

## Intellectual character is...

- ★ **Ambition** - an intrinsic motivation to take responsibility for shaping one's own future and the drive to put in the effort required to do so; a desire to aim high and set clear goals combined with a willingness to be strategic and practical in determining how these goals will be achieved
- ★ **Collaboration** – the capacity to work productively with other people, to pool talents and build collective solutions; to know when to seek help from and when to support other people; to judge effectively when to speak up and when to compromise
- ★ **Curiosity** – an eagerness to ask questions and to explore beyond what is merely required; to be investigative; to discover, learn and understand new things
- ★ **Empathy** – a willingness to listen to others, to value and to try to understand their position, feelings and points of view
- ★ **Flexibility of mind** – a readiness to be open-minded, to recognise alternative perspectives and welcome novel ideas and viewpoints; to adjust one's beliefs and change one's mind in the light of new evidence and arguments
- ★ **Focus** – the willingness to be careful, accurate and thorough, to pay attention to detail and avoid needless mistakes, to concentrate well and become absorbed in what one is doing; an ability to regulate behaviour when short-term instincts conflict with longer term goals
- ★ **Good judgement** – the 'stop and think' factor; a desire to avoid gullibility, to use reason and think critically; the self-control required to assess options carefully and think about the value of ideas and information before deciding who and what to believe and what to do in different situations
- ★ **Initiative** - a willingness to be independently-minded, to think ahead and work things out for oneself; to be resourceful, to organise oneself well and not rely on others to be told what to do
- ★ **Originality** – the inclination to visualise; to make connections; to be creative with one's thoughts rather than to think within conventional boundaries; to think laterally to generate novel ideas and solve tricky problems
- ★ **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 one comes up against an obstacle
- ★ **Resilience** – the instinct, sense of balance and humour to deal positively with failure; to recognise that everyone stumbles but that successful people deal better with this; to use difficulties as learning experiences and opportunities for a new direction
- ★ **Reflectiveness** - an inclination to review, to ponder and to consider methods and approaches that have been tried; to analyse both successes and failures with a view to making the most of one's potential
- ★ **Risk taking** - the courage to take a chance rather than to choose the easy option; to try new challenges and push oneself to develop new skills, even when success may not be guaranteed
- ★ **Self assurance** – a belief in one's own capabilities and the sense of responsibility and confidence to take control and deal positively with a range of situations; the ability to remain calm and composed and to communicate to others with fluency, clarity, expression and persuasiveness