

Learning for Life: Years 7-11

The Learning for Life curriculum has been constructed in consultation with appropriate agencies such as The PSHE Association, as well as the HGS pastoral teams, Learning Support and Careers teams. It is delivered by a wide range of teachers at HGS once a fortnight, with the exception of year 11 who have a weekly lesson. The areas of study include the statutory content from the Citizenship curriculum and the statutory RSE curriculum. Computing, Philosophy and Ethics, Geography, History and Science also deliver some aspects of the statutory content. Students learn about each topic area every year and the intention is that they will build on their understanding of topics in an age-appropriate manner. The topics will potentially be delivered at different times of the year depending on the availability of external speakers, but the content across the year will be the same for every class. There will also be whole-school assemblies throughout the year to further consolidate and embed students' understanding of key content. All topics covered in Learning for Life are compulsory and are carefully designed to prepare them for the safest and brightest possible future.

The Learning for Life department strives to support our students to become resilient, confident and independent individuals who can keep themselves physically and mentally healthy throughout their lives. We seek to ensure that all students become autonomous, well-informed adults who are empowered to make choices which will improve not just their own lives but the lives of those around them. We are passionate about ensuring that all students leave school financially and politically literate, regardless of their background or ability. We understand that unless young people are supported and equipped with the necessary skills to deal with the real-life issues that each and every one of us must face, they cannot reach their full potential and thrive in adult life.

For this reason, lesson content is divided into three topics: Living in the Wider World, Relationships and Health and Wellbeing. We believe these topic areas will enable students to prioritize their health and wellbeing, as well as enable them to reflect on and devise their own criteria for successful living so that they can become active members of society and positive role models for others. During lessons, the Learning for Life team works hard to cultivate a safe space for discussing sensitive and 'taboo' topics, ensuring that everybody feels able to contribute and voice their opinion on personal issues, should they wish to do so. We take seriously our responsibility to uphold the highest standards of safeguarding in leading such discussions.

We support students to maintain a growth mindset when facing challenges, and teach them to lead positive lifestyles and maintain healthy relationships with friends and family. In aid of this, students engage in specialist workshops which are delivered by external speakers such as Phase, Herts Young Homeless, and The Talk About Trust.

Furthermore, we remain responsive to the ever-changing world in which we live so that lessons remain relevant and appropriate for our cohort of students. For instance, we welcome staff and pupil feedback to ensure that lesson content not only meets statutory guidelines, but primarily

the needs of our young people. We want all students to feel represented by our curriculum and know that diversity and uniqueness are things to be celebrated.

In taking these steps, we give students the precious time to express themselves and discover who they are, whilst simultaneously helping them to tackle some of life's biggest challenges. Hence, we believe that Learning for Life is vital in enabling our young people to achieve their goals and ambitions, both now and in the future.

Should you have any further queries, please contact Mrs Foster via emily.foster@hgs.herts.sch.uk or Mrs Pearce via kim.pearce@hgs.herts.sch.uk. Alternatively you can contact us via our joint email address via learningforlifecoordinators@hgs.herts.sch.uk.