

Character Education at Park House School

At Park House School we believe there is a strong link between character and attainment. We believe that anything is achievable when you work hard, be kind and take responsibility. The aim of Character Education at Park House School is to develop a student who is confident, compassionate and is an effective contributor to society, a successful learner and a responsible citizen. A focus on the development of a student's character can help develop a student's self-esteem, understanding and respect for others, an awareness of wider spiritual and cultural issues and the fulfilment of their potential. At Park House School we have a role to ensure we develop our students holistically to ensure they are ready for the next step and become well rounded individuals. Character Education is seen all around the school, including (but not limited to); displays, lessons, assemblies and ethos. We strongly believe the role we have as staff members here at Park House encourages positive feelings of self-worth and we play a significant part in 'shaping' our students' future through developing their character. Through Character education we are increasing their chances of success in life.

Goals:

When each student graduates from Park House School they are prepared for adulthood. At school our students will become responsible for themselves, for each other, for their community and for the world they live in. We aim for our students to enter the next stage of lives being able to:

- Make the most of opportunities
- Have the ability to be independent and use their initiative
- Make reasoned, informed and ethical choices
- Understand right and wrong
- Be reflective, flexible and creative
- Have high self-esteem
- Take responsibility for their actions
- Develop a sense of belonging
- Have a voice and influence others
- Be good parent's / role models for future generations
- Value diverse lifestyles, cultures and faiths
- Care for the environment
- Contribute to a multi skilled and flexible workforce

We also wish for our students to develop a set of character traits, attributes and behaviours that underpin success in their education and work. Our 3 core values are:

- Work Hard
- Be Kind
- Be Responsible

They will belong to a 'house' and regularly take part in house competitions as well as build strong rapport with other students in their year and across the Academy. Our house system is built around former Park House students that have gone on to be successful international athletes, through displaying our core values.

- **Jonathan Joseph** – English professional rugby union player who plays centre for Premiership Rugby club Bath Rugby
- **Toby Albert** – professional cricketer playing for Hampshire

- **Annabel Chaffey** – GB bobsleigh athlete
- **Tom Croft** – former England and Leicester Tigers flanker

Our behaviour system is used to embed the school's values and reward students for displaying positive behaviours and attitudes. For students that go above and beyond to display the values during the school day, will be rewarded with a physical house point token that contributes to the House Competitions (further reward are shown below).

Our character values run throughout the whole school experience and we systematically ensure it is embedded across all areas. Some examples of these are:

- Lessons
- Assemblies
- Guest talks
- Enrichment
- Staff
- Parents / Carers

How does Character Education support teaching and learning and the award system

Throughout every student's journey at Park House school, we aim to embed character and the core values. We encourage our students to develop skills that are necessary in every lesson in school. As a student develops from year 7 we believe that we are giving them the right tools to not only succeed in life but when it comes to examinations in year 11 they will feel 'ready'. A student must have the emotional resilience that character education develops to ensure that they succeed and are ready for their next steps.

Students who make significant contributions to the school can be awarded with Junior, Half or Full Colours. Students must be nominated for their contribution to one of four areas:

- **Academic** - for exceptional achievement in lessons
- **Culture** - for exceptional contributions to art, music, drama or other cultural areas
- **Sport** - for exceptional contributions to the school's sports teams
- **Values** - for being an exceptional role model and embodying the school's values

Students can be nominated by staff, and all applications are reviewed by the Colours Committee.

Monitoring and evaluation

The delivery and impact of character education is a continuous and ongoing improvement process. There is no one specific way in which to measure the impact but we triangulate a variety of different processes /methods including:

- Achieving colours
- Student feedback
- Parent / Carer feedback
- Staff feedback
- Behaviour improvements
- Attendance improvements
- Student work / displays
- School evaluation tool