing their own learning. Pupils do this in a quiet, purposeful working environment with access to computers.

My work in every session involves:

- Regular check-ins with students to ensure that they are keeping on top of their workload. I have access to every pupil's VLE so I can also ensure, for example, that they are meeting coursework deadlines.
- Working 1:1 with students on a particular piece of work that they might be struggling with.
- Emailing teachers to establish a point of contact if there are specific queries about a student's work.
- Providing mentoring/pastoral support and liaising with the tutors and the school pastoral team

Once a fortnight, these sessions also offer study skills workshops which involve:

- Revision skills
- Exam skills and exam technique
- Creating revision timetables
- Advice about post-16 options and work experience
- Helping students to write CVs or prefect applications.

My ability to work one-to-one with pupils enables me to build strong relationships and pupils trust me to support them on their journey to achieving their aspirations. In turn, I become the link and advocate between these pupils and the wider SEND and teaching team.

I believe that the key to successful progress and learning is pride in achievements across the ability range. In my sessions pupils can celebrate successes, reflect on their achievements and their strengths, and feel secure when taking risks or making mistakes, as these are often crucial to further their learning.

I am deeply interested in utilising education to enrich young people's school and life experience by empowering them to be creative, critical, and open-minded thinkers whilst developing their confidence, resilience, and empathy, alongside many other life skills. I genuinely strive for all pupils to achieve their goals and aim high, both in and out of school, whether that is academically, vocationally, or pastorally.