



Holmer Green Senior School

# Open Evening

Thursday 10 October 2019

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

The Headteacher will address parents  
at 6.30pm and 7.30pm in the MAIN HALL

Light refreshments will be available in the  
Dining Room all evening



Dear Visitor

A very warm welcome to Holmer Green Senior School. We are an Ofsted graded "Good" school and for a non-selective, comprehensive school in a selective county we pride ourselves on excellence and the impact we have on shaping our student's characters.

I hope you will enjoy your visit and get a tangible feel for our 'work hard, be kind' attitude.

There will be a Headteacher's presentation during which the main stars of the school, will give you a flavour of their experiences whilst at Holmer Green Senior School. We will have students from both year 7 and our Sixth Form, some of whom have only been in the school for a few weeks now, informing you of the transition process and what to expect over the seven years here.

You will be able to explore the school and the areas that you are most interested in. Student representatives are located throughout the school so that you can ask questions and get the real student voice on subject areas and how Holmer Green Senior School operates. There will also be senior members of staff around to answer any questions you might have.

You will realise that on this evening you are seeing the school on display and without lessons taking place, but I do believe that this will give you some insight into our ethos and the quality of the relationships that exist between members of our community. You will see many excellent departments all of whom epitomise our core values of: hard work, being kind, excellence and creativity.

If, at the end of the evening, you still have unanswered questions or feel that you would like to see the school in action during the day, we are open tomorrow morning from 9.30am to 11.00am.

Thank you for visiting our school.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Hillyard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

Ed Hillyard

Headteacher

September 2019



## **Introducing Year 7**

We understand that moving to secondary school may seem a little scary to both students and parents, but at Holmer Green Senior School we work hard to put minds at rest and encourage everyone to see the move as an exciting opportunity.

We try to make the change from primary to secondary school as easy as possible. That is why all students and parents will have at least two chances to visit us before transfer. We find this often means students eagerly look forward to the actual move.

We see parents as part of the school community too, and are very keen to break down any communication or confidence barriers that might exist. During a student's first year at the school there will be a variety of formal and social opportunities for parents to meet staff and we hope that you will take full advantage of these.

## **Admission Arrangements**

The school's Admissions Policy is published on our website ([hgss.co.uk](http://hgss.co.uk)) including special arrangements for students with disabilities. All new buildings have disability access and plans to upgrade existing buildings are in line with the Buckinghamshire disability plans.

The Admissions Policy is that places are offered according to the following criteria, in order of priority:

1. Looked after children. A looked after child is a child who is either in the care of the local authority or being provided with accommodation by a local authority in the exercise of their social services functions, or previously looked after children who were looked after but ceased to be so because they were adopted or became subject to a child arrangements order or special guardianship order.'
2. Children of parents where one or more parents works at the school at the time of application in either or both of the following circumstances:
  - Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or
  - The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
3. Where the member of staff has been employed at the school for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to the school is made, and/or  
The member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage
4. Students living in the catchment area of the school. Please see the Catchment Area Map in your Prospectus pack
5. Siblings of students in Years 7 to 10 who are on the roll of the school at the time allocations are made and who will be on the roll of the school at the time of the proposed admission.
6. Students who have exceptional medical or social needs which can only be met at this school supported by evidence as set out in the County Scheme. Once the rules have been applied, then any further places will be offered in distance order using the methodology set out in the County Scheme.
7. Children who live outside the defined catchment area.

Further information about admissions procedures can be obtained from the Admissions Section, Education Department, County Hall, Aylesbury, HP20 1UZ



## The School Day

8.55am Registration / Pastoral Period / Assembly

9.20am	Period 1
10.20am	Period 2
11.20am	Break
11.40am	Period 3
12.40pm	Year 9,10 and 11 Period 4
12.40pm	Year 7 and 8 Lunch
1.15pm	Year 7 and 8 Period 4
1.40pm	Year 9, 10 and 11 Lunch
2.15pm	Period 5
3.15pm	End of School Day

Most students either buy hot or cold food from the catering facilities on offer at school or bring sandwiches.

## Uniform

Our uniform code is a key to Holmer Green Senior School's sense of pride and purpose. We expect our students to wear and be proud of the school uniform and believe that high uniform standards lead to high standards of conduct and a better attitude towards learning. By taking pride in their appearance, students express their commitment to the school and our way of working together to achieve future success.

Term	Open on morning of	Close at end of afternoon of
Autumn	Wednesday 2 September 2020 (Year 7 and 12 only)	Friday 19 October 2020
	Tuesday 3 November 2020	Friday 18 December 2020
Spring	Tuesday 5 January 2021	Friday 12 February 2021
	Tuesday 23 February 2021	Thursday 1 April 2021
Summer	Tuesday 20 April 2021	Friday 28 May 2021
	Tuesday 7 June 2021	Wednesday 21 July 2021

## School Terms and Holidays – Academic Year 2020-2021 (Provisional Dates)

### Examination Results

In 2019 we enjoyed fantastic results.

68% of our Year 11 students achieved 5+ GCSE levels 9-4 (equivalent to a pass or better) including both English and Maths.

In the 6th Form, 83% of A Level grades were A\*-C (compared with 76% nationally) and 100% of our students achieved at least a pass.

## Pastoral Care

Assistant Headteachers

Mrs A Hearne	Mrs C Hawkins	Mrs C Douglas
Behaviour	Safeguarding	Attendance and Punctuality

### **Pastoral Team**

All students at HGSS are part of a tutor group so have access to our pastoral team every day. We pride ourselves on knowing our students well and along with the assistance the tutor will give, there is a robust structure for support embedded in the school.

The Hub is the centre of the organisation of Pastoral Care. All students and parents have access to the Hub. As well as pastoral support, we also look at how we can encourage ever improving behaviour through an experienced and dedicated team.

We have access to a number of external agencies to support whatever is going on in a young person's life.

Our pastoral team consists of:

Head of Year 11	Mr J Callender
Head of Year 10	Ms G McShane
Head of Year 9	Mrs J Scatley
Head of Year 8	Miss J Sexton
Head of Year 7	Mr K McMaster



Mrs K Terry is the Pastoral Manager for Years 7, 8 and 9.

Mrs J Cox is the Pastoral Manager for Years 10 and 11.

Mrs C Hemming is the Inclusion Manager.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

HGSS has high expectations of all our students and expects students to strive for excellent attendance and punctuality. We believe this is central to raising standards and ensuring that every child at our school achieves their potential.

Holidays in term time are not accepted as they have a detrimental impact on the child's learning and there are 13 weeks of non-school time per year in which to arrange holidays.

The role of the Attendance and Punctuality team is to:

- Monitor attendance and reduce absence
- Act early in order to address patterns of absence
- Monitor students' attendance to lessons

With this knowledge, we work with parents, heads of years and pastoral managers to ensure that all students maximise their attendance and hence fully benefit from their education.

Our team consists of:

Mrs S Melhuish (Attendance and Medical)

Mrs J Chamberlain (Attendance and Medical)

Mrs C Douglas (Assistant Headteacher, Attendance, Punctuality and High Prior Attainers)



## ART & DESIGN AND TEXTILES

Head of Department:

Mrs A Hearne

In **Art and Design** you will have the opportunity to experiment with different materials and techniques such as:-

- Painting and drawing
- Textiles
- Pottery
- Photography
- Mixed Media
- Sculpture
- ICT

You will have an opportunity to be creative whilst learning about the formal elements. You will look at a range of artists and designers both historical and contemporary.

In **Textiles** you will have the opportunity to experiment with materials such as:

- Printing
- Machine and hand embroidery
- Weaving
- Digital textiles
- Mixed media
- Fashion Design

You will learn about contemporary and historical textile designers and you will have the opportunity to work from a range of starting points.



## BUSINESS STUDIES (BITE Faculty)

Head of Department:

Miss M O'connor

Students who pick Business Studies as one of their option subjects will learn about a range of considerations that businesses have to make in order to be successful.

Students will learn about many areas of business including:

- Business Ownership
- Factors that affect success such as location, sources of finance and cash flow
- Students will develop numeracy skills, they will need to calculate a break-even chart, budgets, market share and cash flow forecasting
- Students will develop knowledge of the marketing mix, employment law and consumer law
- Human resources and the importance of motivating and training employees
- Production methods and the benefits of economies of scale, quality assurance and quality control
- Ethical and environmental considerations
- Globalisation, the value of exports and GDP to a UK economy

Business Studies is a unique subject as it mixes a variety of skills from extended essay writing which develops students' literacy skills; students will also develop their numeracy skills when analysing businesses' key financial information.





## COMPUTING/IT (BITE Faculty)

Head of Faculty:

Ms F Kiss

In Computing/IT students will experience challenging, creative and inspirational lessons which will ensure that they can understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science. Students will be using a variety of programming languages such as Kodu, Small Basic and Python. They will explore the principles of digital technology and a way of working that is called 'computational thinking'. This will enable them to think logically, solve problems and be tenacious when the going gets tough, skills that will enrich any other subject of study.

Students will also learn how to operate the main Microsoft Office programs effectively. Lessons will focus around developing skills that will be essential further up the school, such as the ability to create a spreadsheet model with formula, to develop graphs in Excel, to create a database in Microsoft Access as well as using Microsoft Publisher to design posters and other materials.

In a world where technology is evolving rapidly, creating new subject areas to explore and changing the way people work in all areas it is vital to develop their grasp of these ideas and concepts that will shape the world. Further up the school, students will have the opportunity to develop their knowledge of how ICT and digital technology has affected and influenced our lives.

In addition to the work that the Department does in class time to improve students understanding of computing, the Department will also be offering enrichment clubs which will further develop the students understanding of programming. The Department will also work alongside other Departments such as Science, Technology and Maths to develop cross curricular enterprise days which will add context to the skills that students learn within Computing and IT.





## DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Acting Head of Department:

Mrs H Smith

In **Design and Technology** Year 7 and 8 students will study a range of material areas in a carousel system. The material areas covered are Food, Resistant Materials and Graphic Products. In each area, students will undertake practical tasks and make a range of products.

They will learn about the different materials, tools, equipment and processes used as well as designing and making products. They will be taught the importance of safety in these specialist rooms as well as time management and group working skills.

It is essential that students are equipped with drawing pencils, ruler, coloured pencils and a black fine liner for all technology lessons; they will be given plenty of notice about when to bring in ingredients for food lessons.

Students are encouraged to use ICT in their design folders and are expected to complete all homework tasks.

### **Year 7 Syllabus -**

#### **Food Technology**

Students will study the practical skills to enable them to safely use a range of kitchen equipment, including the oven, independently. They will make a variety of dishes, including pasta salad, fruit smoothies, pizza toast, vegetable soup, chilli con carne and chicken goujons.

They will acquire the skills of planning and making, reflection and evaluation. They will gain knowledge of fruit and vegetables, food safety and hygiene, the safe storage of food, use of small equipment, weighing and measuring, the Eatwell Guide and the 8 tips for healthy eating, and the sensory and functional attributes of foods and ingredients.

Students will be required to provide ingredients each week from a list provided.

#### **Resistant Materials**

In this module, students will learn how to work safely in a workshop and use a range of hand tools and machinery. They will create a range of designs for a 3D hand-held maze. This will then be developed into a final practical outcome using coloured acrylic and a 3D printer.

#### **Graphic Products**

In this unit the students learn how to design for others and how we communicate non-verbally with the use of graphic design. They use a range of graphical techniques including cutting intricate shapes out of paper and card to create a touch and feel sample book for small children.



# ENGLISH

Head of Department:

Mrs S Towers

## Key Stage 3:

- Mastery Learning in Year 7
- Accelerated Reader, wider reading lessons once per week in the Library
- *Oliver Twist*, Charles Dickens
- *Danny the Champion of the World*, Roald Dahl
- *Heroes*, Robert Cormier
- *The Tempest* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, William Shakespeare
- A wide range of poetry
- Additionally, students develop their creative writing, non-fiction, and analytical essay writing skills.

## GCSE English Language and Literature

At HGSS, we study the Edexcel specification for English Language and Literature. All of our students sit both GCSEs. GCSE English is both highly engaging and also demanding. We hope to foster a lifelong love of reading as well as creating confident and articulate speakers, readers and writers.

### English Language

- Paper 1: 19th Century Fiction and Imaginative Writing—we focus on a range of 19th Century extracts for the reading section. We use a very diverse range of British and American texts for creative writing inspiration and engagement. Our Year 9 students study an additional novel, *The Sign of Four* by Arthur Conan Doyle in this unit.
- Paper 2: Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional Writing—we design our schemes of work with thoughtful and engaging 20th and 21st Century text choices and plenty of opportunities for our students to write creatively and functionally. In addition to unseen texts, Year 9 also study *Touching the Void* in this unit.

### English Literature

- Paper 1—*Romeo and Juliet* and *An Inspector Calls*.
- Paper 2—*Jekyll and Hyde* OR *A Christmas Carol*. An anthology of Conflict Poetry and Unseen Poetry. We use a huge range of engaging poems in order to teach unseen poetry skills.

Alongside the courses, we provide opportunities for students to enrich their learning in English through trips and visits, public speaking and a number of competitions throughout their five years at HGSS. This year our students are looking forward to trips to Shakespeare's Globe, The Wycombe Swan, a conference for A-level students in Euston Square as well as a number of National Theatre and RSC live screening events at the cinema.





# GEOGRAPHY

Head of Department:

Miss C Lewin

Geography is a fantastic subject whereby students at Holmer Green get to study a vast array of topics that encompass the world around them. It is the bridge between the Arts and the Sciences and captures the interests and imaginations of students of all interests and abilities.

## **End Game:**

- To appreciate and understand the interrelations between the human and physical environments.
- To appreciate how personal decisions impact the global context.
- To construct a portfolio of geographical skills and to think like a geographer.

## **What will I study in Geography at HGSS in KS3?**

### **Year 7**

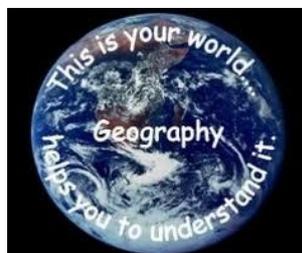
- Blue Planet
- Crumbling Coasts
- Depleting Resources
- Extreme Expeditions
- Bollywood Dreams
- Abingdon Reservoir

### **Year 8**

- A Shrinking World
- Rapid Rivers
- A Hazardous World
- Global Conflicts
- The River Chess
- A Divided World

### **Year 9 (begins GCSE course, through Years 9,10,11)**

- Challenge of Resource Management
- Physical Landscapes in the UK
- Urban Issues and Challenges
- The Challenge of Natural Hazards
- The changing Economic World
- The Living World



# HISTORY

Head of Department:

Miss K Harrison

In History students will study:

## Year 7— Rulers and Ruled

Let us take you back, right back to the Middle Ages – What was it like to live in England at that time? How did Rulers gain their power? What was the impact of the Black Death on England? Was the Norman Conquest good for England? We will also look at what happens when rulers lose their power through investigations into King John and the English Civil War. Year 7 addresses all of these aspects of History and discovers what impact they had on shaping Britain.

## Year 8— Rights and Democracy

How did Britain gain an Empire? What was it like to be a slave? How was slavery abolished? Year 8 begin their studies by looking at how and why the Industrial Revolution led to the development of the British Empire. They will move on to “Slavery to Equality” and assess the morality of the Slave Trade and it’s importance to the British Empire. The year will end with looking at the First World War, the end of the war and how Hitler was allowed to come to power in Germany. This will give them a taster of studies at GCSE level.

## Year 9— GCSE OCR HISTORY B: Schools History Project

Year 9 begin working on the OCR History B GCSE qualification: Life in Nazi Germany 1933—1945. They will start by looking at the history of the Nazi Party and how Hitler was able to create a Dictatorship in Germany. They will continue to study life for Germans during the Second World War, the impact of the Nazi regime on different groups within society, and what life was like for those living in occupied Europe.





## LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

Head of Department:

Ms M Ross

The LRC is open every day for students to choose books, and to do homework and research. We are open before and after school as well as at break and lunch for general access:

**Monday to Thursday 8.30am – 4.30pm**  
**Friday 8.30am – 4.00pm**

A librarian and a team of student librarians from across the year groups are here to help students to get the most out of the library.

### **Resources**

We have over 10,000 books to choose from, including the latest in popular KS3 fiction and a wide range of curriculum nonfiction support. Students can borrow up to 4 books at a time, and more if they wish, once they are in the habit of returning books regularly.

Students can reserve books which they want to read, and make suggestions for new books to be purchased for the library.

There are 40 networked computers with free black and white printing. We are fortunate to have a separate silent study room as well as our large open plan space with the computer suite and study seating for 40 students.

### **Reading**

In Years 7, 8 and 9 English classes visit the library once a week for a quiet reading lesson and to have the opportunity to choose new books.

A key element of these reading lessons is the Accelerated Reader (AR) programme . This computer based programme tests students' reading ages, and suggests a range of levels of books for a student to read, some of which will be in the student's comfort zone, and others which they will find more of a challenge. Upon completion of reading an AR levelled book, students take a comprehension quiz and earn points towards their personalised reading goal. The AR programme allows teachers to monitor individual performance and motivation.

### **Activities**

**The library runs different activities to promote books, reading and knowledge:**

- Monthly after-school book clubs for lively book discussion.
- Friday lunchtime is "Board Game Friday".
- Thursday lunchtime is Chess Club where students can play, learn or teach others Chess. We also hold an annual Chess Tournament.



# MATHS

Head of Department:

Mrs J Thorburn

We believe mathematics should be enjoyed at all levels and that students make progress by experiencing a wide range of mathematical activities.

Our schemes of work are designed to cater for our students' full range of abilities with differentiated material for the more able students and support for those who are less confident. Furthermore, all students are taught in sets according to ability.

## **Year 7 and 8**

Our core curriculum follows the National Strategy and we have an extensive range of resources to supplement our excellent class textbooks, Pearsons Edexcel KS3 Maths progress. Wherever possible practical activities, investigations, games and ICT will be used to enhance students' learning and make the study of mathematics a dynamic and meaningful experience. The excellent end of KS4 results reflect our aim to improve the performance of every child.

Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 follow the Edexcel mathematics syllabus at Higher or Foundation Level. This covers the key areas of Number, Algebra, Geometry and Data Handling. There are no controlled assessments for mathematics.

In 2019, 78% of Year 11 students achieved level 9–4 (pass and above).

## **Sixth Form**

Holmer Green Senior School offers A-Level Mathematics Pure Mathematical and Applied.

In 2019, 70% of our A Level students achieved A-B grades and 100% achieved A–E grades.





# MUSIC

Head of Department:

Mrs E Ginger

The music curriculum aims to involve all students in enjoyable music making. Music is assessed on 6 different elements. Performance, ICT, Composing, Knowledge, Listening and Evaluating

- Performance:** All students learn basic skills on the electronic keyboard, guitar and various percussion instruments. Students perform their own compositions and works by other composers.
- ICT:** All students will learn about music software and how to create music using the computers. We use Mixcraft and Sibelius software at school
- Composition:** This element of the course includes improvisation and the composing of song lyrics and instrumental pieces. We have some excellent composers at the school, it is an important part of music at HGSS
- Knowledge:** All students will learn about different types of music from around the world, as well as basic music theory to develop their knowledge of music.
- Listening:** Students are encouraged to develop an understanding and sensitivity to music and appreciate its aesthetic qualities. A wide range of music is studied – classical, world and popular styles amongst others.
- Evaluation:** Students are encouraged to evaluate their own and others' compositions and performances.

Students in Years 7 and 8 receive one lesson of music every week. In Year 9, 10 and 11 Music is an optional subject which can be taken to GCSE level. We offer A-level Music at Key Stage 5.

## Extra Curricular Activities

The Music Department has eight experienced peripatetic teachers who provide individual tuition for piano, woodwind, keyboard, violin, classical guitar, electric guitar, bass guitar, brass, drums and voice. Students who have instrumental tuition in their middle schools are able to continue to receive lessons at Holmer Green Senior School. Beginners are also welcome.

The school has a Choir, Clarinet Choir, Rock School, KS3 Keyboard Club and Swing Band, which rehearse every week. These groups give students who play an instrument the invaluable experience of developing their musicianship by playing in an ensemble. There is also the opportunity for students to form their own groups using the facilities of the Department.

The Music Department is involved in a number of performances each year, as well as residential trips. Previously, we had a successful trip to Lake Garda in Italy where we performed two concerts.



## PERFORMING ARTS

Head of Department:

Mrs E Hall

Students in Year 7 and 8 enjoy one lesson of Performing Arts per week where they study a variety of practitioners and styles. They work through units that cover key Performing Arts skills such as storytelling, dance, cross cutting and thought tracks. KS3 Performing Arts at Holmer Green offers students a firm foundation for continued study at GCSE, but also a number of transferable life skills.

Depending on the level of demand and type of Performing Arts at KS4 and KS5, GCSE and Level 3 qualifications take place, giving students a good spring board into university.





# Photography

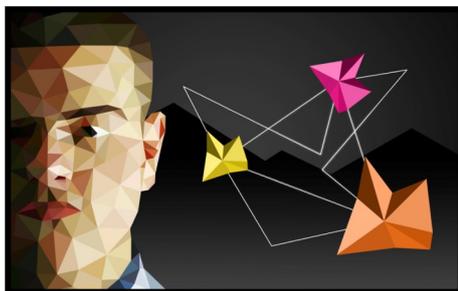
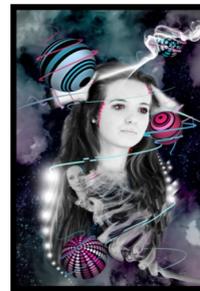
Head of Department:

Mrs V Walden

Photography is a GCSE Option and will begin in Year 9, if opted.

In Photography you will learn how to take successful photographs through exploring a number of key elements. You will also learn how to read images and how to construct your own opinion when looking at the work of others. Another key aspect of the course is the manipulation of imagery through physical edits and by learning how to develop images using Adobe Photoshop. Some of what you will learn is listed below:-

- Compositional techniques
- The importance of depth of field
- Various lighting techniques
- How to generate ideas
- Mixed Media Photography
- How to analyse effectively
- An understanding of Adobe Photoshop



**PHYSICAL  
EDUCATION**

Head of Department:

Mr R Ellis

In Physical Education students in Years 7 and 8 will study the basic skills and tactics in a variety of the following activities:

Rugby	Netball	Football	Tennis
Dance	Badminton	Basketball	Rounders
Cricket	Athletics	Gymnastics	Volleyball
Hockey	Fitness	Zumba	Table Tennis
Pilates	Handball	Lacrosse	

In Years 9, 10 and 11 students will develop the above activities into strategic play in conditioned and full game situations.

GCSE Physical Education is on offer for Year 9, 10 and 11 students, BTEC Sport is on offer for Years 12 and 13. The Sports Leaders Award is also available for those students wanting to improve coaching skills.

The department lays great emphasis upon behaviour and appearance. All students are expected to wear the correct PE kit. Self-discipline is encouraged in order that all may learn safely and with enjoyment.

All students are encouraged to take part in extra-curricular clubs and teams, during lunch time, before school and after school. The more talented students will be fed into local clubs, district, regional and national standards of competition. We also have a school Sports Committee which promotes and raises the profile of sport throughout the whole school.

**2018/2019 Sport Successes:**

<b>Chiltern District League Winners:</b>	Year 7, 8 and 11 Football Year 7, 10 and 11 Netball
<b>Bucks Football County Cup:</b>	Year 7 and 8 semi-finalists
<b>County Girls Football Tournament:</b>	Runners-Up
<b>Current Chiltern District Cricket Championship:</b>	Year 7/8 and 9/10



## PSHCE

Head of Department:

Mrs H Bunn

### **PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH, CITIZENSHIP, CAREERS and ECONOMIC Education**

PSHCE education gives pupils the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe and to prepare them for life and work in modern Britain.

The National Curriculum states that 'all schools should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE)'. PSHE education contributes to schools' statutory duties outlined in the Education Act 2002 and the Academies Act 2010 to provide a balanced and broadly-based curriculum and is essential to Ofsted judgements in relation to personal development, behaviour, welfare and safeguarding.

PSHE education can contribute to a range of positive outcomes for children and young people: keeping them healthy and safe, both online and offline, improving their academic performance, preparing them for the workplace and building the character and resilience they will need to thrive in a changing world.

In Years 7, 8 and 9 PSHCE will be taught in a weekly one hour session. Years 10 and 11 will have a weekly tutor session.

The programme of study includes three core themes:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Relationships
- Living in the Wider World

PSHCE education covers core knowledge relating to issues such as online and offline safety, relationships, health and careers, taught in a way which is appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils. The subject is tied together by the development of the key skills and attributes which pupils need to thrive both in their childhood and throughout their adult lives. These key skills and attributes – such as self-management, empathy, critical thinking, communication, resilience, teamwork and negotiation – are crucial to pupils' life chances.

**PSHCE Department**



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Head of Department:

Miss J Kirkpatrick

*Picture a person standing in the middle of a vast forest....  
Alone....  
He shouts at the top of his voice....  
Does anyone hear him?*

**This question has puzzled all those who do not have a strong religious faith but what is religion all about?**

**What are the main religions?**

**What can we learn about these religions?**

**What can we learn from these religions?**

**How can this knowledge affect the world in every day situations?**

Learning about religious studies can help you to understand the answers to the questions above and a whole list more you may have. You may not have studied religious studies as a subject on its own before so what can you expect when you arrive?

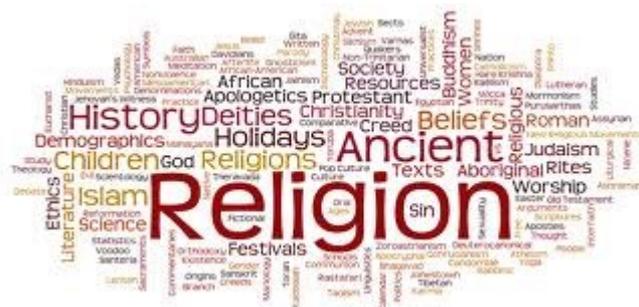
## **Year 7**

What is Religious Studies? Becoming a Religious Studies expert. Judaism. Life of Jesus. Life after Death

## **Year 8**

Islam. Sikhism, Equality and Equal rights. Buddhism.

*Religious studies will teach you to be respectful and thoughtful of opinions, both your own and those of others. It will give you the chance to think and learn about other religions and it will give you a chance to learn about yourself too! We don't just learn about religion in RS as we are 'studying' the views of people as not everyone follows a faith. It also helps your literacy skills and your ability to evaluate and justify opinions in a safe environment.*





## SCIENCE

Head of Department:

Ms C Theobald

In Science students will develop their skills to become **THE SCIENTISTS OF THE FUTURE!!!!**

Students will...

- Develop a sense of awe and wonder of our world and beyond.
- Understand and engage in current scientific affairs and have an enquiring mind.
- Develop ideas using scientific methods and processes.
- Apply scientific knowledge to everyday situations.

### **Biology**

Cells: find out what all living things are made of, and look at your cells under a microscope!

Genetics and Evolutions: Find out what makes you, you!

Reproduction: Find out how you got here!

### **Chemistry**

Chemical Reactions: What happens when you mix an acid and alkali? What happens when you heat magnesium? Do the experiment and find out!

Matter: Find out what makes up everything in the universe!

Substances: What is in a mixture and how do we separate them out? Use what you have earned to survive on a desert island!

### **Physics**

Forces: Find out what makes things move and why are some faster than others!

Space: Look into space and find out what goes on amongst the stars!

Energy: Find out what makes chemicals react and people move!

**At HGSS Science is filled with fun and experiments to give students a real insight into how the world around them works. They will witness reactions and processes first hand to develop the knowledge and understanding so they can draw a conclusion to explain what they have seen.**





## SIXTH FORM

Head of Department:

Mrs R Golding

Welcome to Holmer Green Senior School Sixth Form.

I am extremely proud to be Assistant Headteacher in charge of our Sixth Form and I am convinced that it will be a great year for the students and the school. Last year, our Year 13 students achieved 56% A\* to B grades and 60% of our Level 3 BTEC entries were a Distinction\*/Distinction, a record they can be really proud of, and significantly above national averages.

The Sixth Form is a key part of Holmer Green Senior School, offering our students and those from other schools the opportunity to study a wide range of courses to prepare for the future, be that in education, employment or training. We welcome new students to the Sixth Form as they enrich the experience for all.

We pay particular attention to each individual student to promote their personal, social and educational development for achievement at the highest possible level. For students who require a little extra support, our tutorial system ensures that an academic tutor is always on hand to talk to, along with our Second in Charge of the Sixth Form Miss Harrison and our Sixth Form Support Officer, Mrs Martin, who are always available to provide additional advice, guidance and learning support.

It is our aim to prepare students for higher education, lifelong learning and their future careers. Educational qualifications, however, are not the only consideration when making career choices. Personal qualities are also very important and we offer our students wide ranging opportunities to develop many of the skills they will need for their future. Our students access a programme which will fully support their transition to life after HGSS. Last year, our students were accepted on courses as diverse as History, Business, Mathematics, Computer Science, Geography, Psychology, English Literature and Film and Screen Studies, Paramedic Science, and Philosophy, Politics and Economics, many of whom received unconditional offers, and 90% of our UCAS applicants were awarded places at their top choice universities. Other students chose to continue their education and training through apprenticeships, with organisations such as British Airways and Christies Auction House.



## Learning Support

SENCo:

Mrs C Hawkins

The aim of the Learning Support Department is to support students who have additional needs, to access the mainstream curriculum.

The Learning Support Department is based at the far end of the school above the Drama block. It contains 4 teaching spaces, two shared offices and a sensory room. We now also have a small classroom and garden for use at break and lunchtime.

Holmer Green Senior School has an ARP (Additionally Resourced Provision) for Speech, Language and Communication as well as for children on the Autistic Spectrum. This means that we have 26 places for students with an EHCP where Speech & Language and/or ASD has been identified as a significant need and barrier to learning. The ARP serves the whole of Buckinghamshire and works with pupils to develop their language, vocabulary and social skills.

We work closely with our primary feeder schools to ensure that information is shared regarding the students' needs. This process starts in the summer term prior to entry into Year 7. All information collated by the Pastoral Manager, the Head of Year 7 and the SENCo, is used to form a **confidential** SEN document, which is shared with teaching and support staff. We also use SATS data to identify students who may be in need of additional support. Teaching staff can also raise their concerns to the Learning Support Staff at any time.

The Learning Support Department uses a range of assessment tools to identify areas of need and monitor progress. We liaise with parents to communicate the results of these assessments and suggest ways to support their child at home.

Students identified by the school and placed on an SEN support plan are monitored termly. The students along with their **key worker**, set targets which are recorded in their planners and are also communicated to parents. The progress of these students is reviewed termly and they may come on and off the register accordingly.

We offer support in lessons, reading interventions, numeracy interventions, literacy support, Occupational Therapy, homework support, a Social Communication Group, pastoral and emotional support, drop-in at break and lunchtime, loan of alphasmarts and laptops, modification of work for visually impaired students, assessments, exam concessions (readers, scribes, PC use) and work with outside agencies such as CAMHS, school nurses, Specialist Teaching Service & Careers.

## PENN RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

Lead Teacher

Mr R Whitby

### **What is PRP?**

The Penn Resilience Programme (sometimes referred to as the UK Resilience Programme) is a sequence of lessons that is designed to help students to cope with some of the stresses and pressures of adolescence and adult life. It is somewhat similar to the Cognitive Behaviour Therapy approach of dealing with depression and anxiety, however PRP is used to prepare students rather than to respond to pre-existing issues.

PRP was designed by researchers at Pennsylvania State University and has been taught by several schools in the USA and the UK.

### **What do the lessons teach?**

Essential resilience skills and competencies that are useful in and out of school. Students learn about the link between thoughts, feelings and behaviour. These are referred to using the ABC model. This is used to assist students in understanding that there are **A**ctivating events, **B**eliefs and thoughts about those events and that these lead to the **C**onsequences or feelings that cause behaviours.

Students develop an understanding about different habits of thinking and how some thinking is helpful and how some thinking can be less helpful. Resilience skills will enable them to think flexibly and accurately as a route to problem solving, overcoming the difficulties they face and making the most of opportunities.

PRP is taught over a course of 18 core lessons in Year 7, and 12 follow-up lessons in Year 8. The 18 core lessons cover: the ABC model, thinking styles, alternative thoughts, putting things into perspective, assertiveness, negotiation, coping strategies, problem solving, procrastination, visualised relaxation, mindfulness and decision making. Regular review of skills and concepts is needed to embed these skills.

### **Why are these skills taught as part of the curriculum at HGSS?**

These skills are taught in order to support and develop students to be able to cope well in school and be equipped to deal with life beyond school. The PRP teaches specific, tangible skills and strategies that can become the skills for life – a set of personal tools that underpin the way students will engage and approach their time in school and in life. Young people need to learn how to respond and overcome setbacks as a core part of their education.

Research suggests that when students are offered the opportunity to develop emotional resilience they are better equipped to succeed in school as they are less likely to get anxious and more likely to understand how to overcome difficulty. Here at HGSS we aim to offer a dynamic learning experience, matching outstanding care and support for every child with the very highest levels of challenge and expectations of success. By offering PRP we aim to ensure that students' care and support is available for our students from the very beginning of their time at HGSS by providing them with the skills that they need to be able to approach challenges and opportunities with a resilient and positive outlook.

### Duke of Edinburgh Awards

We run an ambitious programme of Duke of Edinburgh Awards at Holmer Green Senior School. Your child will have the opportunity to take part in:

- Bronze Award - Year 9
- Silver Award - Year 10
- Gold Award - Year 12

Each Award involves a programme of independent achievement for students to include a Skills section, a Physical section, a Volunteering section and an Expedition. For the Gold Award the students also undertake a 5 day residential programme. All the awards are designed to build confidence, resilience and independence with the Gold Award being particularly highly thought of by prospective employers and institutions of Higher Education and Universities. Students achieving the Gold are presented their Award at St James Palace by a member of the Royal Family. Last year only 11,340 young people in the whole of the United Kingdom achieved the Gold Award so this really is a fantastic opportunity.

Club	Year Group
Art & Textiles	All
Art & Textiles	All
Badminton	All
Board Games	All
Boxing	All
Chemistry Club	7 and 8
Chess Club	All
Choir	All
School Band	All
STEM Club	9 and 10
Table Tennis	All
Tech Crew	All
Year 10 and 11 Netball Training	Year 10 and 11
Year 11 Football Training	Year 11
Year 7 and 8 Dance	Year 7 and 8
Year 7 and 8 Yoga	Year 7 and 8
Year 7 Football Training	Year 7
Year 7 Netball Training	Year 7
Year 8 and 9 Netball Training	Year 8 and 9
Year 8 Football Training	Year 8
Year 9 Football Training	Year 9

**At HGSS students are able to access a wide range for school trips such as these which have run recently:**

- World Challenge
- Year 7 Bushcraft
- Ski Trip
- Theatre and Cinema trips for English and Drama
- Opera and Concert trips for Music
- Geography Coursework Trips
- History and Politics Trips to Berlin, Ypres and the United States of America
- Music residential Trip
- UCAS Exhibition Trip for Sixth Form students
- Residential Trips to Spain/France for Modern Foreign Languages



**NOTES:**

