

Outdoor Learning



Intent

At the William Henry Smith School & Sixth Form, we promote the benefits of learning in the outdoors for our students. We promote physical development and competence to enable our students to participate in worthwhile outdoor activities both at school and throughout life. We promote an understanding of the benefits of exercise and its contribution to a healthy lifestyle. We build self-esteem and positive attitudes towards success, areas for growth and safety in outdoor education. We develop the qualities of perseverance, commitment, self-discipline and control, integrity, and fairness. We adopt a 'Challenge by Choice' mentality within Outdoor learning as students progress through the school. Using the outdoor environment, children are encouraged and inspired to grow in confidence, independence and self-esteem through the mastery of small achievable tasks.

Implementation

Students participate in weekly outdoor education lessons and opportunities delivered by an outdoor learning specialist. They have the opportunity to make use of the extensive school grounds and the local area. Our students also access more adventurous activities as a part of their scheme of learning. We help our students learn a range of outdoor activities which provide transferrable skills such as resilience, personal and social skills, organisation, time keeping, teamwork and safety. These activities help students work together to develop a strong sense of responsibility and confidence. All activities can be linked to any part of the curriculum. Our students also have the opportunity to work their way through the Duke of Edinburgh award, having the chance to go on over night expeditions.

Impact

Our students will develop life skills, creativity, and resilience, as well as the ability to work as a team. Students are encouraged to challenge themselves by taking part in a wide range of activities which fosters confidence and improves wellbeing. All our students have the opportunity to access AQA awards as a part of their curriculum, as well as achieving a Duke of Edinburgh award as they journey into upper school. Students get to experience adventurous activities and explore their interests in the outdoors. Outdoor learning enables our students to flourish and supports their physical and mental wellbeing. Through experiencing the outdoor environment, they learn the importance of boundaries. They work with natural materials using tools appropriately. They are encouraged to look after the outdoor environment. They build on their confidence, independence and self-esteem.