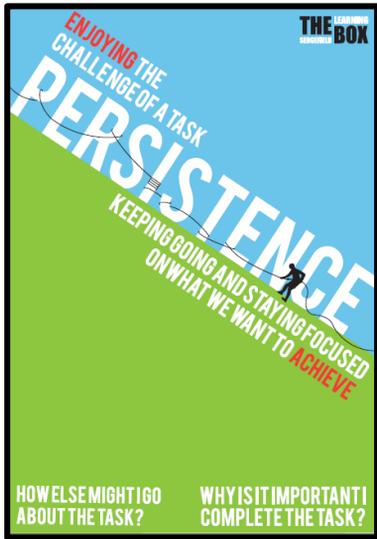


Habits of Mind

Developing Lifelong Learners



The Sedgfield Learning Box is a metaphorical box in which we place 'tools' that are designed to help students and staff think more deeply and with greater independence. Since launching our Learning Box approach in July 2010, we have looked to employ Art Costa's theory of the 16 Habits of Mind of successful people across the school. *For more information, please go to <http://scclearningbox.weebly.com/>.*



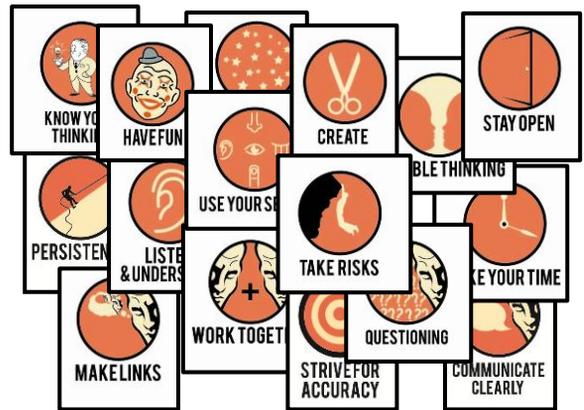
In November 2010, we introduced the theory of Habits of Mind across our school. Having seen Costa's theory being utilised in other schools, we felt that it offered us a way of helping our students (and staff) to develop the personal qualities necessary to be successful people.

We had become tired of identifying 'habits' that our students needed to develop and then doing nothing 'concrete' to address this. Using Habits of Mind gave us a structure that we could use to develop these important characteristics.

We posed questionnaires to staff and students to identify which of the 16 Habits of Mind that we felt were our priority to develop at this time – Persistence was the first habit we focused on.

In September 2011, we began to focus on the full set of 16 Habits of Mind. As a school, we've looked at how we can build the concept of Habits of Mind into everything that we do, raising the awareness of our students of the habits that they need to develop.

As well as referring to Habits of Mind in all lessons, we also use these within our school assemblies, thoughts for each week and even in the student reports sent home to parents.



The 'Teaching Habit' that I need to develop to be more successful in the classroom is...

| | | |
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| <p>...to be more creative / imaginative.</p> <p>CREATE</p> | <p>...to be more calm and commanding</p> <p>TAKE YOUR TIME COMMUNICATE CLEARLY</p> | <p>...to embrace new technology.</p> <p>FLEXIBLE THINKING STAY OPEN</p> |
| <p>...to be more organised.</p> <p>TAKE YOUR TIME</p> | <p>...to be more pragmatic when necessary.</p> <p>PERSISTENCE</p> | <p>...to be more reflective.</p> <p>KNOW YOUR THINKING</p> |

In September 2014, we identified 12 'Teaching Habits' that we felt were the characteristics of our most effective teachers. These 'Teaching Habits' have clear links to Costa's 16 Habits of Mind, but they are tailored to the elements of teaching practice that we wish to develop as a school. When teachers are observed, we are now using the 'Teaching Habits' as a way of providing highly effective feedback on how to develop practice.