



# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

## Summer Term 2026

### Year 9

Dear students and families,



At Orchard Park High School, in addition to a broad academic and character curriculum, every one of our students has the opportunity to experience a wealth of personal development activities. This newsletter contains useful information about the provision for your child this term. We will send this to all families at the beginning of each term.

**Head of Year 9, Ms C Ruby**

Please contact: [cruby@orchardparkhigh.net](mailto:cruby@orchardparkhigh.net)

## The importance of PSHE in our students' personal development

At Orchard Park, PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic education) remains a vital cornerstone of our students' developmental journey. It is far more than just a brief supplement to the academic timetable; rather, it serves as the essential framework through which we empower our students to become well-rounded, empathetic, and forward-thinking individuals.

By equipping them with a toolkit of essential life skills, we ensure they are thoroughly prepared to navigate the complexities and nuances of modern life with both confidence and steadfast integrity.

PSHE provides the necessary tools for students to manage their personal wellbeing and make informed, ethical decisions.

Embedded throughout our broader curriculum, PSHE aligns with our core values of drive, collaboration, excellence, and integrity. This term, our PSHE curriculum focuses specifically on 'Living in the Wider World'. In these sessions, students will explore

their place within an interconnected global community, learning about the weight of social responsibility and the rich diversity of the world around them. We encourage them to think critically about their rights and responsibilities, helping them to grow into active, positive contributors to society who understand the value of democratic participation and the rule of law.

This specific focus helps students understand the tangible impact of their actions on others and the environment. By exploring themes of community, careers, and global citizenship, we challenge them to lead with empathy and mutual respect.

At Orchard Park, PSHE is not merely about passing exams. It is about preparing students for a future where they can excel with accountability and a strong, personal sense of purpose. We remain dedicated to empowering our young people to live by our shared values and to contribute meaningfully to the world they are set to inherit.

**Mr D March, Assistant Headteacher**

## House information



ATTENBOROUGH

MS KING



HAWKING

MS YEALL



PARKS

MS PAIN



RASHFORD

MR EVANS



YOUSAFZAI

MR VASEY

Fun Friday takes place every Friday lunchtime. Join in and collect lots of House points.

## Key dates

**Year 9 parents' evening**

14th May 2026

### Assemblies for Year 9

**22nd April**

Year 9 options assembly

**29th April**

Year group assembly – Earth Day

**w/c 4th May**

House assembly – Charity and House events  
Collaboration

**13th May**

Year group assembly  
Mental Health Awareness Week  
British values: Mutual respect, Tolerance

**20th May**

Year group assembly – Awards  
Excellence

**3rd June**

Year group assembly – Collaboration

**10th June**

Year group assembly – Value of friendship  
Collaboration

**w/c 15th June**

House assembly – Charity and House events  
Collaboration

**24th June**

Year group assembly – Culture Week  
Collaboration

**1st July**

Year group assembly  
Collaboration

**8th July**

Democracy  
British values: Democracy, Rule of Law  
Collaboration

**15th July**

Year group assembly – Awards  
Drive - what we have achieved this term  
Excellence



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## Summer Term 2026

### Year 9

#### Year 9 PSHE schedule for the summer term

Big ideas	Topic	Atoms
<b>Summer 1</b> <b>Living in the wider world</b>	<b>Setting goals</b> Learning strengths, career options and goal setting as part of the GCSE options process.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transferable skills, abilities and interests.</li> <li>2. How to demonstrate strengths.</li> <li>3. Different types of employment and career pathways.</li> <li>4. How to manage feelings relating to future employment.</li> <li>5. How to work towards aspirations and set meaningful, realistic goals for the future.</li> <li>6. GCSE and post-16 options.</li> <li>7. Skills for decision making.</li> </ol>
<b>Summer 2</b> <b>Living in the wider world</b>	<b>Employability skills</b> Employability and online presence.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Young people's employment rights and responsibilities.</li> <li>2. Skills for enterprise and employability.</li> <li>3. How to give and act upon constructive feedback.</li> <li>4. How to manage your 'personal brand' online.</li> <li>5. Habits and strategies to support progress.</li> <li>6. How to identify and access support for concerns relating to life online.</li> </ol>

If you would like to discuss the subject matter or wish to withdraw your child from any of the PSHE lessons listed above, please contact Ms C Ruby, Head of Year 9, at [cruby@orchardparkhigh.net](mailto:cruby@orchardparkhigh.net)

#### Character Clubs for the summer term

YEAR 7-10	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lunchtime</b> (12.45-1.15pm)	<b>Debate Club (Wk A)</b> – Year 7/8/9 S9 KAF  <b>Concert practice</b> – Year 7/8/9 Music Room SST  <b>Library</b> – Year 7/8/9/10  <b>Poetry Club</b> – Year 7/8/9/10 E5 LVE  <b>Working Lunch</b> – Year 10 IT2 SAL	<b>Eco Club (Wk A)</b> – Year 7/8/9 L1 EFE  <b>Equality Club</b> – Year 7/8/9/10 H1 MEV  <b>Library</b> – Year 7/8/9/10  <b>Working Lunch</b> – Year 10 IT2 SAL  <b>Drama Club (Wk A)</b> – Year 7/8/9/10 PAS SPA  <b>Scrabble Club</b> – Year 7/8/9/10 SS OFA	<b>Sparx Club</b> – Year 7/8/9/10 IT2  <b>Library</b> – Year 7/8/9/10  <b>Working Lunch</b> – Year 10 IT2 SAL  <b>Chess Club</b> – Year 7/8/9/10 H1 WVA  <b>Spanish Film (WkB)</b> – Year 7/8/9 L3 TGO	<b>STEM Club</b> – Year 7/8/9 S7 DEB & SAL  <b>Library</b> – Year 7/8/9/10	<b>Maths Club</b> – Year 7/8/9 M3 JBU/NDE  <b>Library</b> – Year 7/8/9/10  <b>Salsa Dancing (Wk B)</b> – Year 7/8/9 PAS HSM
<b>After school</b> Available for Years 7-10 (3.00-4.00pm)	<b>Football</b> – Year 7 PE Block SWE  <b>Netball</b> – Year 7/8/9/10 PE block LHA & KBR  <b>Art Club (Wk B)</b> – Year 7/8/9 AR2 APA  <b>Homework Club</b> – Year 7/8/9/10 Library  <b>Homework Club compulsory</b> – Year 7 IT2	<b>Girls Football</b> – Year 7/8/9/10 PE Block LGO  <b>Coding Club (Wk A)</b> – Year 7/8/9 IT4 FKI  <b>Homework Club</b> – Year 7/8/9/10 Library  <b>Rugby</b> – Year 7/8/9/ (Invite only)	<b>Dance Company</b> – Year 7/8/9/10 (Invite only)  <b>Cheerleading</b> – Year 7/8/9/10 (Invite only)  <b>Duke of Edinburgh            Volunteering (Wk B)</b> – Year 9 only IT1 HBA  <b>Homework Club</b> – Year 7/8/9/10 Library	<b>Dodgeball</b> – Year 7/8/9 PE Block LHA  <b>Band practice</b> – Year 8/9/10/11 Music SST  <b>Boys Football</b> – Year 8/9 PE Block SWE  <b>Homework Club</b> – Year 7/8/9/10 Library	<b>Homework Club</b> – Year 7/8/9/10 Library

You can find out more about personal development at Orchard Park High School on our website [here](#). There is also a wealth of information about student support under [Information, Safeguarding](#).