

## Community learning at George Hastwell School

George Hastwell School has a range of community links which supplement the curriculum throughout the school, and these help to enrich the pupils' experiences and enable them to apply skills in a practical setting. Classes across the school use the community for a range of purposes during the school week.

### Physical development

Pupils from KS1 upwards take part in swimming sessions at the Park Leisure Centre in Barrow. Sporting links have been developed with local schools and organisations, with groups attending sporting events and regular sessions such as Boogie Bounce. Pupils are involved in competitions for sports such as New Age Kurling, boccia, table tennis and table cricket. These take place in local schools and further afield in Cumbria and the North-West.

To develop pupil responsibilities we have a sports leadership scheme in school, and older pupils have received training in sports leadership, boccia refereeing and table cricket umpiring through external events.



Pupils also develop their physical skills through walks in the community and through visiting local playgrounds.



## Practical English and maths

Our pupils benefit from the chance to practise and apply the skills they are learning in school in a real life context. For example, this may include:

- visiting a local supermarket to buy ingredients for food technology lessons
- buying a snack in a café
- travelling by bus and paying the driver a fare
- reading a timetable
- looking for numbers, colours and shapes in the community
- working on direction – left, right, forwards, backwards
- conducting a survey
- finding items in a shop
- researching ideas for a practical project
- visiting the local library
- using lists on a shopping trip
- reading the names of products and shops
- discovering signs and their meanings in the community
- recording through note taking or a simple diary



## Riding for the Disabled

The school is actively involved in the local Riding for the Disabled group, which provides weekly riding sessions in the autumn and summer terms for a group of pupils. This also includes fun days and a biennial residential riding experience in Clwyd where pupils work towards awards in riding and horse care.



## Work experience

The school has established strong links with local businesses for work experience opportunities. These are week-long individualised work placements targeted at Y13 and Y14 students and contribute evidence towards their Employability qualification. They are based on the students' own interests and allow them to experience a workplace and build their skills across the whole working week.



## Residential

The school runs successful annual residential trips to outdoor learning centres such as Bendrigg Lodge and Brathay Trust. These enable greater challenge for our pupils in the areas of personal development and resilience and give them experiences above and beyond the local school area. We have now introduced some city residentials in Manchester and Liverpool, where students experience a taste of city life and culture first-hand.



## Steps to Independence

The Sixth Form curriculum has been extended to include lessons focused specifically on developing independence. These include accessing a range of local community resources appropriate to the class group, and taking part in travel training focused on the use of public transport. These lessons are now being developed through the school.

## College links

We have strong links with Furness College, where Entry Level students attend a course in catering which contributes to ASDAN portfolios. This gives them the opportunity to learn and practise new skills alongside their school curriculum work, and provides an intrinsic part in getting them ready for life after George Hastwell. We also support students as they transition to their next provision after George Hastwell by arranging visits and accompanying pupils.



## Accreditations

Pupils use the community to gather evidence and skills towards their accreditations. This may be via the catering course at Furness College, which contributes towards ASDAN Personal Development Awards at Bronze, Silver and Gold Levels. Pupils also work towards their accreditations via work experience or via taking part in a range of activities to contribute towards the ASDAN Awards Transition Challenge, Towards Independence and Personal Development.



## Outdoor learning

There are regular opportunities to apply and broaden the pupils' skills through outdoor learning, including Forest School with a trained practitioner for pupils from KS2 and above. Younger pupils take part in Welly Wednesday where they explore local environments such as woodlands and the coast.



## Signing choir

The school's active signing choir takes part in a range of events at local schools and community venues. This develops the pupils' practical signing skills, social skills and confidence.



## Community events

Groups attend events within the Furness peninsula and beyond across the school year. These events provide us with the opportunity to meet people in a range of community roles and to experience local culture at first hand.

