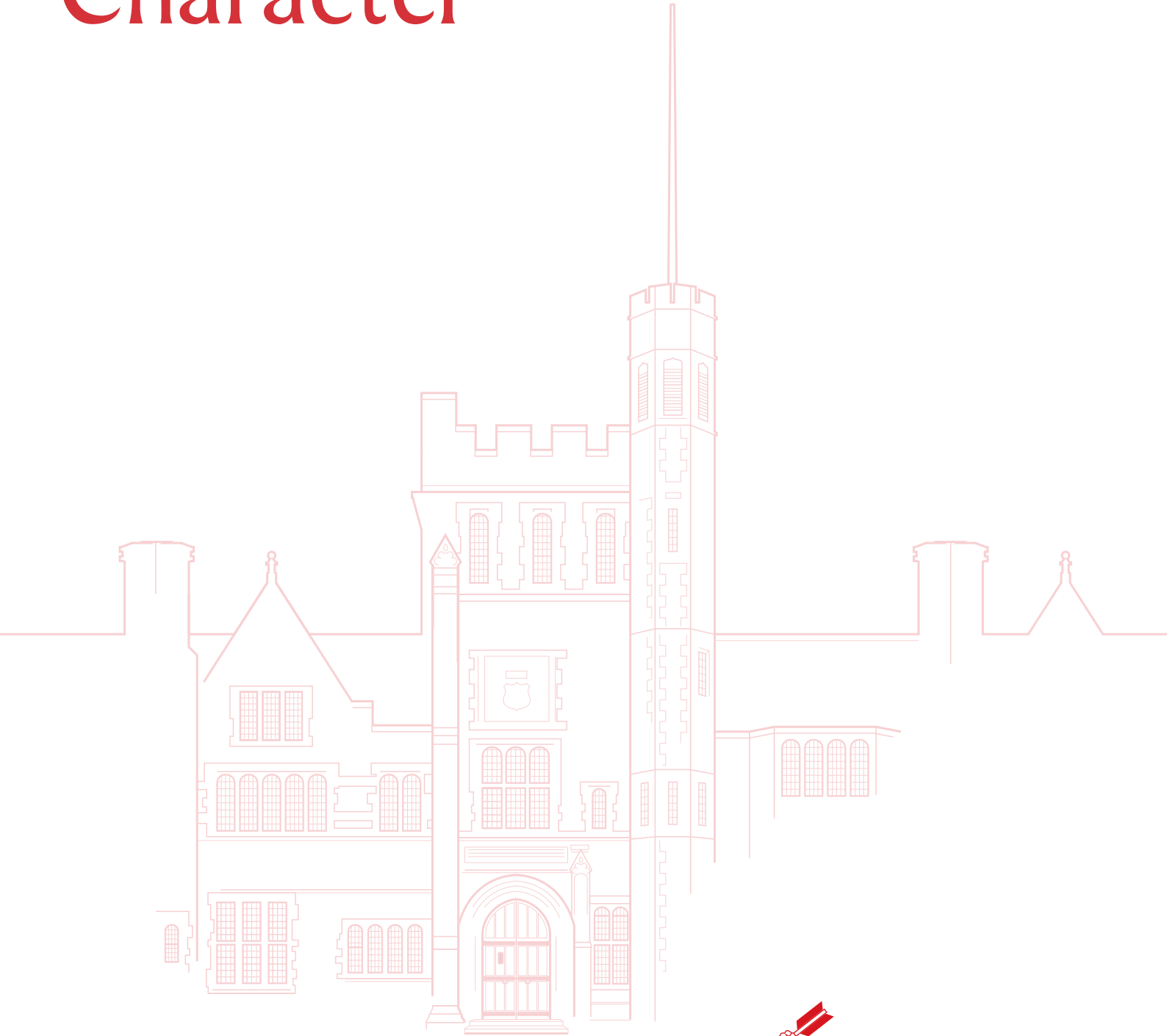
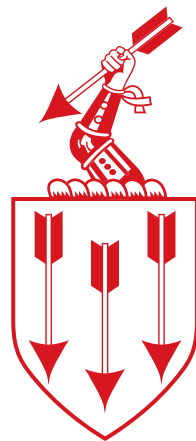


Developing Intellectual Character



2016-2017



KING
HENRY VIII
SCHOOL

One of our main aims at King Henry VIII School is to allow young people to be the best that they can be in whatever activity they choose. We believe that children are not bound by any predetermined limit in a particular discipline. Instead, we believe that hard work will be rewarded by improvement and eventual success. Hard work is much more significant than any innate ability (which educationalists increasingly believe is not fixed in any case).

Developing the skills in children to become effective learners is something that will help them throughout their lives and not just at school. This requires an independence in a young person's learning that decreases a reliance on teaching and ultimately leads to more skilful thinking and a deeper understanding that children can form independently.

Effective learning has, as its foundation, strong intellectual character.

Intellectual character is made up of many different facets; ambition, collaboration, flexibility of mind, reasoning, etc.

The staff at King Henry VIII School have recently drawn upon their expertise and collective experience to identify which aspects of intellectual character are most significant and which we currently develop successfully. We have also spent some time identifying which of these aspects might be prioritised to create most improvement within the intellectual character of our pupils.

The aspects on which the School will focus in the coming year are:

Aspiration

Persistence

Curiosity

Initiative

Resilience

Whilst much of what we do will continue to broadly help build intellectual character, we will take each of the above aspects in turn, one every half term for the first five half terms of the coming academic year. You can expect to hear more about each aspect as assemblies, displays and lessons in the coming year.

Jason Slack
Headmaster

Aspiration

An intrinsic motivation to take responsibility for shaping one's own development and future. It includes the drive to go the extra mile and put in the effort required. People who demonstrate aspiration have a desire to aim high and set clear goals and a willingness to be strategic and practical in determining how these targets will be achieved.



'Don't let anybody tell you that you can't do anything.' - **Tim Peake**

'If you can dream it, you can do it.' - **Walt Disney**

'Let us remember: One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world.' - **Malala Yousafzai**

Some educationalists quote that academic success consists of 75% hard work and 25% natural ability. It follows that people who work hard can be very successful, with limited natural ability. However, people who perceive themselves to be very 'clever', having lots of natural ability, will still fail if they don't work hard.

Persistence

The determination to stick with it when situations are challenging and to recognise the importance of intellectual struggle. A willingness to seek alternative ways of doing things when you come up against an obstacle.



"It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer."

Albert Einstein

"It always seems impossible until it's done." **Nelson Mandela**

"Do the one thing you think you cannot do. Fail at it. Try again. Do better the second time" **Oprah Winfrey**

Recent research has indicated that it takes about 10,000 hours of practice to be 'elite' at a particular activity. This is equivalent to four hours' practice, Monday to Friday, 52 weeks of the year, for 10 years! This amount of practice remains remarkably constant for performers who reach an elite level, regardless of their individual circumstances, how, and when they started.

Curiosity

An eagerness to ask questions and to explore beyond what is merely required. Curiosity involves being investigative, wanting to discover, and having a desire to learn and understand new things.



“Millions saw the apple fall, but Newton was the only one who asked why” **Bernard Baruch**

“Curiosity is more important than knowledge.” **Albert Einstein**

‘Satisfaction of one’s curiosity is one of the greatest sources of happiness in life’
Linus Pauling

In many lessons, most important will be the questions that a pupil asks, not the answers that they propose. Questioning is a sign of intelligence and an enquiring mind. Healthy scepticism is a characteristic of those who wish to lead, and not destined to follow. Pupils should always consider what questions they should ask to clarify their understanding (focussing on the detail), but also what questions they can ask to take their understanding further (focussing on the bigger picture).

Initiative

A willingness to be independently minded, to think ahead and work things out for yourself. People who demonstrate initiative are resourceful, able to organise themselves well and don't rely on others to be told what to do.



“Even if you’re on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there”

Will Rogers

“The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing.” **Walt Disney**

“A lot of people never use their initiative because no-one told them to.” **Banksy**

Developing initiative is, perhaps, one of the most difficult aspects that a school can develop in its young people. It comes from pupils having a security and stability in their environment that allows them to take risks without fear of failure. Understanding that there is much to learn from the process, regardless of the outcome, can be more important than the outcome itself. Taking initiative is not about looking at the grass on the other side to decide if it is greener, but watering your own grass, confident in the knowledge that it can be the greenest.

Resilience

The instinct, sense of balance and humour to deal positively with failure. Resilient people recognise that everyone stumbles but that successful people deal better with this and use difficulties as a learning experience and opportunity for a new direction.

“The only people who never fail are those who never try.” **Ilke Chase**

“You simply have to put one foot in front of the other and keep going.” **George Lucas**

“I hated every minute of training, but I said, ‘Don’t quit. Suffer now and live the rest of your life as a champion.’”
Muhammad Ali

Resilience is that indefinable quality that allows some people to be knocked down by life and come back stronger than ever. Rather than letting failure overcome them and drain their resolve, they find a way to rise from the ashes. Psychologists have identified some of the factors that make someone resilient, among them a positive attitude, optimism, the ability to regulate emotions, and the ability to see failure as a form of helpful feedback. Even after misfortune, resilient people are blessed with such an outlook that they are able to change course and soldier on. Successful people in all walks of life are able to recall disappointment and failure but it did not stop them from giving up on a dream. JK Rowling was rejected an incredible 12 times before a publisher decided to give her a deal on the Harry Potter books!





Aspiration



Persistence



Curiosity



Initiative



Resilience

