



SIXTH FORM GENERAL STUDIES / PSHE PROGRAMME (Senior School)

(This document is available on the school website or on request)

Reviewed November 2018

All students in years 12 and 13 will follow a General Studies / PSHE programme. The programme will seek to meet a variety of needs, investing students with certain practical life skills but also seeking to stretch, challenge and broaden their minds through lectures, seminars and debates. It will seek to challenge them on moral and spiritual issues whilst also providing social guidance and cultural enrichment. Part of the programme will also seek to prepare them for the next step, focusing on UCAS, careers and opportunities beyond school. Moral, cultural and contemporary social issues will be addressed, and fundamental British values explored and discussed.

Practicalities

There will be five parts to the General Studies programme

1. **Thursday Period 5:** 11.45am – 12.20pm (all)
2. **Tuesday Sixth Form assemblies:** 8.35 – 9.00am (all, sometimes by year group)
3. **Monday and Friday whole-school assemblies:** 8:35 – 9.00am (all)
4. **Tutor time:** 8:35 – 9:00am Weds, Thurs and occasional Fridays
5. **Ad hoc lectures guest speakers**

Thursday timetabled General Studies

Every Thursday, during period 5, all Sixth Form students have a timetabled General Studies lesson. These lessons will range from **lectures** in the Theatre to **small group seminars** and **competitive inter-form debates**. Some sessions will be Year 12 or Year 13 specific: the majority will be joint sessions and attendance is compulsory. Both year groups will have an activity every week. There will also be a series of seminars led by QE staff on a rota basis in the spring term.

General Studies Seminars

During the spring term students will attend a series General Studies seminars, on a carousel arrangement as detailed below. The staff who lead these sessions do so voluntarily to deliver specialist material to each group in turn – some are delivered to specific year groups, as appropriate. These sessions will seek to enrich, provoke discussion, and provide invaluable life skills.

Seminar topics in 2017-18 included:

Topic
First Aid and Life Saving skills
Healthy eating self-assessment
Coping with domestic emergencies
How to impress at interview
Relaxation techniques and meditation
How to drive safely
Personal maintenance – how to stay sharp
Appreciation of classical music
Basic car maintenance
'How to read a newspaper': bias and the media

Inter-form debating topics are chosen to enable the students to research, explore and debate a range of contemporary political and ethical issues. Debate titles in 2017-18 included motions of Catalanian independence, and the mental health impacts of social media.

Tuesday Assemblies

Over the course of the year we will invite interesting speakers to come and talk to the students in Tuesday assemblies. Such guests may represent local organisations, or have a connection to QEH. The purpose of these talks is to give students an insight into a 'day in the life' of as many different careers as possible, to introduce them to key British institutions and to get them thinking about the moral and cultural issues and values which concern the UK today. Students are encouraged to lead assembly on topics which are important to them to both build their self-confidence but also foster tolerance and mutual respect within the year group, and a representative from each tutor group is expected to lead an assembly over the year. Tutors and the Heads of Year also deliver assemblies.

Sixth Form assemblies in 2017/18 included:

Running 401 marathons (Ben Smith – guest speaker)
Careers in the military
Personal safety over Christmas and New Year
Entrepreneurship
Life after QEH; starting a business
Testicular cancer awareness (Oddball charity)
Ghanaian culture
Disability rights
Ethics and sustainability of tourism
Careers in journalism
Keeping yourself healthy over summer

Tutor time discussions

Under the guidance of the Assistant Head (Sixth Form), tutors hold structured discussions with their groups during morning form periods over the year. Topics include alcohol and peer pressure, safe driving, coping with examinations and parental expectations, financial responsibility, 'legal highs', and matters of sexual health. This will be subject to on-going review and it is expected that topics may be adjusted to reflect matters in the news.

Ad Hoc Lectures and Guest Speakers

These are designed to target special interest groups or specific subjects. They will either enrich current study or support students' future plans and UCAS applications, as well as providing career inspiration or general interest. Some are organised via subject departments, others more widely open to the Sixth Form. Sixth Form students are also encouraged to attend relevant public lectures and seminars held at Bristol University.

This policy and programme will be reviewed annually by the Assistant Head (Sixth Form).