PDA Options Autumn 2026

Malton School

A Specialist Science School

Personal Development Activity Programme

From the Autumn Term of 2016 we added a fifth lesson on Thursdays when school finishes at 4.25pm. This extra hour, which is a key part of the school curriculum, helps us offer the widest possible educational experience to you by focussing on the acquisition and development of particular skills. The skills and activities themselves have been matched against the 'soft skills' listed by the CBI (Confederation of British Industries) as being the most sought after by employers, and we offer a range of approximately 45-50 different activities e.g. sports, debating, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Cooking, Strategic Games, Gardening, Media Studies, Art, Crafts, Design Technology, MOOCs, Literacy, Debating to name but a few.

You are directed to choose from three different skill areas over the year.

Aims of PDA:

- To extend the range of extra-curricular engagement, broadening their education, knowledge and development of skills.
- To support personal development, character education and building a stronger CV in preparation for adult life.
- To allow time for directed intervention sessions to be planned and delivered at critical times of the year, especially for those in Yr11 and Yr13 – including controlled assessment, literacy and numeracy catch up and pre-exam revision sessions.
- At sixth form level it allows structured sessions to be delivered on UCAS, on Cambridge Pre-U, on EPQ, and on extending the curriculum beyond A Level.

You will choose one activity per term from a diverse range of options. You will work together across year groups or choose an activity that is age-related. Over the course of your time with us, you will therefore build a personal portfolio of additional skills, enhancing your employability in the future. The Personal Development Activity sessions offer a choice – with some of them being Vertical (across all years) offering leadership opportunities for the older students; but others being within a Key Stage or even within a year group and being focused more closely on supporting academic or career progression.

You choose one personal development activity per term (three over the course of each year with the exception of Year 11 and 13 who do study support in the Summer Term). Some activities may run over a longer time frame – for example, Duke of Edinburgh is an option for two terms in Year 10.

All Sports

Anime

Arts Award Gold

Basic Baking

Battlefields Discovery

Book Club

British Sign Language

Casa Del Padel

Community Art

Craft

Crafts around the World

Crochet

Dance

Debating

Deduction Games

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Dungeons and Dragons

ECC Coding

ECC Drawing

ECC Music

ECC Film and Photography

Embroidery

EPQ

Escape Rooms

European Space Agency Astro-Pi Challenge

Further Maths GCSE

Garden Development

Hair & Beauty

Inside the Mind

Introduction to French Cooking

Journalism

Mock Trial

MOOCs

Philosophy in Film

Podcast Development

Reset and Reflect

Running

Set Design

Social Skills through Creativity

Sports Leader Level 3

Strategy Games

Warhammer Scale Modelling

Wellbeing Club

World Explorers Club

All Sports

Option Type: Sport

Year Groups: All

6th form all sports is an opportunity to try different sports and enjoy working with different students in a safe learning environment.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self

Interpersonal Excellence: Leadership Skills, Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Sport and Wellbeing

Possible Careers: Professional athelete, coach/trainer. team manager

Anime

Option Type: Culture

Year Groups: All

Dive into the world of anime and manga! You will discover the origins of Japanese animation and explore the culture that inspired it. You will experiment with different illustration styles, develop your own characters and stories, and create your very own comic book. A fun, creative club for anyone who loves drawing, storytelling, anime and imaginative worlds!

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Communication

Interpersonal Excellence:

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Creative and Design

Possible Careers: Animator, Comic Book Designer, Games Designer

Arts Award Gold

Option Type: Performing Arts

Year Groups: Y12 only

Arts Award Gold is a level 3 qualification awarded by Trinity College London and carries 16 UCAS points. The award is split into 2 units: Unit 1 is all about developing skills and knowledge of the arts industry and Unit 2 is about applying that knowledge to an Arts Leadership project. Students working toward the award will gather a portfolio of evidence as they learn new arts skills, research arts practitioners, engage in arts related work experience and experience live arts performances and exhibits. Students also have the opportunity to plan, develop, create and deliver an arts project to a paying public audience.

Over the course of the award students gain a number of employability skills such as researching, presentation, strategic planning, leadership and project management. The Arts Award Gold not only develops students arts skills but also their overall employment skills making them ready to work in a wide variety of jobs and fields.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self

Interpersonal Excellence: Leadership Skills

Organisational Performance: Managing Projects and Change

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Creative and Design

Possible Careers: Actor, dancer, theatre director, sound and light technician, costume designer

Basic Baking

Option Type: Culture

Year Groups: Y8 Only

Whisk up some fun in our Basic Baking Club! Whether you're a total beginner or just looking to sharpen your skills, this club is the perfect place to learn the sweet basics of baking. We'll cover tasty recipes anyone can master. Join us to mix, bake, and of course—taste your delicious creations. No experience needed, just bring your curiosity.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self

Interpersonal Excellence:

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum...

Industry links: Catering and Hospitality

Possible Careers: Chef, food critic, catererer

Battlefields Discovery

Option Type: Culture

Year Groups: Y10 only

Get ready for an unforgettable journey through the battlefields of France. You will explore the history behind the sites you'll visit, investigate the experiences of soldiers and civilians, and learn how to interpret memorials, trenches, cemeteries and historical sources. You'll develop your research skills and build a deeper understanding of the people and events behind the history.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self

Interpersonal Excellence: Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Environment, Travel and Tourism

Possible Careers: Historical Researcher, Archaeologist, Museum Curator

Book Club

Option Type: Culture

Year Groups: All

Discover new worlds and share your ideas by joining our library-based Book Club, a relaxed and engaging extracurricular for all readers. You'll read and review a range of books, take part in discussions, and help choose exciting new titles for the library shelves. It's a great way to build confidence, develop critical thinking, and connect with others who love reading.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self

Interpersonal Excellence:

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Media and Communications

Possible Careers: Author, Librarian, Editor

British Sign Language

Option Type: Culture

Year Groups: All

Join our British Sign Language (BSL) Club and discover a whole new way to communicate! Learn the basics of fingerspelling, everyday signs, and simple conversations in a fun, supportive setting. We'll practice through games, activities, and real-life scenarios to help you build confidence. Along the way, you'll also gain insight into Deaf culture and the importance of inclusive communication. No experience needed—just bring your hands and an open mind!

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Communication

Interpersonal Excellence: Interpersonal Skills

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Health and Social Care

Possible Careers: Interpreter, Speech and Language Therapist, Social Worker

Casa Del Padel

Option Type: Sport

Year Groups: Y9 only

Get active, learn a new sport and have fun with friends! In this club (held at Casa Del Padel with a small weekly cost), you will learn the basics of padel, develop your racket skills and practise tactics through fun games and challenges. You'll build your confidence, teamwork and communication while enjoying a fast-paced and social sport.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self

Interpersonal Excellence: Leadership Skills, Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Sport and Wellbeing

Possible Careers: Professional athelete, coach/trainer. team manager

Community Art

Option Type: Community

Year Groups: All

Urgently needed those who are creative and artistic to design and produce wall murals for the community. If you have a good flair for art, good painting skills and enjoy working as part of a team this is for you!

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Critical Analysis and Problem solving

Interpersonal Excellence: Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance: Managing Projects and Change

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Creative and Design

Possible Careers: Public art curator, community arts coordinator, art therapy

Craft

Option Type: Creative

Year Groups: All

Craft PDA will enable you to be imaginative and creative. You will complete a number of projects throughout the course. You will use a range of different materials including clay and paint, and develop a range of different skills such as sewing and weaving. Craft PDA allows you to make decisions for yourself and to manage your own projects. Students who take Craft PDA find it fun, enjoyable and a good way to unwind and relax.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Critical Analysis and Problem Solving

Interpersonal Excellence: Leadership Skills

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Creative and Design

Possible Careers: Jewellery designer, textile artist, pottery design

Craft around the World

Option Type: Creative

Year Groups: All

Travel the world through creativity! You will explore traditional crafts, art and making techniques from different cultures, discovering the stories and traditions behind them. You'll have the chance to try a range of hands-on crafts, experiment with new materials and techniques, and create your own unique pieces inspired by cultures from around the globe.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Critical Analysis and Problem solving

Interpersonal Excellence:

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Creative and Design

Possible Careers: Artist, Textile Artist, Museum Curator

Crochet

Option Type: Creative

Year Groups: All

Students aim to develop skills in Crochet. This is a challenging craft where students learn about wool and yarn and how to complete a variety of different Crochet stitches. Students come to crochet with a variety of different skill levels beginner through to advanced and once they have learnt how to cast on and keep the stitch tension I either show them how to complete a granny square or students can bring in their own patterns they have found. I share some simple patterns and stitches with the class via Teams and books that I bring in to help them learn.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self, Critical Analysis and Problem Solving

Interpersonal Excellence: Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Creative and Design

Possible Careers: Designer, artist, business owner

Dance

Option Type: Performing Arts

Year Groups: All

Join our exciting Dance Club and discover the joy of movement, creativity, and self-expression! Whether you're a beginner or experienced dancer, you'll learn new styles, build confidence, and make great friends along the way. Come be part of a fun, energetic community where every step counts!

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Communication

Interpersonal Excellence: Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum...

Industry links: Performing Arts

Possible Careers: Choreographer, professional dancer, dance teacher

Debating

Option Type: Culture

Year Groups: All

Do you ever argue with people? Want to learn how to do it better?

Develop your listening and speaking skills; develop your ability to build, structure and sustain a line of argument; improve your presentational ability; develop skills that will help you in an interview situation; and have fun in the process!

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Communication

Interpersonal Excellence: Interpersonal Skills

Organisational Performance: Business Acumen

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum...

Industry links: Communication

Possible Careers: Lawyer, politician, journalist, public relations specialist

Deduction Games

Option Type: STEM

Year Groups: All

Put your detective skills to the test! You will tackle a variety of mystery, logic and deduction games where you'll need to spot clues, solve puzzles, question evidence and work out what really happened. You'll develop your critical thinking and problem-solving skills while working independently and as part of a team.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Communication

Interpersonal Excellence: Interpersonal Skills

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum...

Industry links: Digital, IT and STEM

Possible Careers: Detective, Forensic Scientist, Lawyer

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

Option Type: Community

Year Groups: Y12 only

DofE is about helping you along the path to a productive and prosperous future. As many of our participants say, it's life-changing.

Achieving an Award will give you skills, confidence and an edge over others when you apply for college, university or a job. Beyond your academic achievements, universities want to see evidence of so called 'soft skills' that you have developed through extra-curricular activities, such as communication, commitment, leadership and teamwork. Your DofE Award is a fantastic way to demonstrate and evidence these skills in practice.You'll also make a difference to other people's lives and your community, be fitter and healthier, make new friends and have memories to last you a lifetime.

Our participants also tell us that doing their DofE gives them character traits like confidence and resilience, that can boost their mental health and wellbeing and help them face and overcome personal challenges.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self

Interpersonal Excellence: Interpersonal Skills, Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum...

Industry links: Environment

Possible Careers: Outdoor education instructor, youth worker, adventure tour guide

Dungeons and Dragons

Option Type: Creative

Year Groups: All

Enter a world of adventure, imagination and storytelling! You will create your own characters, explore fantastical worlds and work together to overcome challenges, solve problems and shape your own stories. Along the way, you'll develop teamwork, communication, creativity and decision-making skills — all while having fun on an epic adventure!

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Critical Analysis and Problem Solving

Interpersonal Excellence: Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Creative and Design

Possible Careers: Game designer, Actor, Writer

ECC Coding

Option Type: STEM

Year Groups: Y7 only

The Year 7 Scratch Coding Club offers students the opportunity to develop their computational thinking and programming skills through the use of Scratch. Participants will follow structured tutorials to learn new coding techniques and then apply these skills to design and create their own interactive programs, games, and animations. This PDA encourages creativity and problem-solving while introducing students to the fundamentals of computer science. By the end of the PDA, students will have gained a strong foundation in coding and the confidence to progress to more advanced programming projects.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Critical Analysis and Problem Solving

Interpersonal Excellence:

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Digital, IT and STEM

Possible Careers: Software Developer, Web Developer, Data Scientist

ECC Drawing

Option Type: Creative

Year Groups: All but the course can only be completed once

ECC Drawing is a digital art course that helps you to develop your digital drawing skills using your iPad. Hopefully it will encourage you to be more confident when using your iPad generally as well as your ability to explore your creativity. Each week we explore different skills including creating emoji, sketch-noting, character creation, portraits, architecture, logos and illustration in a supportive relaxed environment. iPads are essential!

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self, Critical Analysis and Problem Solving, Communication

Interpersonal Excellence:

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Digital, IT and STEM

Possible Careers: Illustrator, graphic designer, animator

ECC Music

Option Type: Creative

Year Groups: All

Learn how to play drums, guitar, bass, or sing. Students who have joined this PDA previously have gone from never having played an instrument to performing in our school concerts in just a few weeks. In this PDA you will also learn the basics of making music using the ipad and the garage band software. The main focus is on being creative and writing songs in your favorite genres you do not need to play an instrument or have any music theory knowledge in order to learn how to do this.

You will also learn some basics of music production and mixing in order to help improve the sound of your compositions by balancing volume and using panning, EQ and reverb.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self

Interpersonal Excellence:

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Digital, IT and STEM

Possible Careers: Music producer, songwriter, audio engineer

ECC Film and Photography

Option Type: Creative

Year Groups: All

ECC Photography allows you to hone your creative skills while using the iPad camera to its full potential.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Critical Analysis and Problem Solving, Communication

Interpersonal Excellence:

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Digital, IT and STEM

Possible Careers: Commercial photographer, photojournalist, wildlife photographer

Embroidery

Option Type: Creative

Year Groups: All

Come along to learn how to embroider pictures onto fabric. Suitable for beginners as well as those already experienced with embroidery.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self

Interpersonal Excellence:

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum...

Industry links: Creative and Design

Possible Careers: Designer, artist, business owner

EPQ

Option Type: Culture

Year Groups: Y12 only

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a piece of extended research on a topic of your choice that culminates in a dissertation and presentation. It carries UCAS points and is highly regarded by universities.

Year 12 students will use these PDA sessions to learn the skills required to complete the project and begin the research process. Year 13 students will be working on the final completion of their project and preparing for the presentation.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self, Communication

Interpersonal Excellence:

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Research and Support Services

Possible Careers: Academic writer, data analyst

Escape Rooms

Option Type: STEM

Year Groups: Y7-11

Unlock your problem-solving skills in our Escape Room Club! Work together to crack codes, solve puzzles, and think outside the box as we design and play through exciting escape room challenges. Each week, you'll get the chance to test your teamwork, creativity, and critical thinking. From building your own themed puzzles to racing the clock in real escape room adventures, there's always a new mystery to unravel. Join us if you love brain teasers, collaboration, and a little adventure!

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self, Critical Analysis and Problem Solving

Interpersonal Excellence: Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Creative and Leisure Industry

Possible Careers: Game Designer, Event planner, Engineer

European Space Agency Astro-Pi Challenge

Option Type: STEM

Year Groups: All

In the Astro-Pi challenge teams are invited to write computer programs that solve a scientific task in space: to gather data to calculate the speed at which the International Space Station (ISS) is travelling as accurately as possible. To achieve this, teams write a Python program to first use the Astro Pi computers' sensors or camera and gather data about the orientation and motion of the ISS as it orbits the Earth, and then calculate the speed of the ISS based on the gathered data.

Taking part in Astro Pi Mission Space Lab enables you to learn about the science of motion and the orbit of the ISS. Eligible programs will be deployed on the ISS, and teams will receive certificates and data collected in space.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Critical Analysis and Problem Solving, Communication

Interpersonal Excellence: Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Digital, IT and STEM

Possible Careers: Aerospace engineer, software developer, data analyst

Further Maths GCSE

Option Type: STEM

Year Groups: Y11 only

An opportunity for Higher Tier GCSE Maths students to further their understanding of the subject by looking at content that bridges GCSE Maths and A-Level Maths. For students aiming for a 7+ in GCSE Maths. If students choose the PDA for the whole of Y11 they can be entered into the exam to achieve an additional GCSE.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self, Critical Analysis and Problem Solving

Interpersonal Excellence:

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Digital, IT and STEM

Possible Careers: Data scientist, actuary, engineer

Garden Development

Option Type: Community

Year Groups: All

Take an opportunity to enhance the school environment by learning to care for the garden areas that have been created by the PDA group over the last few years. Have an active part in updating and maintaining the planted areas to attract pollinators and maintain all year round displays of plants. We grow plants from seed, take cuttings, grow bulbs and divide up perennials to make new plants for no cost. You will also be able to learn some vegetable growing techniques and might be able to harvest produce to be appear on the lunch menu. The gardening skills you learn will help you learn to care for and design your on gardens in the future. As part of this PDA team you will be actively working towards the Yorkshire in Bloom school entry and helping us to build on our Silver award. Some aspect of gardening are about building and maintaining areas of seating, creating compost heaps and up-cycling materials. This could involve you using a range of tools, painting and at times designing. Be prepared to work outside whatever the weather and take pride in shaping your school environment. Throughout Gardening PDA students theire life skills in garden maintenance and project management. The students will learn about the different categories of plants and lots of different varieties and theire needs, they will also look at project to help the school become more sustainanble and even grow vegtables then can be harvested and used in the canteen. Students develop their listening and presentation skills and get hands on experience in maintain the garden areas at Malton school which creates a sense of pride even further in the students of their school community.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills:

Interpersonal Excellence: Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance: Managing Projects and Change

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum...

Industry links: Horticulture and Agriculture

Possible Careers: Landscape designer, horticulturalist, garden maintenance specialist

Hair & Beauty

Option Type: Culture

Year Groups: All

Join up for a greater understanding of how to look after your own personal hygiene, natural skin and makeup techniques and hair styling and plaiting.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Communication

Interpersonal Excellence: Interpersonal Skills, Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Health and Wellness

Possible Careers: Hair stylist, beauty therapist, make up artist

Introduction to French Cooking

Option Type: Culture

Year Groups: All

Learn some of the basics of french cooking in our excellent food technology facilities. You will have the opportunity to make suggestions around what you would like to learn but the essentials such as making sauces and choux pastry.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self

Interpersonal Excellence:

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum...

Industry links: Catering and Hospitality

Possible Careers: Chef, food critic, catererer

Journalism

Option Type: Culture

Year Groups: All

Discover your voice in our Journalism Club, where you'll interview people, explore ideas, and share real stories that matter! Whether you enjoy writing articles or recording audio pieces, you'll build skills in communication, creativity, and critical thinking. Join us to have your voice heard and bring important stories to life!

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Communication

Interpersonal Excellence: Leadership Skills

Organisational Performance: Business Acumen

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum...

Industry links: Media and Communications

Possible Careers: Journalist, photojournalist, editor

Mock Trial

Option Type: Culture

Year Groups: All

Do you love proving your point in an argument? Do you think you could outwit another team and convince a judge to let your client off, or send someone to prison? At Mock Trial we simulate court cases and you can take on the role of lawyer or witness.

You'll learn how to read a legal case and work out what questions to ask about it to help prove your argument. You'll learn how to organise and present your thoughts in a convincing and persuasive way. You'll have a load of fun with your team-mates coming up with new ways to win in the trial. You'll get an opportunity to do a little bit of acting and create a character to convince the jury for your side.

Come along and convince the judge to side with you.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self, Critical Analysis and Problem Solving

Interpersonal Excellence: Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum...

Industry links: Law and Legal

Possible Careers: Lawyer, judge, court reporter

MOOCs

Option Type: Culture

Year Groups: All

MOOCs are on line courses that are useful to develop a breadth of learning across different subject areas. This can supplement your learning in school and also add extra-curricular experiences via remote learning. This can be a useful add on to your personal statement and also your portfolio for university/job/apprenticeship applications

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self, Communication

Interpersonal Excellence:

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Various depending on MOOC selected

Possible Careers: All depending on which MOOC is selected

Philosophy in Film

Option Type: Culture

Year Groups: Y9 only

Are some people born evil, or are they made? What does justice look like when the system fails? What is the meaning of this little life we find captured on screen? Joining Philosophy in Film gives students a platform to explore the world's biggest issues through the lens of cinema. From the ethics of AI in sci-fi masterpieces to the harsh realities of war, animal rights, and environmental collapse in gripping documentaries, we will use film as our launchpad for deep research and sharp debate.

Should punishment be 'an eye for an eye' as Hollywood thrillers often suggest, or is rehabilitation the true path? By pairing cinematic storytelling with philosophical and ethical critique, we will put human nature, our motivations, and our fears under a magnifying glass. With a recurring look at how modern film wrestles with religion and morality, students will openly challenge the way of the world, analyse directors' hidden messages, and harness their own beliefs about what's right and wrong in the world we live in today.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Critical Analysis and Problem Solving

Interpersonal Excellence: Interpersonal Skills

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Entertainment, Communication

Possible Careers: Film Director, Psychologist, Lawyer

Podcast Development

Option Type: Creative

Year Groups: Y10-13

Learn what makes a successful podcast, and then research and create your own. From writing scripts to thinking about your theme music, you will script and record your own podcast, taking advantage of the digital tools of your iPad.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Communication

Interpersonal Excellence: Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum...

Industry links: Digital, IT and STEM

Possible Careers: Content creator, audio engineer, script writer

Reset and Reflect

Option Type: Community

Year Groups: All

In this PDA, you will explore creative ways to understand and manage your emotions. Through activities such as journalling, creative writing, mindfulness and personal reflection, you will build your own self-regulation toolkit filled with strategies that can help you recognise your feelings, manage challenges and feel more in control. You'll have the opportunity to discover what works best for you in a supportive and creative environment.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self, Communication

Interpersonal Excellence:

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum...

Industry links: Wellbeing

Possible Careers: Psychologist, Counsellor, Youth Worker

Running

Option Type: Sport

Year Groups: All

Students will develop physical fitness and endurance, laying the foundation for a healthy lifestyle. Completing these regular training sessions and varied workouts, will enhance cardiovascular health, muscular strength, and flexibility. Through our progressive training plans, students learn the importance of goal-setting and perseverance, as they gradually build up their stamina and witness the tangible results of their efforts. These physical accomplishments contribute to an overall sense of well-being, boosting confidence and self-esteem. In addition to physical improvements, students in the Running PDA sharpen their mental acuity. Running requires focus, discipline, and the ability to push through mental barriers. As students set and pursue personal bests, they develop a growth mindset, understanding that improvement comes through effort and dedication. The camaraderie within the club fosters teamwork, communication, and mutual support, creating an environment where students learn to encourage and uplift one another. Ultimately, Running PDA provides a holistic learning experience, shaping students into resilient, disciplined individuals with a well-rounded skill set that extends far beyond the running track.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self

Interpersonal Excellence: Leadership Skills

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum...

Industry links: Sport and Wellbeing

Possible Careers: Professional athelete, coach/trainer. team manager

Set Design

Option Type: Performing Arts

Year Groups: All

Bring the school musical to life behind the scenes! You will work as part of a creative team to design and create the sets and scenery for the school production. You'll explore ideas, develop designs, work with different materials and solve practical challenges to transform the stage into the world of the show. A great opportunity to combine creativity, teamwork and hands-on making.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills:

Interpersonal Excellence: Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources, Business Acumen

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Performing Arts

Possible Careers: Set Designer, Theatre Technician, Architect

Social Skills through Creativity

Option Type: Community

Year Groups: All

In this PDA, you will use creativity and fun activities to develop your social skills and confidence. Working in small groups, you will explore how to communicate effectively, work positively with others, respond to different situations and build your self-esteem — all while expressing yourself creatively.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self

Interpersonal Excellence: Interpersonal Skills, Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Communication

Possible Careers: All!

Sports Leader Level 3

Option Type: Sport

Year Groups: Y12+Y13 Only

Boost your confidence, leadership skills, and teamwork by joining the Sports Leader Level 3 qualification as an exciting extracurricular opportunity. You'll gain hands-on experience planning and leading sports activities, building valuable skills that look great on university and job applications. It's a fun, active way to develop responsibility, meet new people, and stand out from the crowd.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self

Interpersonal Excellence: Leadership Skills

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Sport and Wellbeing

Possible Careers: Professional athelete, coach/trainer. team manager

Strategy Games

Option Type: Community

Year Groups: All

Improve your thinking skills through playing tabletop strategy and wargames. Chess, Othello, Connect 4, Ticket to Ride, Carcassonne, Warhammer, Stratego, D&D and others are available, or bring in your own game and play with some friends

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Critical Analysis and Problem Solving

Interpersonal Excellence: Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Entertainment

Possible Careers: Game designer and developer, professional player

Warhammer Scale Modelling

Option Type: Creative

Year Groups: All

We will develop an understanding of painting techniques to allow you to paint scale models for the well known strategy game, Warhammer. In addition to this we will be investigating crafting methods for scaled down terrain features including using foam and wire to create dioramas.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Critical Analysis and Problem Solving

Interpersonal Excellence: Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance: Managing Resources

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum...

Industry links: Creative and Design

Possible Careers: Illustrator, graphic designer, animator

Wellbeing Club

Option Type: Community

Year Groups: All

Looking for a place to relax, be creative, and feel supported? Wellbeing Club is a welcoming space where you can take a break from the pressures of school, build confidence, and focus on your wellbeing. Through fun and calming activities such as art therapy, music therapy, mindfulness, self-esteem workshops, and exploring emotions in a safe and supportive environment, you'll have the chance to express yourself, make new friends, and develop positive coping skills. Whether you're looking to unwind, boost your confidence, or simply enjoy some creative time, everyone is welcome to come along and grow.

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Managing Self

Interpersonal Excellence: Interpersonal Skills, Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum...

Industry links: Communication

Possible Careers: All

World Explorers Club

Option Type: Culture

Year Groups: Y7 only

Join us and become a member of young adventurers who share their passion for discovery. Each week we set sail on a voyage of endless discovery to learn about the customs, traditional art, exotic cuisine, languages, festivals, landmarks and holiday destinations around the world. From ancient Pyramids of Giza and Charles Bridge in Prague to the lush Amazon rainforest in South America and turquoise waters of Bahamas, we thrive to share our passion, curiosity and appreciation for our vibrant world.

Don't miss out the opportunity of the Club's collaborative projects and group activities! Take the ownership of your journey to travel to a different country each week and unlock the wonders of the globe!

In this PDA you will develop the following skills:

Personal Effectiveness Skills: Communication

Interpersonal Excellence: Interpersonal Skills, Collaborative Working

Organisational Performance:

Personal Development Activities help you learn beyond the curriculum…

Industry links: Environment, Travel and Tourism

Possible Careers: Travel writer, cultural ambassador, international relations specialist