

Personal Learning and Thinking Skills (PLTS)

Students who think creatively and independently become:

- More interested in discovering things for themselves.
- More open to new ideas.
- Keen to work with others to explore ideas.
- Willing to work beyond lesson time when pursuing an idea or vision.

“The missing key to effective educational reform is thinking how to narrow the gap between the way learning is “done” in schools and the way it is done in the outside world.” (p. 94 What is the point of school? 2008)

Students are hungry for responsibility, respect and what’s real; choice, challenge and collaboration. PLTS is one way Wadebridge School encourages students to be creative, reflective and independent.

- <u>TEAM WORKERS</u>
Need to work confidently with others Take responsibility for each other Listen to & take account of different views Form constructive relationships Resolve issues to agreed outcomes
- <u>CREATIVE THINKERS</u>
Generate ideas & be original Try different ways to tackle problems Work with others to find solutions of value
- <u>SELF-MANAGERS</u>
Organise themselves Show responsibility, initiative, creativity & enterprise Show commitment to learning & self-improvement Embrace change Cope with challenges & look for opportunities
- <u>EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATORS</u>
Actively engage with issues Play a full part in school life & the wider community Take responsible action to bring about improvements for others as well as themselves
- <u>REFLECTIVE LEARNERS</u>
Evaluate strengths & limitations Set realistic goals Monitor own performance & progress Invite feedback from others
- <u>INDEPENDENT ENQUIRERS</u>
Process & evaluate information Plan what to do & how to go about it Take informed & well-reasoned decisions Recognise that others will have different beliefs & attitudes

Year 7 students participate in a PLTS workshop in early in their first term to raise awareness of the skills and why they are important. They participate in subject based activities that focus on one of the skills e.g. English and Science have focused on self-managers:

English	Self-Managers			
	<p>Think (Manage risks)</p> <p>Be prepared to take the lead.</p> <p>Be prepared to look for challenges and think them through.</p> <p>Take risks.</p>	<p>Work it out (Be organised)</p> <p>Organise your time and resources effectively.</p> <p>Work through the pressures and demands rather than giving up.</p>	<p>Feel it (Go for it!)</p> <p>Be prepared to seek advice when necessary.</p> <p>Do not be afraid to change direction.</p>	<p>Share it (Manage emotions)</p> <p>Work together effectively – manage and build upon relationships.</p>
	<p>You will be asked in your group to write a poem about aspirations & aiming high.</p>			
		<p>The poem will be required to have 3 verses/stanzas with a min of 8 lines & the following structure:</p> <p>Obstacles that can prevent us from aiming high, aspiring, being ambitious.</p> <p>Ways in which we can overcome these obstacles.</p> <p>What might be achieved if we succeed in overcoming these obstacles & really aspire.</p>	<p>Your group will be given <u>3 envelopes</u> containing <u>5 words</u> in each (colour coded for the structure): all must be used. You can <u>trade words</u> with other groups but must be the same colour word. You will also receive a <u>wild card</u> at some point from the teacher & this must be used.</p>	
				<p>You will have 40 mins to collaborate, develop, adapt & draft your poem. Final draft will be required to present in Hall period 5.</p>

This focus then continues in the student homework diaries as well as in their tutorial journal in Year 7 and 8.