

Sept
2024



Welcome to the exciting world of the Undershaw Curriculum!

We are exceptionally proud of the forward-thinking curriculum that we offer our students from Key Stage 2 through to Post 16 at Undershaw.

From thematic and Project-Based Learning (PBL) to a wide range of exciting Level 2 qualifications and opportunities, we know that it is our high quality curriculum coupled with our innovative teaching that ensures our students thrive and achieve fantastic outcomes.

Students at Undershaw engage in a wide range of learning activities both in and beyond the classroom, developing essential life-skills as well as a love of learning.

Undershaw 

Curriculum Pulse



I hope you enjoy reading about the exciting learning that we will be doing this term at Undershaw and the ways in which the Skills Builder framework is woven throughout the curriculum at every key stage.

I look forward to sharing the Thematic and Project Based Learning work with you at the end of term.

You can read in more detail what your child will learn in every subject here:

[Undershaw Curriculum](#)

Vic Walker
Deputy Headteacher
(Academic)



KS2



Chocolate

KS2 are going on a delicious adventure into the world of chocolate!

We will be reading *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* in our Guided Reading sessions and will have the opportunity to visit a real chocolate factory.

- In English, we will be writing about some of the characters from the story and designing our own wild and wacky sweets. We will also be writing chocolate poetry and instructions on how to bake the perfect chocolate cake – yum!
- In Humanities, we will learn about the history and origins of the cocoa bean, how it is farmed and then made into chocolate.
- In Science, we will discover the melting points of different chocolates, decide if it's possible to live on chocolate alone and then learn about what we need for a healthy diet.





Y7 &
Y8



Year 8 students are undertaking their first PBL topic of the year 'Why is Waverley Abbey in Ruins?' This started with a trip to the ruins to explore the history of the site, take photos and investigate the story of the building.

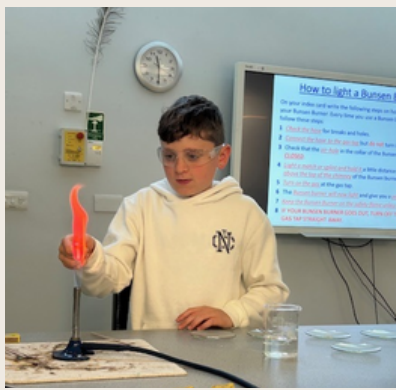


Year 7 PBL:

'What would an Undershaw cabinet of curiosities look like?'

This half term, year 7s are transitioning into Undershaw and we have dedicated their learning in all lessons to get to know individuals and supporting everyone to settle into Undershaw.

Year 8 are exploring gothic environments in English, reasoning in maths and acids and alkalis in science.
















Yr9



In English, year 9 students will be exploring the theme of Crime and Punishment. In maths, the topic is reasoning with algebra, and atoms is the topic in science.

Year 9 students are learning about networks with some hands-on learning in computing, group performance skills in music, script writing in drama and still life in art.





Enrichments and Homework



Homework

We have a bespoke homework system which meets the needs of our individual students. Students can opt to complete compulsory homework or choose not to some or all of the homework set. Many of our students choose to complete some homework through key stage 2 and 3, increasing this in key stage 4 (year 10) when the courses which lead to qualifications begin.

Links to homework timetables for all classes can be found here: [Homework Timetables](#)

From year 7 upwards, students at Undershaw are set homework using Assignments on MS Teams. This means there is clear communication between school and home about what has been set, parents are able to view the homework with their child, and communicate with teachers about the tasks easily. We teach all students how to access their accounts and view homework and we will always help families to feel confident to do this. Teams is accessible on all online devices including laptops, tablets, phones and gaming consoles. For support to access Assignments at home, [please see our help sheet](#) or contact your child's form tutor who will support.

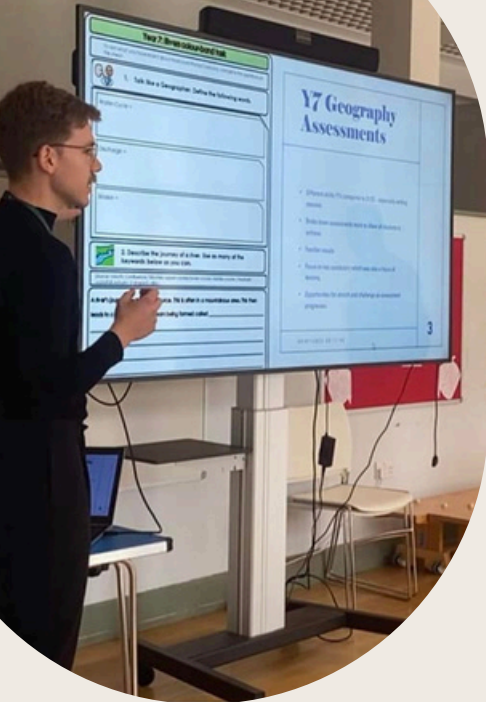
Enrichments

Enrichment Clubs take place at lunchtimes. Clubs often include activities such as baking, IT and programming, creative writing, music, art and drama, among others. The options change regularly to ensure each student is able to find their passion, have fun and try something different.

Our Discovery Days operate every Friday and give students the opportunity to try something new, to further explore an area of study that interests them, and generally find and fuel their passion for learning and discovery, wherever that passion may lie.

The enrichment timetable and Discovery Day activities can be found here: [Enrichment](#)





The Undershaw Way



As well as sharing our curriculum, we are also keen to share with parents the ongoing work we do as a teaching team to continuously improve our SEND teaching expertise.

Last year we focused on strategies to support our students with cognition, processing and retrieval, and it was fantastic to bring together the best of our practice at our TeachMeet in June.

This year, we have started to bring together our strategies to ensure a consistent approach to lessons at Undershaw as the foundation upon which we build the adapted provision and resources to meet the needs of students.

The 'Undershaw Way' is a consistent approach to lessons in all subjects and year groups. In every lesson, teachers will:

- Ensure that there is always a focus on the positive, building trusting relationships and encouraging a growth mindset,
- Use modelling consistently to show students what learning outcomes look like
- Share the structure of the lesson and learning i.e. using task management boards or a written structure for the lesson which is visible for all students.



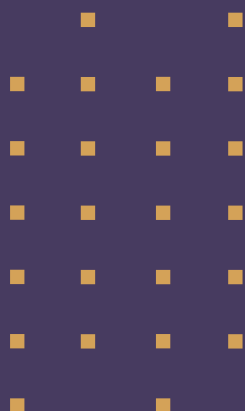
Throughout the year, we will continue to work in professional learning communities to research and implement best practice, sharing our work amongst ourselves and with other excellent centres for SEND education. We are keen to share this work with parents and encourage you to get in touch if you would like more information about our teaching and learning practices.





We hope you've enjoyed this update...

For information about the topics being covered in Key Stage 4 and Post 16 for the GCSE and BTEC qualifications, please see our full curriculum overviews on the school website here: [Curriculum](#)



Undershaw

In association with:



Skills Builder
PARTNERSHIP



MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL
2023 - 2024



We hope you have found this a useful overview of what we are learning this half-term, and we look forward to sharing our learning and outcomes with you. If you have any questions, or wish to discuss your child's curriculum in more detail, please email using this link:

Vic Walker
Deputy Headteacher
(Academic)



Undershaw
Education

