

Promoting British Values at Shirley High School

The DfE have recently reinforced the need to *'create and enforce a clear and rigorous expectation on all schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.'*

The government set out its definition of British values in the 2011 Prevent Strategy and these values were reiterated by the Prime Minister last year. At Shirley High School these values are reinforced regularly and in the following ways:

Democracy:

Democracy is richly embedded within the school. Pupils have the opportunity to have their voices heard through Year Group and School Councils, which are democratically elected, and by responding to regular student questionnaires. Feedback from both forums is discussed at Senior Leadership Group meetings and used to inform strategic decisions. The impact of their input is reported back to students through the Councils. At the request of last year's council, members of the Senior Leadership Group now attend School Council meetings by student invitation. This enables students to ask questions about school initiatives and present their ideas directly to school leaders. Students are actively encouraged to stand for election in the UK Youth Parliament and to become members of the Croydon Youth Council. Last year, three KS3 students were part of the Croydon Youth Council and all three stood for the UK Youth Parliament. SHS acted as a polling station for this election during 'Democracy Week'. Throughout this week the candidates delivered their campaign speeches in assemblies and all students were actively encouraged to vote in the elections. Approximately 750 students voted, making SHS the second highest contributor to the democratic process in the whole borough.

Students are actively involved in appointing key members of staff and are given opportunities to converse with governors at School Governors' days. They also have opportunities to get involved with decisions relating to key aspects of the school such as Healthy Schools, statutory school policies and environment issues through our new Healthy Schools' Focus Group and the well-established Green Team. They are encouraged to speak to current and prospective parents by acting as guides at Open Evenings and through supporting the organisation of Parents' Evenings and other school events. Students in every year group have at least two one to one meetings with a member of the Senior Leadership Group each year, where they are given the opportunity to speak freely about their personal goals and any concerns they may have about their learning. Year 7-10 students also have the opportunity to act as form representatives. Form representatives are elected termly to ensure as many students as possible get an opportunity to take on this role.

Students study democratic values as part of their Spiritual Development; Personal Development (PSHEE) and History lessons. Our local MP visits the school to speak to staff and students and democracy is the focus of our 'Freedom' theme week, where students complete a number of activities around this theme and attend assemblies on Martin Luther King. There is also a week dedicated to the School Council elections, where Heads of Year support students to campaign for election.

The Rule of Law:

The importance of law is an integral part of the school ethos and students are taught the value of laws, as well as the reasons behind them, in a variety of ways. Our consistently enforced Behaviour and Rewards Policy is at the heart of this, and all staff and governors model our high expectations. Additionally, we encourage our older students to learn about the challenges of enforcing laws first-hand through our prefect system. Our prefects are required to model outstanding behaviour and uniform standards for our younger students and are given weekly duties that entrust them with enforcing aspects of the Behaviour and Rewards Policy. The students who lead the prefect teams attend special training sessions where they explore leadership skills and how to respond appropriately to issues they may encounter whilst on duty.

Key Stage 3 and 4 students take part in regular sessions (held during our dedicated, Form Tutor led, Personal Development lesson on a Tuesday morning) with external agencies, including the Police and the Fire Department, who ensure students are aware of laws that are of particular significance to them. Most recently, our year 7 and 8 students accessed an excellent session on Road Safety and our year 8 students had question and answer sessions in their form groups with members of the Safer Schools Policing Team. In November, our Year 9 students will participate in a theatre workshop called 'Terriers' (presented by The Royal Court Liverpool Trust and Fairfield Halls) which explores issues related to Gangs.

Assemblies on topics such as Road Safety, Taking Responsibility for Your Actions and Cyberbullying also ensure students are aware of the importance of the law. Our Post-16 students participate in a Safer Drivers day, which highlights the importance of the law when driving and our Year 11 students will this year be attending an Early Driver Safety session. Additionally, this year, all students and staff will participate in externally delivered Internet Safety and PREVENT training sessions. Sessions on these topics will also be available to parents.

Personal Development; Spiritual Development; Citizenship; Sociology and History lessons all address rule of law and subjects such as Media Studies, Business Studies and ICT also cover laws that are relevant to their content. Our extremely successful Post-16 course in Uniformed Public Services covers topics such as Human Rights; Government, Policies and the Public Services; Crime; Police Powers and aspects of the legal system and law making process.

The weekly debate club allows students to discuss and debate contentious laws and encourages them to engage in issues related to human rights.

Individual Liberty:

Students at Shirley High School are actively encouraged to make choices. Pupils are encouraged to know and understand their rights and are advised on how to exercise them safely and positively within the school and local communities. This is addressed through Spiritual and Personal Development, History and Citizenship lessons. Students are further empowered through the School and Year Group Councils, and through their input into student questionnaires which directly inform the Senior Leadership Group and Governors' decision making.

Shirley High School ensures that all students receive a broad and balanced education that meets their interests, aptitudes and needs for their future aspirations. Our three year Key Stage 4 curriculum is as personalised as possible, with free option choices that are subsequently blocked and timetabled. Our Key Stage 5 provision is expanding rapidly and we have developed partnerships with neighbouring schools to ensure our students can access the widest range of courses possible. Additionally, we offer an Enrichment program at Key Stage 5, which further broadens students' choices and experiences.

Students in years 7 – 9 complete modules on personal action planning, personal finance, making informed career choices and applying for jobs and courses as part of their accredited AQA Personal and Social Education course. These units ensure that students are well prepared to make informed life choices and take on adult responsibilities in the future. Year 8 students complete school based work experience at least twice a year.

All students in years 10 and 11 study a course in Work Related Learning, which prepares them for the world of work and encourages them to investigate a range of possible careers. Students have a mock interview day; two weeks of work experience and an interview with a careers advisor, all of which are designed to support them to explore their future career options. Key Stage 5 students visit Russell Group universities and high achieving year 10 students visit Oxford University. All 6th Form students participate in Progression Periods, where they are supported to plan for their futures. Guest speakers throughout the year and during Career's Week also assist students to make positive adult life choices. A support group for Key Stage 5 students hoping to attend Russell Group Universities encourages students to have high aspirations.

Mutual Respect:

Shirley High School holds mutual respect at the core of its ethos. Our entire Behaviour and Rewards policy is informed by our Golden Rule, 'Shirley High School students are expected to show consideration and respect to all members of the school and local community at all times'. This rule is reiterated to students and parents at every possible opportunity and is displayed, along with our core values, on large banners around the school and in every classroom. Our robust Anti-Bullying, Inclusion and Community Cohesion policies further support this ethos.

We strongly believe in the importance of mutual respect, which is why Religious Studies remains a compulsory element of the curriculum for all Key Stage 3 and 4 students. The provision of Spiritual and Personal Development has recently been extended to enable year 9 students to access an additional lesson of Citizenship each week. These Citizenship lessons are taught by specialist Spiritual and Personal Development teachers and focus on promoting British Values. Further to this, year 10 students now have an additional Personal Development lesson each week (also taught by specialist teachers).

Every week, Form Tutors address the 'Theme for the Week' and the 'British Values Focus' through a range of tutor time resources and activities. These key themes are promoted on the daily notices board and reinforced in assemblies. As part of this, each year there are a number of high-profile theme weeks covering topics such as bullying, diversity, refugees and Remembrance. These theme weeks involve students completing work related to the topic in a many of their lessons, as well as during tutor periods and assemblies. Guest speakers; display boards; posters and student competitions also support these themed weeks.

We believe in the importance of leading by example and actively encourage all students to take leadership roles at all levels of the school. We have a large number of student prefects in years 11 and 13. Additionally, we have student leaders at all levels of the school including Form Representatives; School and Year Council Representatives; Arts Ambassadors and Green Team Representatives. Many of our Post-16 students act as buddies to our younger students and they run a weekly drop-in buddying afternoon. A very broad range of sports are on offer and our gifted and talented PE students take part in a Sports Leaders course which provides them with opportunities to lead events for students from local primary schools. Students from all year groups regularly lead assemblies; whole school and extra-curricular events.

Last year, seven KS3 students attended Anti-bullying ambassador training. Following this training, these students set up an Anti-bullying team. Since then, this team has written an anti-bullying charter and pledge, which features in the school planner. They

have also run a series of 50 minute sessions for the new intake of year 7 students on Induction Day and are currently preparing a range of activities for Anti-bullying week.

Shirley High School students are encouraged to participate in a range of community and fundraising events, including the Romanian Shoebox Appeal; the local community Tea Party; our Cabaret Evening and our annual Harvest Appeal - where the whole school makes food donations to the Croydon Churches Floating Shelter. In addition to this, each year group has its own charity focus, and Heads of Year encourage their year group to actively support their chosen charity throughout the year. Students are encouraged to engage with students from other schools and members of the local community through collaborative trips, such as the Post-16 Drama trip run in conjunction with Langley Girls, and participating in borough wide events such as the Anti-Bullying event run by the Croydon Youth Council. Year 10 work experience also ensures students engage with and show respect for the wider community. Students have the opportunity to experience different cultures first hand by attending international residential and day trips, including our annual ski and water sports trips, the Year 9 History trip to Ypres and Modern Foreign Languages trips to Europe.

Our attached Secondary Hearing Resource Centre (HRC) is part of the local authority's Department for Children, Families and Learning and is centrally-funded and managed by the Communication Support Service (CSS). It caters for students who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs/Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for severe to profound hearing loss and who need a level of specialist teaching which is greater than would normally be available in a mainstream secondary school. The HRC team run deaf awareness sessions and assemblies for students and staff and actively encourage understanding and mutual respect for students with disabilities. This work is further supported by our Inclusion team, who hold assemblies on dyslexia for students and staff and work closely with Heads of Year and the Senior Leadership Group to ensure all students are treated with respect, regardless of their educational needs.

Mutual respect is a fundamental topic in a number of subject areas including Spiritual Development; Personal Development; KS5 progression; History and Geography. Texts taught in English; Media Studies; the Film Club and the Performing and Visual Arts are carefully selected to allow students to explore a wide range of themes relating to diversity and mutual respect.

Tolerance of those of Different Faiths and Beliefs:

Shirley High School offers a broadly Christian provision. We have a strong, longstanding relationship with St John the Evangelist Church in Shirley; every Christmas our lower school students and their tutors attend a Carol Service at the church which is always very popular. Our annual Harvest Festival and Remembrance Day services are often attended by representatives from the Church and school governors. All of these services include music from our talented Gospel Choir. This year, we are fortunate enough to have enlisted the support of the Youth Minister from the Shirley and West Wickham Baptist Church who will be working with our students throughout the year. Assemblies at Shirley High School have a broadly Christian ethos (we address the themes of Harvest; Lent; Easter and Christmas annually) and every weekly theme includes a Bible reading or something similar. Our year 7 students attend an assembly led by Gideons International, where they are offered a copy of the New Testament to keep.

Our school is very culturally rich, diverse and tolerance and respect for diversity is something we actively encourage. Our Spiritual Development; Personal Development and History lessons encourage discussion and learning about a range of faiths and beliefs and our theme weeks about diversity; refugees and Holocaust Memorial week further reinforce this learning. In June, year 12 students participated in a drop down day on the topic 'When does the promotion of religion become radicalisation?'. Throughout the day students listened to a number of community speakers representing different viewpoints and participated in a debate on the topic which was chaired by a local councillor.

The diversity theme week has become an integral part of our calendar and now runs for a week every term. It is run by a team of staff including an Assistant Headteacher (SMSC), the Head of History; the Head of Spiritual and Personal Development and the Ethnic Minority Achievement Co-ordinator and incorporates a range of activities, competitions and displays of student work, alongside other relevant information (such as a map displaying where the members of our school community come from and a colourful foyer display of flags from these countries). The school canteen also serves a special, culturally diverse menu for these weeks and assemblies focus on celebrating diversity.

Texts addressed in English; the Visual and Performing Arts and Media Studies also provide opportunities to learn about different faiths and beliefs and the Debate Club encourages students to discuss issue relating to diversity and tolerance.