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## **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 pastoral groups explore topics relating to Identity and Diversity, Rights and Responsibilities, and Democracy and Justice as part of our Pastoral 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, that explore our island story as well as the legacy of the British empire today. Students are also able to explore the evolution of the franchise for British women and British leadership in global conflict and peace.

In Modern Foreign Languages, students experience direct comparison of British and other European values through penfriend schemes with 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, and Pastoral Lead teachers. 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 Jo Cox. The theme of each assembly is followed-up in tutorial time and captured in a relevant display in the school reception. The year group system supports students to access 'Big Issues' through a medium that is appropriate for their maturity. There is also the opportunity for older students to deliver whole school assemblies on 'Big Issues' that they feel are important to young people today.

The Student Leadership Council comprises a peer-elected representative for each year group who are in a position to air the views of their peers and contribute to the student voice agenda.

The Student Leadership 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 food drive for local charities, anti-bullying week, Children's Mental Health Week and internet safety week, 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 Debating Matters competition gives 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 High Flyers publication, and regular fundraising events organised by Sixth Form societies and the Student Leadership 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. There is the Year 11 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.

Students are also encouraged to participate in explore opportunities to participate in summer schools that are attended by international students that are hosted by Eton and the Sutton Trust which allow them to explore the views of others.

As part of the Sixth Form Pastoral curriculum, students are at the forefront of raising awareness of global issues, inspired by the UN's 16Daysof Action against Gender Based violence. Students are encouraged to use their voice to bring about active citizenship.