



EMPLOYABILITY SPOTLIGHT

FEATURES

Introduction
by Leilah Sheridan

How the skills translate
through our Speech and
Language

Student Leadership at
Undershaw

Snapshot:
Skills at work in the Art
Room

What Next?



It's all about skills...

Skills are all around us. They are the basis of our character, our understanding of others and our ability to work with a team. They are vital for our success, not only in school, but also in the wider world of work and as independent adults.



At Undershaw we (quite rightly) place as much emphasis on our skills curriculum as we do on our academic curriculum. They are equally important in life, and we need to reflect that focus in school.

The Skills Builder Framework helps us with our dialogue with students; it creates a language that we all understand and breaks down any barriers that might exist. Our challenge as educators is to translate the skills language into a practical and accessible learning journey that makes sense to our students; to allow them to take as much ownership for their attainment as possible, and to feel good about their accomplishments in whatever shape and size those accomplishments may come.



I hope that through this Spotlight we can show you a small proportion of the work we do with the students each day. The applications are endless and I'd invite all of you to open up these conversations with your children; to actively seek out opportunities within your lives at home to embed some skills-based behaviours.

Have fun with it... we're all learning!

Leilah



We're all friends here...



Vic Walker
Deputy Headteacher
(Academic)



Our skills builder curriculum is one of the pillars of our offer that positions Undershaw as the flagship standard in skills education; our students' successes in academic studies are firmly underpinned by a robust framework.

The opportunity to teach and embrace the 8 Skills Builder skills for employment and independence ensures that every one of our students is supported to fulfil their potential and to become fully socially and economically engaged in their future. Our Employability curriculum is truly as important as the academic curriculum. The 8 skills are constantly visible in all that we do, both in lessons, and all other activities and opportunities in which the school community participates.

Collaboration is vital to the successful development of all the skills and at Undershaw, we take many opportunities to work across the disciplines and the age groups to share best practice and to join all our students on their journeys to develop their skills for life.

Undershaw

Eliminating the impossible



Key Stage 2



Key Stage 4



Post 16



Further Education



Employment



In all lessons at Undershaw, the 8 skills of the skills builder are explored and build upon. Students and teachers take every opportunity to practice, hone and develop their skills, working towards the Undershaw Diploma.

As a flagship school we are now using our expertise to provide outreach and supporting mainstream, SEND and employment providers to access and implement this valuable skills framework.



Did You Know?

At Undershaw, we work towards achieving the Undershaw Diploma.

Skills Builder is a set of 8 #essentialskills that employers and colleges are looking for* when attracting talented young people to join their college or business.

(*we haven't made them up).




Undershaw
Eliminating the impossible

Name: _____



The Undershaw
Diploma
2023 - 2024

 Skills Builder
PARTNERSHIP



How will I work towards the Undershaw Diploma?

Through the year, you will have lots of opportunities to practice all these skills and work towards achieving the Bronze, Silver or Gold Undershaw Diploma.

You will have support and help to identify all the skills that you have used from all your teachers, your form teacher and pastoral TA, and the leaders of the Discovery Day activities.

Your form group staff will keep track of your progress for you and let us know when you have completed the stages for each certificate.

Vic and Leilah



It's all in the understanding



#SpeechAndLanguage

Why do we use Skills Builder?

A word from the SaLTs



Skills Builder helps us to practice and learn important skills. It helps us to recognise our own skills and strengths. This is important because when we want to get a job one day, we will need to talk about all our skills and strengths. This might be in an interview or in a job application.



*Hannah, Hilary
and Abi*

It can be difficult to recognise our own strengths and skills and it can sometimes feel uncomfortable to talk about everything we are good at. That is why we start learning to recognise them as early as possible. The Skills Builder folder reminds us of all the moments where we have achieved things, no matter how small. At the end of our time at Undershaw, we will have a big folder with evidence of all our achievements using these skills. We can then use these to help us when we apply for college or apply to jobs.



Important for all jobs – for following instructions, listening to others in the team, gathering ideas and knowledge.



This is to do with communicating our ideas and is useful in all jobs and when we're studying.



We will always come up against challenges at work and college and need to build resilience to overcome them. We need resilience and belief to achieve our goals in life.



Most jobs involve problem solving. This doesn't have to be a problem like a maths equation, but thinking of ways to make something better, or working more effectively with someone.



At work and college/university we will always need to set goals for ourselves. It can be something small like handing in your coursework on time or something bigger like I want to be a lawyer.



This is about coming up with new ideas and different. It's not necessarily to do with drawing and art. At work, we need people who think differently as that's what helps us to make progress.



This is about supporting and encouraging others so you can achieve things as a team. This isn't about being bossy and telling people what to do. Even if you don't want to be a leader like the head of a company or captain of the team, you will still need leadership skills such as supporting others and staying positive.



All jobs and qualifications involve teamwork. This might be working on a big project together or just having group discussions. Sometimes working with others might feel difficult because it involves all the other Skills Builder skills.

'We work towards our Undershaw Diploma because it gives us more choices and opportunities in the future.' - Undershaw SaLTs



James Lindsay
Head of Pastoral

Student Leadership*

(*it's so much than one skill!)



This term we have been excited to launch a team of Student Leaders across every department in the school. Student leadership and student voice is key to making Undershaw the best it can be and in empowering our students to use all their skill builder skills to become dynamic leaders now and in the future.

Each department leader put together a job description for the Student Leadership roles, breaking down what each leader would do under the Skills Builder framework. We were delighted that 45 students (nearly half the school) applied to be student leaders. The Heads of each department loved going through all the application forms and in some cases interviewed students to identify the very best student leaders for each department. Each student leader was then emailed to be informed if they had been successful.

Personal Attributes:

You love your chosen subject and are already involved in the department through clubs.

You are positive and want to help to make Undershaw the best it can be.

You are kind, respectful and resilient.

You demonstrate the skills-builder skills in what you do.



Skills:

Listen to your class and the teacher.

Speak to your classmates to share instructions. Speak to your teacher to share your classes ideas.

Help problem-solve when issues arise or things are damaged.

Be Creative. Help plan events and exciting lessons. Be imaginative and think of new ideas.

Stay positive and help to find solutions to issues in the department.

Aim High- and help to make your chosen subject the best it can be.

Lead others by being a role model in lessons, clubs and around the school.

Be a Team player. Support your fellow student leaders, your classmates and your teachers.

"WOW! thank you So much for this... I'll try as well behaved and generally good as i can! well... I always am, heh! But in all seriousness; thank you!"
- L in Year 9

"Thank you so much! I am very excited to take on this role in the school and make the art department the best it can be!"
- D in Year 9



Since appointment, each student leader has met with their Head of Department and been given a lanyard for their chosen department and an overview of how they will help their chosen department. It has been wonderful to see students wear their lanyards with pride across the school. We are very proud of all of them and cannot wait to see how the Student Leaders, together with the Student Council, drive the school forwards.

James Lindsay
Head of Pastoral

SKILLS MAGIC IN THE CLASSROOM

CHLOE'S CLASS | TUESDAY 25TH JAN

HENRY MOORE SCULPTOR

PAGE 03

BEFORE WE START, MAKE SURE TO PREPARE THESE:

- Cardboard
- Tissue Paper
- PVA Glue
- Masking tape

PAGE 04

TUESDAY 25TH JAN

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To learn how to manipulate materials in order to create a Henry Moore-inspired sculpture

PAGE 05

WHICH SKILLS ARE WE FOCUSING ON?

CREATIVITY
STEP 3
I generate ideas when given a clear brief.

PROBLEM SOLVING
STEP 3
I complete tasks by finding information I need myself.

PAGE 06

TASK MANAGEMENT BOARD

STAGE 1	STAGE 2	STAGE 3	STAGE 4
Select a cardboard base for your sculpture	Make sure your sculpture is fully taped and secured to your cardboard base.	Paper mache your sculpture in white paper using PVA glue and water mix.	Add small amounts of gold or silver paint to the rough surface of your sculpture.

REMEMBER...

you can ask me (or a peer) for help if you get stuck

HAPPY SCULPTING!

Chloe



1

Topic

2

Preparation

3

Learning Objectives

4

Skills Focus

5

Task Management

6

The magic begins...



Undershaw



Department for Education



Leilah Sheridan
Head of Employability
and Life Skills



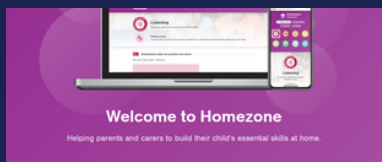
Our work with the Skills Builder Partnership, from the youngest student to those graduating from Post 16, is all done with the future in mind.

Everything we do is couched in the knowledge that our young people will take their place in the world better equipped to deal with the demands of independent life and diverse and inclusive workplaces.

Our partnerships place us at the centre of a network of like-minded charities and organisations whose sole purpose it is to change the landscape into which our young people step.

At Undershaw we put as many mechanisms in place to support our personal growth and development. If you would like to be more involved at home, please have a look at the Skills Builder website and practice some of the exercises within the 'HomeZone' section.

My skills are developing every day and we are all a work in progress. The students get so much from watching us all learning together. You can find the link below and there is a section in our weekly letter each Friday, so have fun learning and supporting at home.



[Go to HomeZone](#) 🔍

Leilah

