


Hexham Middle School

Personal Development Curriculum

Our overall intention is to enable pupils to enjoy acquiring and developing/cultivating the skills, knowledge, understanding and character to thrive and flourish in our community and in the wider world, and our approach to the personal development of our pupils allows this ambition to be realised. Our personal development approach is well-sequenced and coherent. It is ambitious for all pupils, particularly for vulnerable learners and those facing disadvantage, and enables HMS pupils to thrive. Our team of form tutors take a leading role in teaching many aspects of personal development, and we plan our assembly curriculum around many core themes. Beyond this, Subject Leaders think hard about the opportunities for personal development and enrichment within curriculum planning and pedagogy. British Values and opportunities to promote them build throughout the school so that pupils are ready for life in modern Britain and in an ever-changing world. We equip pupils with the essential skills they will need for future success and to develop as well-rounded individuals who will contribute positively to society beyond school.

All pupils engage in PSHE, RSE and RE lessons as part of their timetable, and pupils have the opportunity to enrich their learning through well-planned experiences including workshops and visiting speakers throughout the year. The extra-curricular offer at Hexham Middle School is vast and vibrant with pupils being able to choose from a wide range of opportunities both in and after-school. The uptake and participation of all pupils, particularly vulnerable learners and those facing disadvantage, is closely monitored and all children are encouraged to engage. Our approach to developing character values is embedded across the school with a core theme permeating form time, assemblies, and opportunities each half term. Our pupils know that we have high expectations of them and want them to be responsible, respectful, and active citizens – we promote leadership and engagement in each year group through opportunities such as Digital Leaders, Kindness Ambassadors, School Council, House Captains and Head Pupils. Our school is an environment where pupils feel safe and know how to keep themselves safe both within school, in the community and online. Our community promotes kindness, equality and tolerance and discrimination and barriers are removed by everyone in the school to promote inclusion for all. A coherent approach to preparing pupils for the next steps of their education and future careers is evident across all year groups and pupils have the chance to engage with local and national employers. As part of our provision, we think hard about healthy lifestyles, physical activity, diet, and the importance of positive routines to contribute to the physical health of our pupils. In turn, the social, emotional and mental health of pupils is supported, and pupils know how to access support in school.

Strand	Overview	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
Whole School Assembly Themes	<p>Throughout the academic year, our assembly programme responds to key themes and concepts that seek to build on our core values of Respect, Engage, Aspire. Throughout the year, HMS staff and pupils support the assembly programme by preparing high quality, engaging assemblies and resources to influence further form time discussion. Our assemblies are positive and include a weekly focus on celebrating success and recognising excellent behaviour for learning and attendance. In addition, teaching and learning themes are woven throughout the programme so that pupils understand whole-school approaches to their learning. You can find our assembly programme here.</p> <p>Our assemblies are responsive to the ever-changing world around us and highlight important themes to strengthen our personal development curriculum. The assembly programme also includes key PSHE themes and knowledge, as well as promoting important opportunities to celebrate diversity and the protected characteristics.</p>				
Personal Development - Form Time Sessions	<p>Our comprehensive and coherent curriculum is delivered during form time. Form tutors are provided with a bespoke annual form tutor programme comprised of the following key elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly personal development themes explored (responding to awareness days, religious observances, wider social, moral, spiritual and cultural learning and British Values). • Developing knowledge and application of the eight essential life skills of the Skills Builder programme. • Labour Market Information to promote careers education. • The Big Debate resources – developing pupils’ oracy of thought-provoking topics and questions. <p>Skills Builder Programme</p> <p>We value the contribution that transferable skills can make towards the personal development of our pupils and have therefore embedded the explicit teaching of transferable skills into our form time provision. We believe ‘Great Learners’ flourish at our school when they have a growing knowledge and understanding of essential skills, making them increasingly prepared for the next stage of their education and the world of work. The Skills Builder Hub is used by HMS staff to diagnose starting points for each tutor group and then build bespoke resources to focus on the eight essential skills.</p>  <p>Autumn Term</p> <p>Pupils will focus on developing the knowledge and application of the communication Skills Builder skills – listening and speaking. Pupils also undertake a Skills Builder Challenge Day to help build familiarity and confidence in all eight essential skills. This is a whole school event involving all pupils and staff – this generates enthusiasm and engagement.</p>				

	<p>Spring Term Pupils will focus their attention on exploring the Skills Builder skills of Aiming High and Staying Positive. Halfway through the academic year, we believe these two skills are excellent and timely to prioritise, providing continual focus to foster high aspiration and motivation. This links to our promotion of National Careers Week as part of our wider curriculum experience.</p> <p>Summer Term In the final term, pupils delve further into an awareness of leadership and creativity. Another Skills Builder Challenge Day in the final term is the culmination of teaching during form time. All pupils and staff engage in a whole school themed day with a clear focus on developing the essential skills.</p> <p>The essential skills are mapped progressively and staff at HMS know that developing these skills is the responsibility of all staff in our school. We know that developing these skills allows 'Great Learners' to thrive in the classroom and beyond.</p>
Character Education	<p>Our six positive moral traits are explored each half term throughout the year and include courage, generosity, justice, humility, honesty and integrity. By making these traits explicit in our teaching, we believe it is possible to develop a pupil's moral compass and the skills necessary for them to interact with others. Our wider personal development programme, including the Great Experiences and Great Learners offer, alongside the tremendous extracurricular provision, provides a wealth of opportunities for character education. This is in addition to character development in lessons across the curriculum subjects.</p> <p>Each half term, a different positive moral trait is prioritised and the assembly programme explores how the character traits are shown in the school community and wider society. At Hexham Middle School, we value how positive moral traits are 'sought' and 'caught' - we actively seek opportunities to enable pupils to develop a greater knowledge of these character traits as well the ways to apply their understanding of them.</p> <p>Autumn Term We begin the academic year introducing the positive moral trait of courage: for some pupils, it is their first year at Hexham Middle School, for others it may be that they are in new classes or working with different peers and staff. We encourage all of our pupils to have courage and conviction to achieve their personal best. We also approach the winter break delving into the character trait of generosity, with the onset of numerous different seasonal festivities including fundraising, collections and PTA events such as our Pop-Up Shop – all of these focus on the character trait of being generous and what that means for our lives.</p> <p>Spring Term As we progress throughout the year, the spring term brings about a focus on the character traits of justice and humility. We draw attention to different awareness days and months that build mutual respect and tolerance of diversity. As a predominantly Christian-based nation, we annually</p>

	<p>refer to the Easter story and the life of Jesus in the context of humility, emphasising how humility is regarded as one of the most important virtues. We engage with local clergy to help unravel the Easter story and the messages it may have for Christians in today’s world. We also explore other important religious festivals to celebrate diversity.</p> <p>Summer Term In our final term, we invite our pupils to relate to and understand the positive moral traits of integrity and honesty. As the school year draws to a close, these positive moral traits support pupil reflectiveness as we look back at the school year and plan ahead for the future. We actively encourage all pupils to review their progress and achievements across all aspects of school and their personal lives.</p>				
<p>Promoting health and wellbeing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotion Coaching whole school approach – focused on positive mental health and wellbeing. • Mental Health Awareness opportunities – Hello Yellow Day. • PSHE Lessons provide a key role in this strand. • Healthy lifestyles and diet – a focus in food tech, science and PSHE. 	<p>Focused PSHE lessons are delivered during the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health (Spring 1 & 2) • Managing Hurtful Behaviour and Bullying (PSHE) <p>Hello Yellow Day – mental health awareness day.</p>	<p>Focused PSHE lessons are delivered during the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health (Summer 1 & 2) • Families and close positive relationships (Spring 1) • Ourselves: growing and changing (Summer) <p>Hello Yellow Day – mental health awareness day.</p>	<p>Focused PSHE lessons are delivered during the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Health (Autumn 2) • The Sleep Factor (Spring 1) • Relationships and sex education (Summer 2) <p>Hello Yellow Day – mental health awareness day.</p>	<p>Focused PSHE lessons are delivered during the year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dental Health • Making Choices about Diet and Exercise • Maintaining Physical Health • Understanding Drugs (Nicotine and alcohol) • Introduction to Menstrual wellbeing in PSHE (Summer 1) • Relationships and sex education (Summer) <p>Hello Yellow Day – mental health awareness day.</p>

<p><u>British Values</u>, Cohesion, Rights and Responsibilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Council – across all year groups. • Citizenship strands throughout the PSHE curriculum. • Assembly themes to explore all aspects. • UK Parliament Week including a strong focus on democracy. • Skills Builder – A Day in Politics – whole school event. • Smart School Council Focus during Form Time. • House Captaincy Hustings – election for the whole school. • UK Parliament and Local Elections of Youth Cabinet – engagement with local candidates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti Bullying Workshop (mutual respect and tolerance). • Shared responsibilities and Community (PSHE Autumn 1). • Friendships focus during PSHE. • Different Cultures focus during PSHE. • Skills Builder – A Day in Politics – whole school event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared responsibilities and Community (PSHE Autumn 1). • Skills Builder – A Day in Politics – whole school event. • Reading Malala – We are Displaced as part of Book Talk sessions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Builder – A Day in Politics – whole school event. • Northumbria Police – Prevention Through Education. • Citizenship unit in PSHE covering Democracy and Law: • What does Parliament do? • What is the role of government? • The election process • The role of the police • British Laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Conflict in PSHE (Summer 1) • Northumbria Police – Prevention Through Education. • Skills Builder – A Day in Politics – whole school event. • Citizenship Unit in PSHE covering: • Dictatorship v Democracy • What do MPs really do? • Parliament revisited • Young Offenders • British Values
<p>Careers: getting ready for the world of work (CEIAG)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Careers Week – Aspire (Spring 2). 	<p>Area of Economic Growth and Opportunity Theme: Digital/Creativity and Innovation</p>	<p>Area of Economic Growth and Opportunity Theme: Advanced Manufacturing <u>Egger</u></p>	<p>Area of Economic Growth and Opportunity Theme: Energy Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hexham Net Zero 	<p>Area of Economic Growth and Opportunity Theme: Health and Life Sciences</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of Economic Growth and Opportunity (year group focus). • Skills Builder Programme woven throughout each year group. • Careers Road Map – progressively mapped for the whole school. • Careers events and workshops throughout the year with a local context focus. • Engagement with leading experts and industries/sectors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry X (Digital Engineering and Manufacturing) - Linked with Computing department as lead curriculum area. • Dreams and Goals (PSHE – Spring 2) • Sea Cadets (Marine Engineering Workshops). • STEM Workshops (Newcastle University). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project-based learning in DT (employer engagement) - virtual tour/visiting speakers/assembly • Economic wellbeing and money (Summer 2). • Aspirations, work and careers (PSHE Summer 2). • STEM workshop – (Newcastle University). • Engagement with Tyne Rivers Trust – local organisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northumbrian Water NET Zero Project – Employer Engagement – Drop Down Day • NU Futures Careers Programme – working with NUFC Foundation. • Where can languages take you? Careers in languages workshop. • Newcastle University – 24 hours in A&E careers workshop. • Girls in STEM – university workshop. • Unit of study in PSHE (Spring 2) covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers and job ambitions • Careers and my decisions • Personal qualities and skills • Finding careers information • Career management • Character traits and Skills • Target setting and action points 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careers in the NHS performance. • Step into the NHS Drop Down Day • STEM Chemistry Workshops (Newcastle University). • SEND Virtual Careers Event. • Where can languages take you? Careers in languages workshop. • Girls in STEM – university workshop. • Newcastle University – 24 hours in A&E careers workshop. • NU Futures Careers Programme – working with NUFC Foundation. • Unit of study in PSHE (Spring 2) • Career interests and job ideas • Labour Market Information (LMI)
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Knowing how to stay safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops from visiting speakers including Dave Burns – PSHE. • Sessions include a focus on knife crime, County Lines, digital and online safety. • Contextual safety education including staying safe near rivers and water safety. • Online safety and digital literacy focus in assembly and computing lessons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid Workshops including CPR (Autumn Term). • Carbon Monoxide Awareness Workshop (Co Crew). • Bikeability Course – road safety and training (Summer). • Road and pedestrian safety – pupils getting to school safely. • Staying safe and healthy lifestyles – PSHE (Summer Term). • Dave Burns – Anti-Bullying workshop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Burns - ‘Safe on the Streets’ workshop. • First Aid Workshops including CPR (Autumn Term). • Bikeability Course – road safety and training (Summer). • Staying safe and healthy lifestyles – PSHE (Spring Term). • Visit to Safety Works in Newcastle – focus on many aspects of staying safe in the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic First Aid support and bleeding (Autumn Term). • First Aid Training Workshop including CPR (Spring Term). • Why Queue (Road and Pedestrian Safety Theatre Performance – The Riot Act) • Knife Crime Talk – Dave Burns. • Self Care – physical and mental wellbeing (Autumn Term). • Healthy relationships and consent (Summer Term). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to Safety Works in Newcastle – focus on many aspects of staying safe. • Bullying and Cyberbullying (PSHE). • First Aid (Allergies and Asthma) in PSHE. • First Aid Training workshops including CPR (Spring Term). • Harmful Practices Workshop (Northumbria Police). • Why Queue (Road and Pedestrian Safety Theatre

					<p>Performance – The Riot Act)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Lines Talk – Dave Burns • Introduction to consent (PSHE – Summer 1). • Introduction to Contraception (PSHE –Summer 1).
<p>Staying safe online and digital literacy</p>	<p>Throughout the year, pupils will focus on fundamental themes such as: self-image and identity; online relationships; online reputation; online bullying; managing online information; health, wellbeing and lifestyle; privacy and security; copyright and ownership. There will be a regular revisiting of learning as part of the computing curriculum.</p> <p>Parents/carers and staff have access to National Online Safety and staff complete annual training and refreshers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS2 Computing curriculum weaves elements relating to reporting concerns about contact and content. • Using technology safely, respectfully and responsibly – as part of the computing curriculum. • National Online Safety Week – assembly focus led by the Digital Leader Team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media Literacy And Digital resilience (PHSE – Spring 1). • KS2 Computing curriculum weaves elements relating to reporting concerns about contact and content. • Using technology safely, respectfully and responsibly - as part of the computing curriculum. • National Online Safety Week – assembly focus led by the Digital Leader Team. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating video and using media to gain support – as part of the computing curriculum. • National Online Safety Week – assembly focus led by the Digital Leader Team. • Tackling online bullying – PSHE Summer Term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Stress and FOMO (PSHE – Summer Term). • Cyberbullying (PSHE – Spring 2) • Sharing Images Talk/Workshop (Northumbria Police) - Autumn Term 2. • National Online Safety Week – assembly focus led by the Digital Leader Team. • Building a positive online reputation – PSHE Autumn Term.

<p>Encountering meaningful cultural experiences</p> <p><i>More detail available in our Great Experiences mapping document</i></p>	<p>Our pledge is for all pupils to have the opportunity to attend a residential trip throughout their time at HMS.</p> <p>We fundamentally believe in providing vast and varied opportunities to broaden horizons beyond life in Hexham.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christingle Service • Carol Service at Hexham Abbey • World Book Day • Art Trip to Baltic (open to all year groups – optional) • End of Term Trips and Experiences • Musical experiences – visiting workshops and performances. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st Century Competencies: Competence and Character Drop Down Day • Residential visit to Whithaugh Park – Summer Term. • Theatre visit – Christmas Pantomime • Museum visit – Great North Museum – history study. • Theatre visit – Theatre Sans Frontiere performance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential visit to Whithaugh Park – Summer Term. • English trip to Tynemouth – novel setting. • Theatre visit – Christmas Pantomime • 21st Century Competencies: Competence and Character Drop Down Day • Museum visit – Discovery Museum – WWII curriculum focus. • Museum visit – Old Gaol – local study in history. • Theatre visit – Theatre Sans Frontiere performance. • Religious visit – local Church visit – Christianity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural visit to London – theatre, museum, sightseeing experience. • France Trip – opportunity for an international visit. • Theatre Visit (English/Shakespeare). • 21st Century Competencies: Competence and Character Drop Down Day. • Bronze Arts Award including a visit to The Baltic Art Gallery. • The Ushaw Ensemble – jazz workshops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Borran – opportunity to attend residential visit. • Ski Course (France) – international visit opportunity. • 21st Century Competencies: Competence and Character Drop Down Day. • Manchester Experience Tour – sports tour and visit to stadiums/football experience. • Bronze Arts Award including a visit to The Baltic Art Gallery. • The Ushaw Ensemble – jazz workshops. • Museum visit – Centre for Life, STEM Centre.
<p>Equality of Opportunity - Equality and Diversity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality Act Annual (Assembly). • Human Rights (RE). 	<p>During Form Time following up discussions during form time:</p>	<p>During Form Time following up discussions during form time:</p>	<p>During Form Time following up discussions during form time:</p>	<p>During Form Time following up discussions during form time:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGBTQIA History Month – awareness. • Ally Zone – weekly club led by staff. • Diversity Week – whole school focus on inspirational people representing the protected characteristics. 	<p>Why is 'X' a protected characteristic?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age • Disability 	<p>Why is 'X' a protected characteristic?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Race • Religion of belief system 	<p>Why is 'X' a protected characteristic?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marriage and civil partnership • Pregnancy and maternity 	<p>Why is 'X' a protected characteristic?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sex • Sexual orientation/ gender identity and gender reassignment • Sexual orientation/ gender identity and gender reassignment in PSHE (Summer 1) • Relationship Values in PSHE (Summer 1).
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