



Sixth Form General Studies / PSHE Programme

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

Reviewed July 2017

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. **Friday morning PSHE during tutor periods** (all)
5. **Ad hoc lectures and 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 thirteen seminars led by QEHB staff on a rota basis throughout the academic year.

General Studies Seminars

Over the year students will attend thirteen 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 tutor group in turn – some are delivered to specific year groups, some to whole form groups, as appropriate. These sessions will seek to enrich, provoke discussion, and provide invaluable life skills.

Seminar topics in 2016-17 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 2016-17 were based upon notions of healthy lifestyles and pressure on the NHS, cybersecurity and personal privacy, and compulsory voting in elections.

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. A monthly 'Sixth Former of the Month' award is presented to celebrate achievement and perseverance within the cohort. Tutors and the Heads of Year also deliver assemblies.

Sixth Form assemblies in 2016/17 included:

Resilience for the year ahead
The ethics of organ donation
Mental health awareness – Kooth local services
Body image and the ethics of advertising
Life after QEH; starting a business
Testicular cancer awareness
Social media and 'fake news'
Careers in music production
Studying in the USA
Cycling (part of) the Tour de France
Keeping yourself healthy over summer

Friday morning PSHE

September 2017 sees the introduction of a Sixth Form PSHE programme, delivered by form tutors under the guidance of the Assistant Head (Sixth Form), initially on twelve Friday mornings over the year. Topics will 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. Tutors may 'double up' in order to allow material to be delivered by those most comfortable with the subject matter.

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).