

CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT

Termly news from The Director of Education

FEATURES

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by Vic Walker

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‘Exploring possibilities, broadening experiences, building capabilities, and embracing the joy of learning’.

VIC WALKER

The highly influential educationalist Tom Sherrington famously uses the analogy of a ‘Learning Rainforest’ to describe the conditions in which the students at a school thrive.

We are fortunate at Undershaw to be in the unique position of being a school that can truly tailor the curriculum to meet the needs of all students.

We can do this through the core Taught Curriculum, an expanding Enrichment Curriculum, Immersive Therapies and, underneath it all, a Life-Skills and Employability Curriculum, which provides the ‘roots’ upon which the students grow and flourish.



Pens, Paintbrushes and Puddles...

...it's all in the Curriculum pot!

Our unique curriculum is both broad and bespoke; students develop a love of learning through their study of foundation subjects, complemented by a range of arts specialisms, and the fantastic experience of our forest school.

We believe it is our responsibility and privilege to provide a broad and balanced education which encourages depth of discovery, love of learning, and a wealth of opportunities for students to explore every corner of the curriculum. This provides a dynamic and immersive experience for everyone, staff and students alike.

Through our curriculum offer, every student at the school, regardless of need, will leave Undershaw with the confidence, self-belief and qualifications that will enable them to move on to the next steps in their own journey. We are truly growing our own 'learning rainforest' at Undershaw; establishing the best conditions for learning, developing knowledge and skills, and exploring the possibilities that the world has to offer our young people.

'We are truly growing our own Learning Rainforest at Undershaw.'

Vic Walker

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



[Key Stage 2 Curriculum Plan](#)

[Key Stage 3 Curriculum Plan](#)

[Key Stage 4 Curriculum Plan \(Core\)](#)

[Key Stage 4 Curriculum Plan \(Options\)](#)



Undershaw's visionary Discovery Days earn students a certified Diploma

Discovery Days and The Undershaw Diploma

Students explore possibilities through the Discovery Day enrichment programme which takes place every Friday.



A range of activities is offered for students to choose from each half term to develop their interests and find their own joy in learning.



The knowledge, understanding and application reaped from the Discovery Days over the course of the academic year now forms a recognised qualification.



Students will be awarded a certified Diploma on completion of their Discovery Day activities in the Summer Term.



Whichever activities the students choose, they develop their key life-skills such as teamwork, listening, speaking and problem-solving, working alongside students from other age groups to find their own talents and passions.



JOHN MUIR AWARD

wild places:
DISCOVER
EXPLORE
CONSERVE
SHARE

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

The Award is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places.

It is inclusive, accessible and non-competitive, though should challenge each participant.

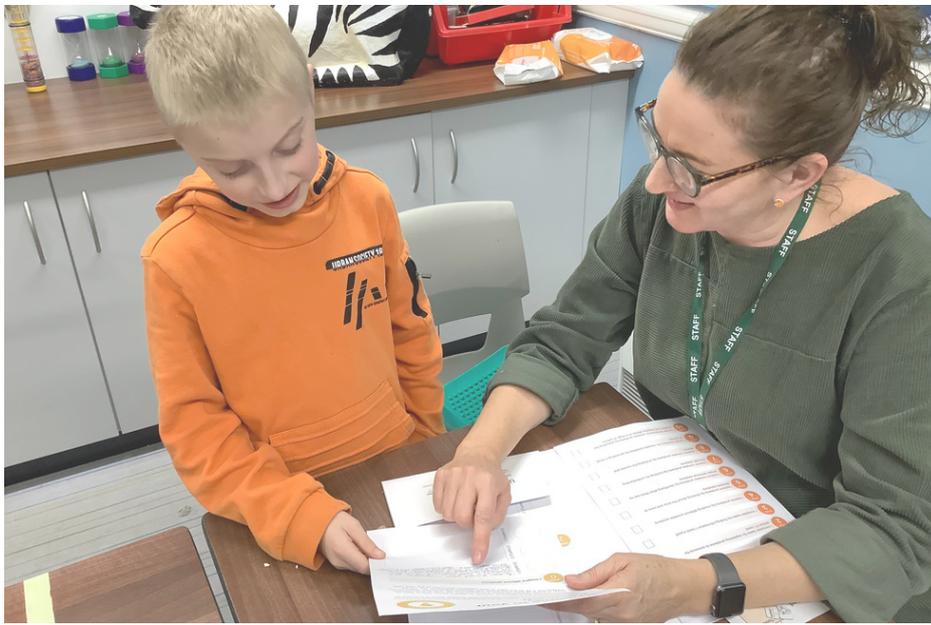
The Award encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment through a structured yet adaptable scheme, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration.

To read more about Undershaw's Forest School provision and how it enriches our Curriculum, please [click here](#).

To read more about John Muir, The John Muir Trust, and the Award please [click here](#).

The John Muir Trust is a community focused conservation charity dedicated to the experience, protection and repair of wild places across the UK.





Skills Builder
Silver Award
2021 - 24

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS FOR LIFE



We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the Silver Quality Mark by the Skills Builder Partnership for excellence in the teaching of essential skills.

At Undershaw, students follow a core curriculum through key stages 2 and 3, which prepares them for GCSE and BTEC courses in key stage 4 and Post 16.

We prepare our students to sit the qualifications that they need to achieve to progress to further and higher education, apprenticeships and employment, ensuring that all students access and complete qualifications at the level that is appropriate to the individual person.

The qualification pathways are designed to ensure that every student experiences success and may include GCSE, Entry Level Certificate and BTEC qualifications.

These qualification pathways offer the opportunity for our students to achieve success and be best prepared for the future that they aspire to.



To read more and view the Curriculum Plans for each year group, please visit the [Curriculum page](#) of our website.





The ability to listen and understand information



The oral transmission of information or ideas



The use of imagination and the generation of new ideas



The ability to find a solution to a complex situation or challenge



The Skills Builder Partnership aims to “focus on building essential skills to enable lifelong success.”

This award-winning not-for-profit organisation brings together schools and a wide-range of organisations and employers to promote the teaching and development of eight universal skills.

These skills, along with their academic knowledge and understanding, help to prepare our young people for their life beyond education and to be ready to make the most of the opportunities which life offers them.

Teaching at Undershaw incorporates age-appropriate activities to help all young people develop these universal skills.

Each week our young people are given time to reflect and focus on their own progression.

Activities are integrated across the curriculum but especially into our Project Based Learning, Discovery Day and Forest School activities.



To ability to set clear, tangible goals and devise a robust route for achieving them



Working cooperatively with others towards achieving a shared goal



Supporting, encouraging and motivating others to achieve a shared goal



The ability to use tactics to overcome setbacks and achieve goals

