



Learning for Life Programme

Bancroft's
Independent Co-educational Day School 7–18

The Learning for Life Programme

The development of pupils as responsible and informed citizens, and the fostering of spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness, are at the heart of the whole educational experience at Bancroft's and particularly the Learning for Life programme. We are committed to achieving the outcomes of the *Every Child Matters* agenda. The Learning for Life programme is one way in which these objectives are met (also see the Religious Education and Spiritual Life Policy). Through the Learning for Life programme, the School ensures all pupils are taught about safeguarding, including online safety, as part of a wide-ranging and balanced curriculum. More broadly, the purpose of the programme is to help pupils to navigate life's challenges, enable them to make informed decisions about their future, and also to consider carefully the consequences of their actions. We ensure that students are effectively prepared for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life in British society.

A programme for each year group, 3rds – U6th (see Curriculum Maps) is devised by both the Head and Deputy Head of Learning for Life and is monitored and regularly reviewed to ensure that it meets any new challenges or difficulties that our pupils face and any significant developments or issues facing the modern world. Staff and students participate in regular consultations to ensure that the curriculum meets the needs of Bancroft's students. As Learning for Life curriculum develops over the next 2 years, there will be some overlap in the teaching of content to ensure that all year groups have learnt essential content. For example, in this academic year, both U4th and Fifths will learn about the political system in the UK. Next academic year, only U4th will cover this content and Fifths will focus on financial literacy and economic wellbeing.

Learning for Life (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) is a statutory part of the National Curriculum and is an integral part of the student experience at Bancroft's. Topics include: mental health, personal safety and well-being, financial awareness, relationships and sex education, health and celebrating diversity. Learning for Life also promotes the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths. These are implicitly and explicitly highlighted in the PSHEE programme. Students learn about the democratic process in the UK, how laws are made as well as respect for the civil and criminal law of England. The curriculum serves to highlight the British commitment to justice, tolerance, and equality. Students are expected to gain a broad understanding of and respect for public institutions and services in England, such as the police, NHS and the welfare state throughout the course of their time at Bancroft's.

Learning for Life equips students with the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to keep themselves healthy and safe, as well as nurture successful relationships and preparing them for life and work in modern Britain. It also helps pupils to achieve their academic potential, and leave school equipped with skills they will need throughout later life. Students acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures, promoting tolerance and encouraging participation in democratic processes.

To embrace the challenges of creating a happy and successful adult life, students need knowledge that will enable them to make informed decisions about their wellbeing, health and relationships and to build their self-efficacy. We ensure young people develop resilience, know how and when to ask for help, and know where to access support.

The teaching team delivers high quality, evidence-based and age-appropriate teaching of these subjects to help prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. In Thirds, students have a weekly lesson delivered by their tutor and JHSM. In Removes and the Sixth Form students have a fortnightly lesson delivered by their tutor. Students in L4th, U4th and Fifts are taught weekly by a small group of specialist teachers who receive regular training and support from the Head of Department. There are also talks and workshops delivered by visiting speakers and organisations as well as off-timetable days to ensure that students have learnt about a variety of issues during their time at Bancroft's.

The curriculum is divided into three strands: - Living in the Wider World; Health and Wellbeing; and Relationships and Sex Education.

Living in the wider world – students develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society. From making responsible decisions about alcohol to succeeding in their first job, students learn how to manage many of the most critical opportunities, challenges and responsibilities they will face growing up. The Careers Education component is managed by our Head of Careers.

Health and wellbeing - students who are emotionally healthy do better at school. Learning for Life education helps students to achieve their potential by supporting their wellbeing and tackling issues that can affect their ability to learn, such as anxiety and unhealthy relationships. Students are supported to develop skills and aptitudes – such as teamwork, communication, and resilience - that are crucial to navigating the challenges and opportunities of the modern world.

Relationships and Sex Education - students are encouraged to think about their own sexual and relationships ethics, in an age-appropriate manner. In the same way that young people will have a set of beliefs about how animals or the planet should be treated, they should also begin to create a set of values and beliefs around relationships and sex. Sessions are framed around this overarching aim, reminding students that their ethical framework will be built around their personal social, cultural or religious beliefs, in which their families will have a significant influence. Our role is to provide reliable and up-to-date information which is presented without bias, which will feed into their framework of belief.

Students in the Lower and Middle School also have a fortnightly Votes for Schools tutor time session which allows them to engage with a topical issue and develop a critically informed opinion on it. These sessions enable students to think critically about world events, controversial issues and politics which develops their reasoning and evaluation skills, as well as building oracy. When political issues are discussed, students are offered a balanced presentation of opposing views and are encouraged to critically evaluate both perspectives.