

British Values Statement 2016-17

The promotion of Fundamental British Values is at the heart of our school's ethos – our traditional values in a modern context (Respect, Relationships and Resilience) – equip our students for life and work in a modern, diverse, 21st century Britain. We are proud of our city's wonderfully diverse communities and the many cultures that have contributed to a vibrant Birmingham. While celebrating this diversity (indeed regarding the celebration of diversity as fundamentally British), we promote fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. This includes:

Democracy

- Students elect members of the School Council to represent and articulate their views to one another and to the Senior Leadership Team. Elections are held for the positions of Head Boy and Head Girl. We also run Mock General Elections every five years, coinciding with national General Elections, and ran a Mock EU Referendum, normalising democratic participation and familiarising students with civic engagement.

The Rule of Law

- We have a clear rewards and sanctions policy, which teaches students the vital lesson that all choices have consequences. Merits, Headteacher's Awards, weekly year-group Rewards' Assemblies and Rewards' Trips are used to praise outstanding performance. Equally, slips and referrals are used to sanction any behaviour which does not align with our values. Staff and students engage in 'restorative conversations' after these sanctions have been put into place in order to sustain strong relationships.
- Every classroom displays a key message that 'the adult is in charge of the classroom'. While we encourage students to take responsibility for their own behaviour and choices, they must do so accepting that, ultimately, the adult is the source of authority in their classrooms.

Individual Liberty

- Developing individual aspirations is key to the life and ethos of the school. Whether our students are to be found excelling on stage, artistically flourishing behind an easel, wowing spectators at a football fixture or developing new ideas across their academic studies, we instil in them all a belief in the limitless potential of their own dreams, ambitions and talents. To this end, we:
 - Offer a rich range of subjects not traditionally offered at schools with a non-selective comprehensive intake at GCSE (e.g.: Economics, Psychology, Sociology) exposing students to a wider range of academic disciplines than they may have previously encountered.
 - Arrange Aspirations Visits to universities including, among others, Oxford and Birmingham.
 - Arrange Careers Days, at which a wide variety of industries teach students about their multifaceted employment options.
 - Facilitate Year 10 and Year 12 work experience placements in a rich range of industries across our city.

Mutual Respect

- We follow a Respect Agenda, which flows throughout everything we do. Staff and students are expected to show respect to one another in all that they do.
- All year groups complete a weekly Current Affairs Form Time, enabling them to discuss their views on a rich array of current social, political and economic issues, encouraging them to develop their own unique standpoints and inculcating mutual respect for the views of others.
- We develop respect for difference by celebrating events connected to different communities. Our Assemblies celebrate Eid, Diwali, Chinese New Year and other festivals. Every year, we celebrate Black History Month across the curriculum and organise a Collapsed Day focusing on the rich contributions made to British life by members of its Black and Ethnic Minority communities. We also celebrate LGBT Month across the curriculum and through panel discussions to widen student appreciation for a diverse range of sexual and gender identities.

British Values Initiatives Autumn Term, 2016-17

<p>English</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 9/10/11 English Literature students were taken to <i>Blood Brothers</i> at the Birmingham Hippodrome, normalising theatre-going and inculcating an appreciation for the arts – the play’s subject matter addressed issues of social and economic inequalities/injustice. • For Black History Month (Oct. 2016), rapper Akala came in and did a Shakespeare-style spoken word workshop for all students Years 7/8/9. Students reflected on ways of making Shakespeare more linguistically-relevant to the 21st century, developing their understanding of a writer integral to the English language and using democracy (social linguistic evolution) to develop Shakespearian language.
<p>Maths</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 8 mathematicians participate in the UK Maths Challenge, encouraging interaction with other students across the country. The experience enhances students’ understanding of the fundamental laws of mathematics (Rule of Law) and fosters mental self-discipline and resilience to overcome problems (Individual Liberty). • Year 10 will have an event which will focus on the importance of financial Mathematics and how it will impact them when they leave school. • Years 9/10/11 all look at simple and compound interest rates and how it will impact them when they have overdrafts, car finance, mortgages etc. This develops their appreciation for their individual liberty in making their own financial choices, and their understanding of the legal parameters within which personal financial decisions are made in modern Britain.
<p>Science</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 10 experienced a STEM course in which they participated in projects that linked to real life situations, preparing them for life and work in scientific industries. • Science hosted a Railway Engineering STEM day for Year 8s and 9s in which they designed and engineered different parts of a railway network. • Sixth Form Biologists had the opportunity to explore different species in Sutton Coldfield Park, generating a biodiversity score for the City Council. This has improved their understanding of the conservation work undertaken by the local authority and developed their appreciation of the importance of preserving science and nature for the benefit of all. • Sixth Form Chemists had opportunities to attend University of Birmingham Chemistry lectures and training courses covering latest research. This gave students a chance to socialise and network with University academics, enhancing their appreciation for Higher Education institutions and improving their own knowledge and understanding.
<p>Humanities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PBII offers a wide range of social science subjects at GCSE, all of which rely heavily on debate/exposure to, and consideration of, the views of others – e.g.: Sociology, Psychology, Economics.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History: Years 10/11/12/13 G&T girls have been selected to work on a National Lottery-funded project entitled, 'Birmingham Women: Past and Present Revisited'. The students have been trained by Dr Nicola Gauld (Fellow, University of Birmingham) and Nikki Thorpe (Library of Birmingham) in oral history and in promoting the past's 'forgotten voices' – i.e.: women sometimes obscured by historians. • History/Geography: Google Expeditions came into school and delivered various sessions to all students in Years 7/8 on using technology to enhance their learning. This raised aspirations and prepared students for life and participation in a global economy increasingly shaped by IT/technology. • RE: Year 7 RE lessons included a task 'hot-seating' a Catholic nun from St Mary's Convent, Handsworth, on the nature of her faith and practice as a nun – enhancing students' respect for faith.
ICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A trip for Year 7 is planned to Bletchley Park in 2017, to look at the British contribution to IT and the use of computers in World War II (History of IT). • Year 9 have looked at how subjects (people) are affected by computer law in Britain and all computer standards. • Year 11 have learnt how technology is affected by factors such as Economy, culture, and education in Britain and other countries that affect the gap in technology – the digital divide. • Staffs are using the British flag and reference to British Values when the subject or topic allows, such as British owned franchises or businesses.
Creative Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catering: Masterclass sessions were held at Opus, a Michelin-recommended, independent restaurant in Birmingham, exposing GCSE Catering students to a careers environment they may otherwise have precluded themselves from. The Masterclass also addressed food safety/hygiene legislation, developing their respect for the Rule of Law. • Drama: Years 9/10/11 Drama students taken to London to see a performance of <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i> – normalising theatre-going (and doing so in England's capital city), and therefore raising aspiration, and developing an appreciation of artistic diversity. Subject matter develops respect for people who are 'different'. • Art: Student work is proudly displayed across school and in SLT offices, celebrating individual artistic expression and developing a mutual respect for one another's talents. Every year, the Art Department hosts an exhibition of student work, to which students, parents and members of the local community are invited.
PE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sky Sports Living for Sport Days- sports and life skills clustered around 'Hunger to Achieve'; 'Mental Toughness'; 'Sport and Life Knowledge'; 'People Skills'; 'Breaking Barriers' and 'Planning for Success'. Aimed annually at Year 9 GCSE/BTEC PE students.
Sixth Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The whole of Year 12 had a 'Law Experience Day', focussing on improving their understanding of the British legal system. • University Taster Days across the UK – Birmingham and Oxford.

Sixth Form (Cont'd)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership Challenges involve interaction with the local community (e.g.: Inspirational Brummie, focussing on local figures who helped to shape our nation's identity; a Black History Month podcast celebrating diversity). • The Residential – students fundraise to finance the trip and their total fundraising was divided between each student, fostering a team ethos and mutual respect. Students democratically vote on their preferred destination and have an experience of interacting with various legal entities (e.g.: passport control) during the course of the visit. • UCAS Fair at the NEC, broadening students' liberty and variety of choice in applying to universities they may not have initially considered. • University of Birmingham masterclasses, covering a wide range of topics concerning the law (e.g.: the ethics of animal testing etc.), and topics connected to individual liberty and mutual respect (e.g.: diet and positive body image etc.) • LGBT Week – Sixth Form student leadership demonstrated in leading the LGBT Week assemblies – modelling mutual respect to younger peers, promoting liberty of lifestyle choice and recognising the rule of law by acknowledging recent legislative changes affecting the LGBT community. • KPMG Careers Fair/PWC workshop delivered in school on careers in accountancy and finance. Both careers focus heavily on legislation and exposure to both industries enhance students' belief in their own liberty to pursue them after leaving us.
Whole School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole School services at Birmingham Christian Centre – Harvest (Oct. 2016) and Christmas (Dec. 2016) have developed an appreciation of spiritual inquisitiveness, the liberty to hold religious beliefs, and inculcated respect for faith.