



# Passport to Success

## **What it is**

The Passport to Success expects our students to evidence development of eleven different 'Professional Skills' in addition to meeting their academic targets. Passport to Success is an initiative designed to unlock the potential of all students to improve attainment, aspirations and success in future employment. Graduation from this programme, will be an outstanding achievement for our students as the Passport defines what it is to be a successful student of Wrotham School.

## **Why it's important**

While most schools aim for academic achievement alone, we recognise that this is not enough to equip young people for success in life. We want our students to be confident young people who have the professional skills employers are looking for, and often complain that young people no longer have.

## **How it works**

Teachers and Community Group Leaders create opportunities for students to develop 'professional skills' in during their Community Time, in their lessons and around the school. When a student demonstrates one of the eleven skills, it is recorded on SIMs as a House Point. Every week the Heads of House and Community Group Leaders receive a report on how their students are progressing and this is shared with the students. They record their progress on a Passport Tracker so they can see where they have strengths and the areas they need to work on. House assemblies show a leader board for the House teams and for individuals who are making the highest number of contributions to the House total.

## **Community Time**

Community Time has now been structured to enable students work on small projects throughout the year which link to topics we believe are important to keep them safe, encourage healthy lifestyles and to develop a wider knowledge of the world they live in. Students work in groups to enable the development of teamwork skills and in years 7-10 these are teams of mixed year groups so students really do feel they are part of House community. Within these projects students also have the opportunity to develop their professional skills such as problem solving, contributing to team and group discussions, presentation skills when pitching their ideas and citizenship if they are working on something which contributes to the school or wider community.

## **Lessons**

Teachers have always created opportunities for the development of skills in the classroom but now they have a way to record specific areas of development for their students. Students who are already confident enough to answer questions and contribute to classroom discussions will be rewarded for their existing skills but by offering the Passport House Points, less confident or less

willing students have been encouraged to take part because they understand that their participation and effort will be acknowledged and they are developing a very important set of skills for their future.

### **Wider school opportunities**

From being a Prefect or Student Voice representative to helping out at school functions and at lunchtime, students are able to demonstrate citizenship and develop leadership skills. There will be many more opportunities created throughout the year for our students to build their confidence in working across the year groups and with different members of staff.

### **At home**

Students can still be picking up Passport house points while at home through completing homework tasks on time. When a student demonstrates that they can successfully complete tasks independently, they will earn a point for 'independent study'. We believe this is a very important skill for students to learn as they progress towards sixth form and university study. Good homework habits developed early on will make a big difference to a student's ability to perform well on an A Level course. We have thought very carefully about how to make this easier for parents to monitor and students to manage and there's more about this in the homework article by Mr Cater.

Community Group Leaders will also award Passport house points for involvement in groups and activities outside of school because they can demonstrate 'well-being', 'citizenship' or 'leadership' depending on the activity and your child's role within this group. This could be Scout membership, playing in a sports team, volunteer work or regular support for a family member or neighbour who needs extra help. As long as the child brings in something to evidence the activity, the Passport Points will be awarded each term.

Finally they can also gain points for 'cultural experiences' if they attend school trips or visit places of interest or worship with their family or friends. This Professional Skill is a focus on learning more about their own culture and different cultures through new experiences. Again, all the student needs to do is bring evidence to the Community Group Leader.

### **How you can support**

We hope you will agree that a student who has developed these Professional Skills are more likely to be successful throughout their time in education and as they enter the workplace. You can encourage your child by keeping track of their achievement on Parent Portal and talking to them about where they might find opportunities to fill any gaps in their skills. Their Community Group Leader will be having the same conversations in school.

The standards for Passport graduation are high and those who have worked hard to achieve, will be invited to attend a graduation ceremony with their parents or carers. The graduation ceremony will really encapsulate and represent everything that is great about our students and our school.

Most importantly we want the Passport programme to be a constant reminder that being a student at Wrotham School isn't about just turning up and making it to the end of the day, it's about being part of a community that won't accept anything less than your best.