



BRITISH VALUES AT HIGHSTED

The promotion and development of British Values is an integral part of the Highsted School Curriculum in a number of ways. Please read below for some examples of how the school community embraces British values:

In the school community...

Tutor time is an environment where students in vertical pastoral groups explore topics relating to Identity and Diversity, Rights and Responsibilities, and Democracy and Justice as part of our Citizenship curriculum. Students explore the importance of rejecting stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes, fostering community cohesion in a diverse modern Britain, and committing to advocacy and activism on behalf of other young people. These activities also prompt students to analyse the current and historical events that have shaped our current perceptions of what it means to be British.

Similarly, in History, Britishness is celebrated and studied through a range of topics, from the cultural impact of The Beatles (mass media) to the stoicism of British character during World War II. The English set text *Private Peaceful* also encourages reflection upon how conflict is regarded in British culture and how this has changed over the years.

In Modern Foreign Languages, students experience direct comparison of British and other European values through penfriend schemes with Belgium and Germany and through comparing lifestyles and attitudes in Britain and the target language countries. For example, the MFL curriculum looks at differences between school life, food and daily routine in Britain and the target language country at KS3. Topics are developed in KS4 such as appreciating healthy and unhealthy lifestyles and the role of the media in addition to a variety of cultural topics. At KS5 students examine their cultural perspectives compared to the target language country.

Assemblies and tutorial time also provide a strong arena for the promotion of British Values. Each fortnight, every student attends two whole school assemblies led by a member of SLG, one student-led assembly, one year group assembly led by the Assistant Headteacher of the Key Stage, and three house assemblies led by their Head of House and / or students within that house. These assemblies provide students an opportunity to reflect upon what it means to be a British global citizen in the context of current events and issues that affect the UK, from elections and referendums to real-life experiences of exceptional young people such as Malala Yousafzai and Stephen Sutton. The theme of each assembly is followed-up by a "Thought for the Day" addressed in tutorial time and a relevant display in the school reception. The vertical house system supports older students to lead their younger peers in these activities, and each form appoints a selection of students to a position of responsibility to facilitate this.

The Student Council comprises a peer-elected representative for each year group and each school house.

The Student Council demonstrate that embracing multicultural, multi-faith communities, and celebrating diversity amongst citizens, is at the heart of modern British Values and that prejudice and discrimination are never acceptable. Furthermore, acts of kindness and charity are central to the Council's vision of British Values, and they strive to raise awareness of these issues through their leadership of school-wide campaigns, special events and



activities such as the Harvest Festival and food drive for local charities, anti-bullying week and internet safety week, Fair Trade fortnight, and the school's annual Citizenship Activities Week, which allows students to express and demonstrate their awareness of British Values in the school and local community.

In the local community...

There are plentiful opportunities for students to explore the issues that matter to them with other young people from the local area. We are represented at Swale Youth Forum, which allows the students to converse upon topical local issues including the regeneration of the town and the representation of young people in culture. Participation in the Youth Speaks and Debating Matters competitions give students the opportunity to speak publicly about topical issues of local and national significance, presenting evidence-based conclusions and comparing differing points of view.

Close links to local primary schools and businesses are fostered through Citizenship Activities Week, Enterprise Week, the work experience programme, and regular fundraising events organised within the school house system and the Student Council.

In the global community...

Every year a number of students participate in a range of activities that allow them to represent, and subsequently feedback to their peers. These include the commemorative journey to Ypres, twinned with Sittingbourne, in which fallen soldiers from the local area, Britain as a whole, and the Commonwealth are honoured. There is also a trip to the Houses of Parliament in which students interact with their local MP and have the opportunity to explore democratic and legislative structure on a national level.

Another annual opportunity for students is the Lessons from Auschwitz Project, which feeds into the school via the Next Steps project organised by participants for the rest of the school. This project focuses on issues of diversity, acceptance, and discrimination from a specific historical and cultural perspective.

The yearly German Exchange trip, in which students from Highsted trade places with students in Erlangen, allows the students to experience British Values in the context of our relationships with other countries and cultures.

The work experience visit to Brussels every July affords a selection of sixth form students the opportunity to learn about the structures, laws, and policies of the European Union as well as recognising the attributes of global leaders. This allows highly able young people from a non-affluent area to reflect upon the importance of social mobility as a British value. In addition, the benefits of contributing to the global community are experienced first-hand.