



Excellence, Aspiration & Care

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5th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Introduction of the New Personal Development Curriculum

I am writing to inform you of an exciting change to our Personal Development provision, which will come into effect from the start of this academic year.

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the holistic development of every student, we are launching a new Personal Development Curriculum. This programme has been carefully designed to nurture students' personal growth, character, and readiness for life beyond school by exploring a wide range of themes including social, moral, spiritual and cultural (SMSC) education, British values, student leadership, financial literacy, and PSHE.

At the start of each school day students will attend a 'Personal Development lesson', led by their Personal Tutor, formally known as Form Tutor. The curriculum will follow a consistent weekly structure, aligned with our assembly themes and national or international awareness days.

The Personal Development lesson will begin with five protected minutes for reading and equipment checks while the register is taken by the Personal Tutor. The remaining 20 minutes will be devoted to a specific aspect of the Personal Development curriculum. Each day will focus on a different theme depending on each year group, for example:

Day	Focus	Activity
Monday	Assembly	Introduces the theme of the week, often linked to a national or international day. Assemblies are led by pastoral leaders and subject departments.
Tuesday	Student Leadership	Students prepare short presentations based on the weekly theme. They develop research, oracy, and critical thinking skills, and lead discussions with peers. Students will be supported in this prior to presenting in their lesson.
Wednesday	Belonging	Celebrates student achievements and promotes enrichment activities. Personal tutors highlight clubs, trips, and student voice opportunities to build a sense of connection within the school community.
Thursday	PSHE and Financial Literacy (1/2)	Covers essential PSHE and financial literacy content in an age appropriate way.
Friday	PSHE and Financial Literacy (2/2)	Reinforces Thursday's themes with deeper reflection and discussion. Focuses on character education and preparation for real life scenarios.

This consistent structure allows students to engage with big questions, reflect on their values and actions, and build essential life skills such as communication, empathy, financial awareness, and personal responsibility.

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The new programme has been developed in response to national expectations around personal development and our own school's mission to prepare students not only for academic success but also for life in modern Britain. By engaging students with current global issues and empowering them to lead and contribute, we are supporting them to become confident, respectful, and informed citizens.

Additional Opportunities

Throughout the year, each year group will also take part in a dedicated Focus Day, during which they will be off timetable for a morning or full day to explore a key aspect of personal development in greater depth.

This flexible and responsive curriculum also allows us to address emerging issues quickly such as online safety trends or wellbeing needs, ensuring our pastoral support remains timely and relevant.

We are incredibly proud of this initiative and the opportunities it offers for your child's personal growth. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R McLaren". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mrs R McLaren
Deputy Head Teacher