



FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL

Character Education Newsletter November 2020



Character Education this year has seen some changes and a creative way of working. Our students have been very proactive in taking part in a variety of events to help them secure badges and certificates which develop their character and skills across the school's five values of Ambition, Confidence, Creativity, Respect and Determination. Tutors are now signing off booklets so that we stay safely in our bubble groups, this term we are giving the badges free when the certificates are given to students. We would like each student to purchase a Character Education portfolio so that in tutor time we can store certificates and then present the portfolio back to students at the end of Year 11. The cost of the portfolio is £3.50 and is available through ParentPay.

Character Education is a key part of what makes Five Acres High School what it is, and despite the challenges we have faced this year this has not changed. We've kickstarted the year with the Year 7 outdoor activity trip and are now giving KS3 students the opportunity to start their own businesses and raise some money for charity through Enterprise club each Thursday.



Imogen W and Darcey P



Reece W and McKenzie R

In this newsletter we would like to introduce you to the Student Leadership Team 2020:

Thomas Y and Freya J (Year 11) are joint ambassadors for the value of Ambition. They have started the year well by offering our students the chance to #BeMoreFive. Students from Years 7-9 have been given the opportunity to make a business plan, be given a £10 investment and then begin to create their businesses with the goal of raising as much money for charity as possible - and also gaining their Enterprise badges along the way. We currently have 6 businesses including bath bomb making and a Christmas gift emporium, the photos show two of the year 7 business entrepreneurs being given their £10 investment after completing detailed business plans.

Years 10 and 11 have also been visiting career advisors to develop and embed their ambitions for their future careers and to plan the next stages of their learning journey.

Issie H (Year 10) is student lead for Confidence. At Five Acres we are offering debating societies so that students can improve their oracy skills. We also have a variety of leadership posts that students can become involved with from the Student Leadership team in KS4 to being a librarian or a school shop leader.

A big 'well done' to our Confident Year 7 students who have recently attended a visit to the Adventure Centre in Viney Hill. Students took part in a variety of different activities to test their #BeMoreFive values including mountain biking, crate stacking and orienteering. We are looking forward to running more trips and visits in the future. Mr Meldrum has also launched the Adventure badge gold to students who are eligible to take part in this year's Duke of Edinburgh Award. We look forward to sharing more information with you about this.



Ellie W (Year 10) is the ambassador for Creativity. In the creativity value there are multiple opportunities and events taking place across the school. For example, for Year 9-10 there is a drama club once a week after school to go further with the performing arts as an extracurricular activity. Students can get badges signed off for creativity if they have taken part in the yearly school production or performed their talent with the music team or attended

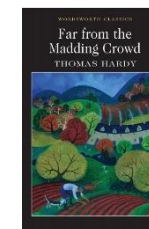


trips to museums or galleries where they have admired people's work and been inspired.

Karis B and Connor D are the joint ambassadors for Respect. This term we have asked our students to volunteer as leaders to run the school stationery shop in each food area of the school during lunch, this allows students to hone their skills of oracy and respect and it builds their confidence, allowing students in each year group to become leaders. By taking part in this they can earn their service badges for respect as they are volunteering to help others. Some students have also started to think of ways to raise £100 for a charity silver or raise £1000 or more to earn their gold service award. We will share more of our fundraising ideas in the future.

Natalie A is our student lead for Determination. As a Year 11 student she, along with many others, have shown determination by attending Period 6 lessons, Champions Hours and early morning wake-up classes in order to gain high successes in their GCSE examinations.

Reading plays a central role in developing character and we have worked with Greenshaw Literacy leaders to develop a reading Canon of 100 books that everyone should read during their lifetime, they include classic novels like *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens and more contemporary authors like Judy Blume. We also have a wide variety of genres including poetry, thrillers and autobiographies all available in the school library for students to borrow. Students who read 5 books from the Canon and 5 library books can gain their bronze Determination badge for literacy. We also offer a canon book of the month to inspire students to take up this reading challenge, KS4 have been encouraged to read *Far From The Madding Crowd*, a classic by Thomas Hardy who is master of poetic description, capturing the beauty and simplicity of a pastoral and rural England long before industrialisation. KS3 have been challenge to show their determination by reading *Welcome To Nowhere* by Elizabeth Laird, which is a powerful and beautifully written story about the life of one family caught up in civil war.



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Sports and competitions are also a huge part of the drive to encourage students to #BeMoreFive. Year 7-10 students have been able to take part in school sports academies, including netball and football on different evenings after school.