

Work Skills

Intent:

In Work Skills we aim to equip students with employability skills that are relevant, current and useful to employees. We believe that it is important to offer our students a flexible programme that promotes choice, focuses on individual strengths, builds resilience and develops confidence.

It is our intention for students to have a good understanding of where and how to look for potential employment. Securing a job can be stressful, demanding and time consuming and so we aim to prepare our students to be successful in the recruitment process by teaching them: how to tailor a CV to a particular job application, writing professional letters of application, the importance of making a good first impression and interview techniques.

We also aim to equip our students with the knowledge and skills required to manage their own finances, which will help them to budget accordingly in future years and avoid the stress and difficulties associated with indebtedness.

As students progress, their growing confidence will help them to reflect and improve on their team working skills. We believe that these skills are extremely valuable in the workplace and are also transferrable to other areas of life. Students will be able to run a series of enterprise initiatives, which will challenge their ability to react under pressure, interact with others and learn how to take on responsibility and negotiate.

We take students out of their comfort zone to help them develop the entrepreneurial characteristics of independence, innovation, creativity, intuition and leadership – all useful life skills.

Implementation:

In Work Skills we use a range of different teaching and learning strategies to ensure all students are challenged, engaged and enjoy lessons both in and out of the classroom. Learning is interactive and fun as it integrates peer assessment, video clips, roles plays, formal meetings, independent research, mock interviews, presentations, as well as visits from local entrepreneurs and advice from careers advisors.

Beyond the classroom:

The design and technology facilities at school have enabled the students to make food and craft items to sell for enterprise challenges. Students design, manage and maintain a school garden, which has enabled them to develop team working and leadership skills. They have also co-ordinated several activities within school to engage key stage 3 students, including competitions and social events. During year 10 all work skills students are interviewed by local entrepreneurs and carry out a work placement.