

Nov
24



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



Frozen Kingdom

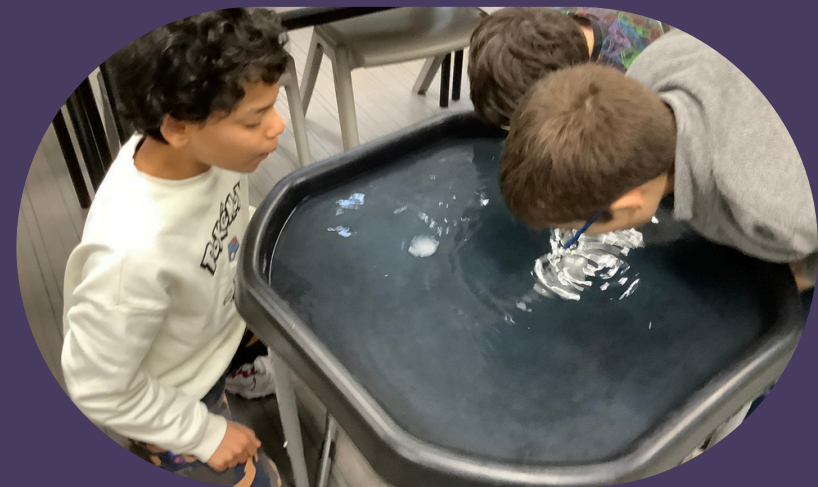
KS2 are exploring the Arctic and North Pole for their topic this half term.

They conducted some experiments with icebergs for their hook day and made observations about the changes caused by temperature. We are looking forward to sharing our work with parents in December.

In English, key stage 2 are reading 'Pugs of the Frozen North'. They are discussing and writing about how the characters in the book are feeling.

Conan and Doyle classes have been looking at the globe and learning about the environment in the arctic as well as finding out about the animals that live there.

In maths, Doyle class are learning about factors multiplication and division.





Y7 &
Y8



Year 8 are reading *Private Peaceful* in English, trying out their reasoning in maths and learning about acids and alkalis in science.

In the humanities subjects, year 8 are investigating why the British went to war with themselves in the 1640s in history, and learning about rivers in geography.

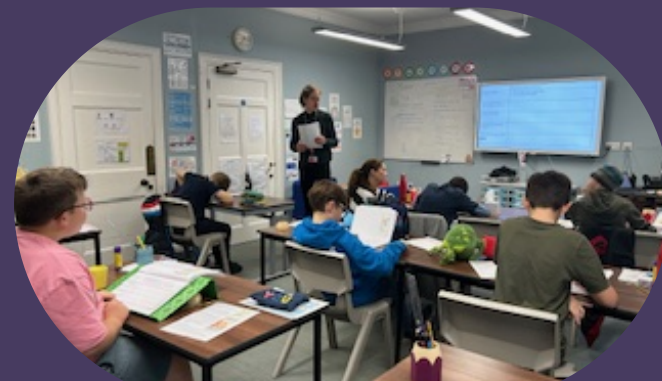
In music, year 8 will be learning about the Classical and Romantic eras and creating original artwork using Indian textiles in art. They will be learning about voice and proxemics in drama and 3D design in computing.



Year 7 PBL:

‘How has migration changed music?’

This half term, year 7s are learning about migration and the impact that migration has on the arts. They will be exploring this topic in their history, music and art lessons, working collaboratively towards a very special piece of work which answers the question!





Yr9

In art this half term, year 9s will have the opportunity to learn some photography skills and learn about the key features of abstract art.



In English, year 9 students will be exploring the classic text *Holes*, and developing their inference and deduction skills. They will also be developing their writing skills through letter writing in character.

In maths, the topic is constructing in 2 and 3 dimensions, using manipulatives to support with concrete to abstract learning, and forces and waves is the key learning in science.

In history, year 9s are broadening their understanding of the Western Front through a study of forgotten soldiers. In geography they will be learning about population.



Enrichments and Homework



Enrichments

Enrichment Clubs take place at lunchtimes and after school on Monday and Tuesday. Clubs include activities such as forest school, sport, board games, IT and programming, creative writing, music, art and drama. 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](#)

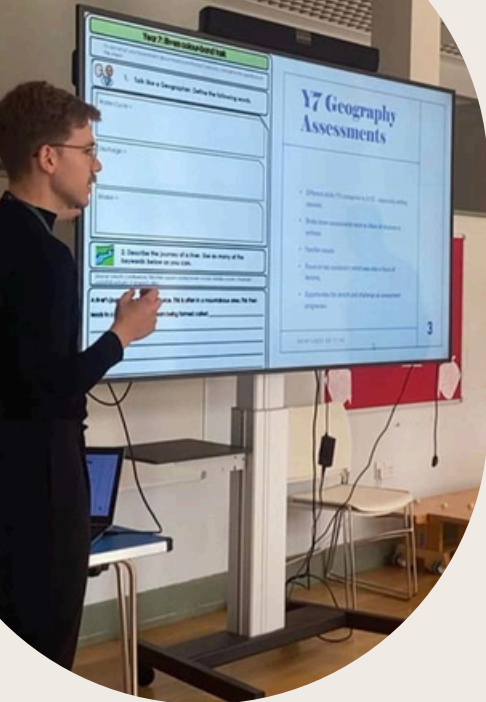


Homework

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 do 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, and 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.





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.

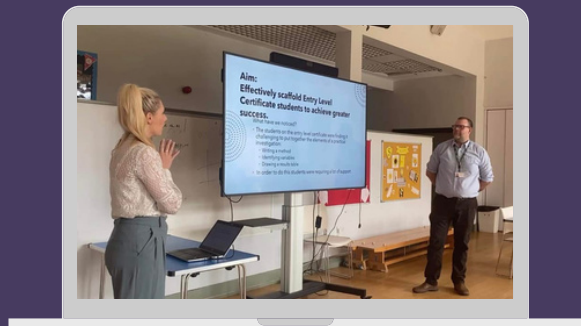
Over the last couple of years we focused on strategies to support our students with cognition, processing and retrieval, and it was fantastic to bring together the best of our practice at our TeachMeet in June.

We have brought 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.



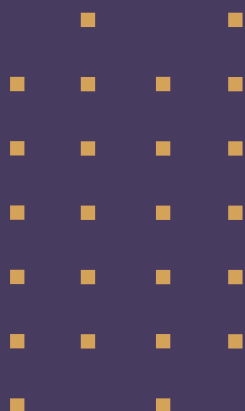
Throughout the year, we work in professional learning communities to research and implement best practice, sharing our work amongst ourselves and with other centres for SEND education. We are keen to share this work with parents and encourage you to get in touch if you would like more information about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



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

