



Discovery Day Options September 2023



Eliminating the impossible

Since the successful launch of our Discovery Days and the Undershaw Diploma in September 2021, we have developed and extended the range of activities offered so that students have the opportunity to work towards nationally recognised certificates and awards. The Undershaw Discovery Day provides a unique opportunity for our students to engage in learning outside of the classroom, to participate in new experiences and to practice the 8 fundamental skills of the Skills-Builder programme.

We encourage all students to choose an activity that they will commit to, working towards the accredited certificate/award where this opportunity is offered. For most of the programmes, this will mean at least 2 - 3 terms of commitment, to complete the programme. There are numerous benefits for our students to work towards and complete a nationally recognised award over time, and whilst we do allow students to change their Discovery Day activity at the end of a term, we encourage students to choose something that they would like to make a commitment to through the school year.

This booklet provides an overview of the options available this academic year. We hope that you find this useful and enjoy discussing the different options that your child would like to experience this year. We look forward to working with our students to develop and grow both as individuals and as a school community through our Discovery Days.

Introduction to Animal Care



The introduction to Animal Care certificate takes place at Staunton Farm. Over the course of six weeks, it covers the care and welfare of a wide range of domestic and farm animals such as guinea pigs, giant rabbits, goats, cows and alpacas, plus some more exotic animals such as bearded dragons.

Students learn how to correctly handle each type of animal safely as well as understand how to look after their environment practically.

They are introduced to each animal and are taught how to ensure that its dietary requirements are met, how each animal requires different types of food and that they all have potentially different health problems, which the students are taught to look out for in the animals each week.

Students will go to Staunton farm for the whole day on Friday, spending time in the country park as well as at the farm for six weeks.

Sports Leaders



The National Sports Leaders programme enables young people to learn and demonstrate important life skills such as effective communication and organisation whilst learning to lead basic physical activities to younger people, their peers, older generations and within the community.

Students from all year groups are welcome to participate in the Sports Leaders Discovery Day activity where they will learn how to plan and lead a range of sporting activities for others. Students will participate in a number of challenges which are designed to enable them to develop the confidence and leadership skills required to lead sporting activities effectively and safely. This will include student leadership at key Undershaw events such as sports day and fundraisers plus the potential for development of skills in the community.

Students in year 8 upwards can work towards the accredited level 1 Sports Leaders award over the year and then progress to level 2 if they wish to continue to develop their sports leadership skills as they move through the school.

Arts Award



The nationally recognised Arts Award inspires young people to grow their arts and leadership talents: it's creative, valuable and accessible. This is led by Stephanie; students can choose to work in performing or creative arts, or a combination of both.

To achieve an Arts Award, students will need to participate in at least 2 different art disciplines; drama, dance and art are on offer but students can also choose other creative arts such as singing and creative writing. Students will explore different artists and arts organisations and arts events and share their arts skills with others. All students will work towards a spring production integrating work across the different art forms – eg acting or dancing or singing and/or producing set/props and some students will also go on to perform at the Sundial Festival. The work is reflective and students will work on portfolios and journals to show their arts journey.

Students who started the Arts Award programme during the year 22-23 are due to complete their first level award and will need to continue until they have completed all of the components of the Award. Students may then continue to the next level Arts Award. We particularly welcome students who are interested in creating and performing drama and/or dance. We look forward to seeing all of our students performing arts skills grow following the phenomenal success of Macbeth and Matilda performed at Sundial!



The John Muir Award

The John Muir Award encourages people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places.

This environmental award scheme is inclusive, accessible and non-competitive. The Award encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment through a structured yet adaptable scheme, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration.

During Discovery Days, students working towards the John Muir award enjoy the beautiful natural environments of in our own forest school and the local National Trust area at the Punchbowl.

Rotakids and Rotary Interact



RotaKids, for ages 7-11, is a great opportunity for children to come up with ideas to help others and see them become a reality.

Examples of RotaKids activities include:

- Filling shoeboxes with toys for underprivileged children around the world as part of the Rotary Shoebox Scheme
- Raising money for charities in your area
- Supporting the environment by setting a nature project in the school playground or local community
- Collecting books for children in countries around the world.

'Interact' offers an introduction for young people aged 12-18 to discover the power of volunteering and social action. Members of the Interact club will carry out two projects each year, one which benefits our local community and one which is international and can make a difference to people globally. This is a fantastic opportunity for the students of Undershaw to make a positive difference in our world.

Both of these clubs are supported by the local Rotary club and run by our head of Employability and Life Skills, Leilah.

Green Flag Award and Eco-Schools committee



For this Discovery Day activity, students will be planning and leading the changes and developments that are required in school to achieve Green Flag Eco-School status at Undershaw this year.

Each week, students will spend time looking, and working through and towards the Eco Schools Green Flag criteria which 'empowers and motivates pupils to drive change and improve environmental awareness in their school, local community and beyond'.

Students will also spend time outside in nature and working towards the Woodland Trust's 'Green Trees School' award which encourages outdoor learning and inspires pupils about trees, woods and wildlife. This is a brilliant opportunity for our students who love to spend time outdoors in nature to work towards these awards and bring positive change to Undershaw as we become a certified Eco-School.

Students will need to come prepared for being outside for part of the session and will need to dress accordingly.

Student journalism and the 'Undershaw news'

Student voice is powerful at Undershaw and the launch of our school newspaper which is entirely planned, written, edited and published by our students is a fantastic opportunity for students with a wide range of skills to share our news!

Using inspiration and support from First News, students will work as a team to plan, write, edit, produce and distribute the Undershaw school newspaper, as well as being involved in working with the press when they report on our events and writing for Disability Rights UK.

Students will have the opportunity to work on the paper in a range of the different roles that journalism entails, developing as a team as well as independently.

Duke of Edinburgh Award (Year 9 upwards)

Students can opt to begin the Duke of Edinburgh's award programme on Discovery Days in Year 9.

This nationally recognised programme of awards runs at three levels. Students start at Bronze and can progress through Silver and Gold as they complete each level.

There are four sections to complete at Bronze and Silver level and five at Gold. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition and, for Gold only, working with a team on a residential activity.

Students completing the DoE will need to commit to attending the sessions on every Discovery Day throughout the year so that they can work towards completing all of the required sections for the award. Expeditions will take place in the summer term.

Undershaw Enterprise: Print Shop

The 'Undershaw Print Shop' is a place where students can learn first-hand what it is like to run a business. This is an excellent first introduction to work experience, where students can develop a wide range of skills. This is a social enterprise (set up to teach employability/work skills), where profits (money made) will be put back into the business.

The key to success will be using your essential skills:

- Teamwork and Leadership
- Aiming High and Problem Solving
- Creativity and Communication
- Staying Positive

Students will be researching, planning, designing and printing a range of bespoke items in the print shop using the industry standard equipment, including....

There are many different roles within the Undershaw Print Shop, and you will learn about each of them including, Head of Packaging& Distribution, Head of Printing, Head of Stock Management, Head of Design & Print Shop Manager.

This is currently available for 3 students per term under the guidance and supervision of Sharon our Transition Coach and 'Print Shop Expert!'

Undershaw 

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