

XPG Transition Days Slice 2021

In the Summer of 2021 the Year 6 students of XP Gateshead studied an expedition slice as part of our transition to secondary school. The slice was called ??? and our guiding question was:

“What strengths will I bring to help me and my crew be successful at our new school?”

The learning targets were:

- LT1: I can describe what we mean by “crew”
- LT2: I can describe my personal strengths and how I will support my new crew
- LT3: I can describe how we will be learning at XP Gateshead

The immersion for the expedition was a Google Hangout with all 50 students on the Sunday evening prior to the slice starting on the Monday. In this meeting we were introduced to our teachers. We also talked about the importance of community and our character traits. This was where we first heard about the guiding question for our expedition slice and our learning targets.

We learned that we would be answering the guiding question and making an artefact that represented us. We would need to bring these with us to Ullswater in our first week at school. Finally, we watched a video which helped us to picture what Crew looks like at XP.

On Monday we received our paper pack of expedition resources with activities designed to help us with our learning targets.

We learned about the **Story of XP** and how it is linked to the story of Outward Bound and the quote “There is more in us than we know...” We text-coded the XP story and answered some questions which helped us to understand what it means to be Crew.

The first character trait we looked at in depth was **Courage** and thought about our comfort zones, stretch zones and panic zones. We reflected on how you can only show courage when you are scared and how different people need courage for different things.

The second character trait... **Compassion**

Finally on Monday we started to think about our personal strengths to help us begin to answer the guiding question. Since we would be working on this over the next two days, and it was going to be taken to Ullswater we had to show **Craftsmanship & Quality** to make sure it was the best work that we could produce.

We also prepared to interview an expert - an expert about us - in other words our family members. As part of this preparation we had to think about how we would show **Respect** to our experts. This meant that as well as questions, we had to draft how we would open and close the interview politely and appreciatively. We also designed and prepared a postcard to give to our expert to thank them for helping us with our work.

For our extended study, we interviewed our family members and asked them to reflect on what they thought our personal strengths were too.

On Monday evening, we had a short online video meeting to check-in and were able to share our progress from the day's work. We were also introduced to an important character trait for the next day: **Integrity**. Finally our expedition website was shared with us so that we could start to think about our summer challenges.

On Tuesday morning we looked at .. literary character.. Text coding,... **Integrity**.

We used this activity to help us work out what route we were going to take to complete our answer to the guiding question and our artefact (mild, medium or spicy).

We used the writing frames and support in our paper packs to help us draft, self-assess and then complete a final draft of our answer to the guiding question. We also chose which type of artefact we would create. Again we showed **Craftsmanship and Quality** and made sure that our final drafts were our best handwriting and the best quality of written word that we could produce.

On Tuesday evening we had a google meet which celebrated our work and were able to appreciate each other for the effort that we had put in.

In addition to this work in school, we had a range of activities to complete over the Summer on our Expedition Slice Website. These included some maths problems which prepared us for fieldwork to see our new school building, and a list of challenges of "25 Ways to be XP." Each of the 5 weeks during the Summer break had a theme for one of our character traits and had linked challenges for each character trait. For example, during craftsmanship and quality week we were challenged to cook a meal from scratch for our family.

The expedition slice culminated at Ullswater when we brought along our answers to the guiding question and our artefacts. During the week we presented our work to our crew

and crew leaders, and these featured in our final presentation at the end of the Outward Bound week, helping us to explain what it means to be Crew.