

Personal Development: Assembly Programme 2022-23

Autumn Term 1

During this half term, we will reflect on the character virtue of **courage**. Our Skills Builder focus starts importantly with **Listening**. As part of promoting and developing courage, we will have our elections for School Council (democracy in action across all year groups) as well as voting for new House Captains in our hustings and appointing Head Pupils/Deputy Head Pupils. Pupils will learn more about the West Northumberland Food Bank and will be encouraged to donate to a collection for the local organisation. We will recognise 'Hello Yellow Day' for Young Minds, focus on road safety and hold our first Skills Builder Challenge of the year – a focus on Politics.



Character Virtue Focus: Courage

Skills Builder focus: Listening

| Week commencing | Weekly Assembly Theme | Personal Development Focus |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| 5 th September | Respect, Engage, Aspire – positive start to the year! (Led by Mr Watters) | Skills Builder Introduction/Overview |
| 12 th September | Democracy in Action – School Council (Led by Mr Freeman-Myers) | Skills Builder – Lesson 1 – Listening School Council Elections |
| 19 th September | Will there ever be World Peace? Harvest Festival (Led by Mr Stephenson) | Peace Tree Leaves West Northumberland Food Bank focus |
| 26 th September | Sustainability in School – Recycling (Led by Mr Freeman-Myers) | Skills Builder – Lesson 2 – Listening |
| 3 rd October | Character Virtues including Courage (Led by Miss Liddle and Mr Scott) | Black History Month Exploring the virtue of courage including the story of Mahatma Ghandi) |
| 10 th October | Emotion Coaching (Led by Mr Freeman-Myers) | World Mental Health Day Skills Builder – Lesson 3 – Skills Passport |
| 17 th October | Standing up for what counts in life... Courage (Led by Head Pupils – newly appointed) | Big Debate – should we give free homes to homeless people? Skills Builder Challenge Day 1 – A Day in Politics |

Autumn Term 2

During this half term, we shift our attention to the character virtue of **generosity** and the Skills Builder focus of **speaking**. Themes covered during assemblies and form time include the concept of volunteering, how to stay safe as we approach seasonal festivities, and explore the big question about what we really are as a species. Our anti-bullying ambassadors will have the opportunity to update us and we will have the pleasure of listening to our House Captains on how volunteering can be complemented by courage and generosity. There are opportunities for debating during form time.



Character Virtue Focus: Generosity

Skills Builder focus: Speaking

| Week commencing | Weekly Assembly Theme | Personal Development Focus |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| 31 st October | Bonfire Safety (Led by Fire Service visitors) | Skills Builder – Lesson 1 – Speaking |
| 7 th November | Building bridges not walls... Peace and Armistice Day (Led by Mr Johnson) | Remembrance Day Learning/Reflection |
| 14 th November | Anti-Bullying Week (Led by Miss Liddle and Mr Scott) | UK Parliament Week British Values |
| 21 st November | The origin of species... focus on Charles Darwin (Led by Mrs Gregory and Miss Lamont) | Big Debate Lesson – what came first...the chicken or the egg? |
| 28 th November | Advent... ‘Shedding some light on the situation’ (Led by Mr Freeman-Myers with a local clergy message) | Skills Builder – Lesson 2 – Speaking Winston Churchill’s Christmas Reflection |
| 5 th December | Being generous.... The People’s Kitchen (Led by House Captains) | Form Class Wreath Development – focus on how pupils will be generous during Advent |
| 12 th December | Significant Person: Jane Austen and her impact (Led by Miss Kingett) | Skills Builder – Lesson 3 – Skills Passport Updates |
| 19 th December | Celebration Assemblies (Led by Miss Liddle and Mr Scott) | Big Debate Lesson – should 10 year olds have mobile phones? |

Spring Term 1

During this half term, we will reflect on the character virtue of **justice**. There are some references in our weekly awareness days such as Martin Luther King Junior Day and LGBTQ+IA Month that shine a spotlight on doing what we may think is the right thing to do. Having returned from the Christmas holiday, as well as the winter solstice, we can now look forward to longer, brighter days ahead, and hopefully lots of high hopes for the future. Our Skills Builder focus shifts aptly to **Aiming High**. Having now passed Epiphany, we will now start to reflect on what gifts and talents we are going to seek to develop in ourselves further; this is a crucial part of our personal development.

Character Virtue Focus: Justice

The focus on **justice** as one of positive moral traits helps us all to explore and build our own moral compass. Some of our weekly assembly themes and Big Debate topics are associated with this character trait.



Skills Builder focus: Aiming High

| Week commencing | Weekly Assembly Theme | Personal Development Focus |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 9 th January 2023 | Aiming High School Expectations (Led by Pastoral Leaders) | Skills Builder Lesson (1) on Aiming High |
| 16 th January 2023 | The Year of the Rabbit: Chinese New Year (Led by Mr Armstrong – Leader of MFL) | The Big Debate: Is school detention a good thing? |
| 23 rd January 2023 | Holocaust Memorial Day (Led by Mr. Johnson – Leader of History and Geography) | Skills Builder Lesson (2) on Aiming High |
| 30 th January 2023 | Diversity and Inclusion: LGBTQ+IA (Led by Miss Taylor, Mrs Dodd and Ally Zone) | Art-based task – Diversity and Inclusive Badge Design competition |
| 6 th February 2023 | Safer Internet Day - Staying Safe Online (Led by Mrs Tanner) | Skills Builder Passport – reflecting on Aiming High |
| 13 th February 2023 | Teaching and Learning Focus (Led by Mr Watters) | The Big Debate – “Everyone deserves to be loved.” |

Spring Term 2

During this half term, we consider the character trait of **humility**. Do we really know what the word means? During this time of year, in the Christian faith calendar, there is an opportunity to unpick what the story of Jesus and going into the ‘wilderness’ can reveal about the characteristic of humility. As a school, we are also about to engage with [National Careers Week](#). This year, we will shine a spotlight on the contributions made by women in the workplace as well as growth in green technology and its impact on the North East economy. There are opportunities for [debating](#) during form time linked with assembly themes as well directed time to learn more about the universal skill of **staying positive**; as we have passed the half-way point in the academic year, and our year 6 pupils are approaching their SATs, we know that staying positive is an essential skill to develop.

Character virtue focus: Humility

Humility can be described as the ability to view yourself accurately as an individual with gifts and talents as well as having flaws. Some people may not always acknowledge humility as a relevant positive moral trait to possess, but some people argue that it is - in fact - a remarkable character strength.

Skills Builder focus: Staying Positive

Staying positive in life is the ability to use tactics and strategies to overcome setbacks and achieve goals. As a parent/carer, we actively encourage a partnership approach in supporting the personal development of their child. The Skills Builder [Homezone](#) is a great resource, including different activities and tasks, that can be attempted at a pace and time that suits each family.



| Week commencing | Weekly Assembly Theme | Personal Development Focus |
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| 27 th February 2023 | 'Into the wilderness' – unpicking how being humble and staying positive is played out in the story of Lent. (Led by Mr. Freeman-Myers) | Skills Builder Lesson (1) on Staying Positive |
| 6 th March 2023 | National Careers Week: A history of women in the workplace (Led by Mrs Tanner and Mr Armstrong) | The Big Debate: What would motivate you more in a job – money or happiness? |
| 13 th March 2023 | Red Nose Day (Led by House Captains/Head Pupils) | Skills Builder Lesson (2) on Staying Positive |
| 20 th March 2023 | Earth Hour (Led by Mrs Stewart and pupils) | The Big Debate: Is Climate Change the worst problem in human history? |
| 27 th March 2023 | Great Learning – Motivation (Led by Mrs Lloyd) | Skills Builder Lesson (3) on Staying Positive |

Summer Term 1

During this half term, we have a varied assembly programme and will have the opportunity to listen to different staff exploring themes, including the creative works of Shakespeare, refugees and asylum seekers, the current observance of Ramadam in the Islam faith, the under representation of Mary Seacole in our history, a broader look at protected characteristics (as outlined in the Equality Act, 2020), and the big issue of biodiversity. We will continue our focus on developing **debating skills**.

Character virtue focus: Integrity

Integrity is the fifth character value or positive moral trait that we will focus on this term. Our assembly themes this half term build on this. Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. Next half term, we will explore honesty in more detail. We are very much looking forward to Mrs Scott’s assembly on **'The integrity of borders'**.

Skills Builder focus: Creativity



This half term, we are very excited for our pupils to learn more about the essential and transferable skill of **creativity**. This skill is the complement to problem solving, and it relates to the ability to generate innovations or ideas which can then be honed through the problem-solving process. We believe strongly in our pupils being creative and adaptive, and we hope our pupils start to appreciate how this is an essential life skill valued by employers in the workplace. As a beginner to learning more about the skill of creativity, we will focus on building confidence in our pupils to imagine and share ideas or solutions. As pupils develop their understanding of creativity, they should then be able to demonstrate competency in making improvements. Creativity allows pupils to develop their ability to be curious and generate questions to explore more about real-life problems. This skill will be very useful in our end-of-year **Skills Builder Challenge Day** which is themed 'Creative Spaces'.

Creativity is the complement to Problem Solving and is about generating innovations or ideas which can then be honed through the problem-solving process.

| Week commencing | Weekly Assembly Theme | Personal Development Focus |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 17 th April 2023 | The creative works of William Shakespeare (Led by Mrs P Hall and Mr. Stephenson) | Skills Builder – session 1 – creativity |
| 24 th April 2023 | The integrity of borders: asylum seekers and refugees (Led by Mrs M Scott – EAL Lead) | Debate lesson – Should billionaires exist? |
| 1 st May 2023 | Islam’s Holiest Day (Led by Mr. Nichol) | Skills Builder – session 2 – creativity |
| 8 th May 2023 | Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale (Led by Mr Barrass, Mrs Richardson and Mr. Armstrong) | Debate lesson – Is it better to have knowledge or imagination? |
| 15 th May 2023 | Protected Characteristics KS2 Focus: Year 5: Age and Disability Year 6: Religion or Belief System KS3 Focus: Year 7: Marriage and Civil Partnership/Pregnancy and Maternity Year 8: Sexual Orientation | Skills Builder – session 3 – creativity |

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| | (Led by Miss Liddle and Mr Scott) | |
| 22 nd May 2023 | Building back Better Biodiversity (Led by Miss Bell and Eco-Group) | Debate lesson – Should you feel guilty about killing insects? |

Summer Term 2

During this half term, pupils come back from their summer half term holidays to reflect on the character virtue of **honesty**. Fundamentally, this positive moral trait is something we hope to instill in all pupils at Hexham Middle. We know that, as human beings, we are fallible, and will undoubtedly fail at this at points in our lives. We will look at the life of Alan Turing and how honesty played out in his life. During this half term, we approach our second **Skills Builder Challenge Day**. Over the year, we will have built knowledge of the different essential skills. We look forward to applying these in an exciting drop-down day event. During some form times, we will prepare for this focus day.



Character virtue focus: Honesty

Skills Builder focus: Leadership

| Week commencing | Weekly Assembly Theme | Personal Development Focus |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| 5 th June | Caring for others. What can we learn from Anne Frank? (Led by Mr Freeman-Myers) | Big Debate Lesson – should you show empathy to everyone? |
| 12 th June | Magna Carta – its importance and impact (Led by Mr Johnson) | Healthy Eating Week Skills Builder - Lesson 1 – Leadership |
| 19 th June | Alan Turing – Being True to Yourself (Led by Mrs Bond and Mr Forster) | Big Debate Lesson – can one person change the world? |
| 26 th June | Staying Safe Online (Led by Miss Liddle and Mr Scott) | Skills Builder Challenge Day Preparation Skills Builder - Lesson 2 – Leadership |
| 3 rd July | Skills Builder Challenge Day 2 (Led by Mr Freeman-Myers) | Skills Builder Challenge Day – whole school event |
| 10 th July | Transition and moving on... (Led by Mr Watters) | Transition – preparing for change Reflection on Skills Builder Challenge Day |

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| 17 th July | Celebration Assemblies (Led by Miss Liddle and Mr Scott) | Transition |
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