

Dear families,

Welcome to our first HPL Hub newsletter. HPL stands for High Performance Learning. HPL is a philosophy which roots itself in the belief that all students can reach high performance and with practice and perseverance, students will be able to reach their full potential. This philosophy is accompanied by a framework which gives a selection of skills, values, attributes and thinking characteristics which support our students in fulfilling their full potential and reach their ambition. There are two strands in the HPL framework: ACPs (Advanced Cognitive Performance characteristics) and VAAs (Value, Attitude and Attributes). ACPs are about how students think when tackling different learning activities in lessons whilst VAAs are about how students behave towards their learning.

We embed the HPL philosophy throughout our school. We never tell our students they cannot achieve; it is just they are not doing it yet but with practice and perseverance it will happen.

- Fluent thinking
- Flexible thinking
- Intellectual playfulness
- Originality
- Evolutionary or revolutionary thinking

Creating

- Meta-cognition
- Self-regulation
- Strategy planning
- Intellectual confidence

Meta-thinking

- Connection finding
- Generalisation
- Imagination
- 'Big picture' thinking
- Seeing alternative perspectives
- Abstraction

Linking

- Critical or logical thinking
- Precision
- Complex and multi-step problem solving

Analysing

- Automaticity
- Speed and accuracy

Realising

- Collaborative
- Concerned for society
- Confident

Empathetic

- Enquiring
- Creative and enterprising
- Open-minded
- Risk-taking

Agile

- Practice
- Perseverance
- Resilience

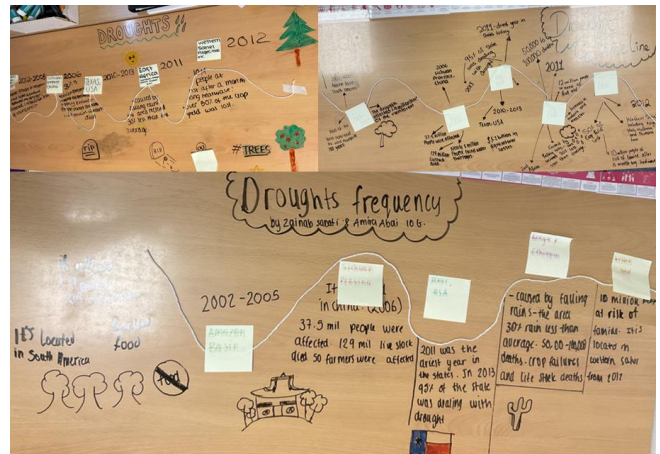
Hardworking

With this newsletter, we are aiming to show our families how the HPL philosophy is embedded in lessons, curriculum planning and the wider academy life. Some articles will be written by our own HPL Student Team who are keen to show what is going on in their academy.

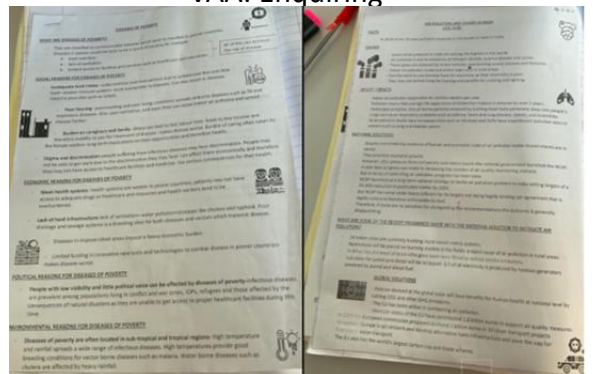
### HPL in geography:

HPL has been strongly incorporated into the geography curriculum, giving as many opportunities as possible for students to use attributes and skills from the HPL framework and become high performance geographers.

Year 10s have shown originality, creativity and collaboration when describing droughts timeline and frequency.

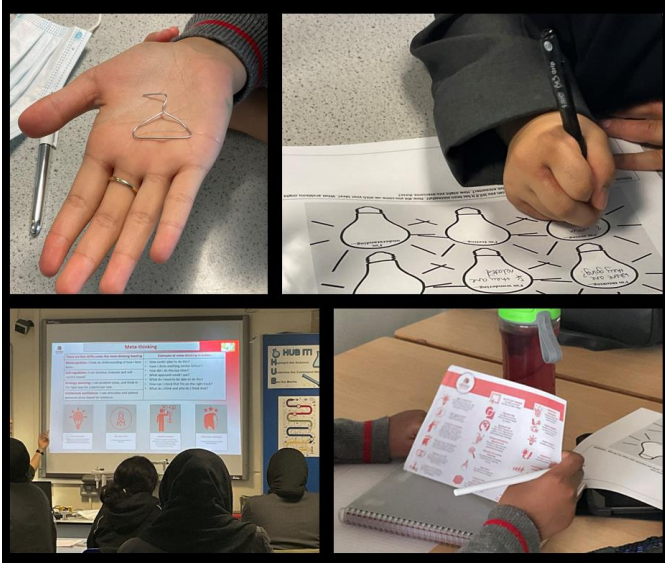


A geography A-Level student has also created Dual-Coded Independent Case Study Notes, using images and explanations, showcasing the ACPs Self-Regulation and Fluent Thinking as well as the VAA: Enquiring



## HPL Year 7 Launch Day

On Tuesday 30th November, our year 7 students had a whole day organised around the HPL framework and took part in 6 different workshops focusing on the 6 strands of ACPs and VAAs. Some of the activities included: creating an item out of a paper clip, giving a closer look at their community, planning a trip to Mars and making connections to different subject to complete a case study on the Emperor Penguin.



Here are some comments from year 7 who reflected on the day and wrote some comments on how HPL will support them in their learning but also in their future:

*"It can support me in my learning because HPL stands for high performance learning and when I think about it, it makes me feel like I can do better and then I try even harder and I try to do my best."*

Arisa – 7H

*My favourite session was linking because we had to think outside the box about this 1 picture. Making educated guesses of where they might be going or what they are doing.*

Saiya – 7G

*My favourite session is when we talked about the VAA 'Empathetic' and the VAA 'Agile'. This is because we learnt about our own communities and how diverse our communities are. The session on "Agile" it taught me that I shouldn't always stay in my comfort zone and I should be taking risks because you never know what that could lead to.*

Tasmiah – 7M

## HWGA Women's Voice Group

This group was organised for students in our academy to come together and talk about how our society deals with women, especially after the increasing number of crimes against women reported in the news. We talk about certain subjects and we come up with suitable ideas of how to deal with them. This group is a good thing to join as it is informative and you get to know more about what is being done in and outside of school to help women feel and become safer.

Rosie – 9E



We are planning on organising a fundraiser so that we can give everyone in our academy a safety alarm just in case it is needed. We are discussing ways we could make women's and girls' lives easier and ways we could spread awareness for women's and girl's safety. It is really fun because we are helping our community and trying our hardest to make it the safest area in Birmingham.

Salgai – 7M

## What are the HPL Student Drive team up to?

When we first started the drive team, we focused on making sure the students of HWGA were aware of the ACPs and VAAs. We achieved this by including info-graphs into classroom displays and ensuring teachers use them in their lessons. During the lessons, our teachers include the ACPs and VAAs by adding them to their resources and throughout lessons, we are told how we will use them and how using them furthers our ability to perform to a high standard.

In our HPL team Meetings, which take place every Wednesday at lunchtime, we discuss how we can make the school even better and we are also working on a new project which will generate a new student planner page full of rewards for executing our ACPs and VAAs. There are always original ideas being poured out ready to help us to benefit the school. This term, we have been working together to create the newsletter you are currently reading.

How would you like to join our HPL team? There are some limited spaces only available to Y7!

Husnaa – 8M, Mariyah – 8M, Faiza – 8M, Mariam – 8S

## Interview with Ms Yates

We went to see Ms Yates to ask her some questions about her feelings about HPL and where her interest in bringing it to the school came from.

### Why do you think HPL would help the school?

"We wanted our students to be full of ambition and have high aspirations. The big area we wanted to focus on was the belief that everyone has the potential to become a high performer if they try and deliberately practise".

### What's your favourite attribute?

"I think personally would be loyalty as a value and my favourite ACP would be originality since I teach art and drama, it helps foster ideas and creativity"

### How did you hear about HPL?

"We really connected when we had the founder of HPL – Deborah Eyre give a keynote speech at our joint training day within the KEVI Trust. I really loved the message that everyone should have the chance to be a high performance learner and got really curious about how we could make sure that our academy offers this."

### How do you think HPL has changed how this academy works?

"I think it has made talking about the way you learn easier and will help students in the future to be more independent as we will all know how to approach our learning."

### What would you like to see from HPL in the future?

"I would like to see students more confident with learning and encourage our families to be more involved in HPL so that they can talk about the ACPs and VAAs at home too."


### How do you think we can implement it more in lessons?

Students being more fluent in remembering the ACPs and VAAs, teachers showing the skills themselves so students get an idea and will start to understand what the VAAs and ACPs are. I'd like to see students talking about the ACPs and selecting the most useful ones to support them with their learning in lessons.

### How do you think HPL will develop individual characteristics?

I think it will help students' confidence and will allow students to use the right words to articulate their values and learning traits. I know that it will help them with careers.

Layla – 9H, Aaliyah – 9H



# CORE PURPOSE



**VISION**  
Our vision is to work together to achieve educational excellence and fulfil personal potential.

**MISSION**  
Our mission is to unlock a thirst for learning for all so that students can successfully access a range of opportunities in an ever-changing world. To overcome barriers and embrace challenges to enrich themselves and our community.

**VALUES**  
Scholarship  
Character  
Community

**INTELLECTUAL VIRTUES**  
Reflection  
Critical Thinking

**PERSONAL VIRTUES**  
Tolerance  
Respect  
Gratitude

**CIVIC VIRTUES**  
Social Justice  
Volunteering

**PERFORMANCE VIRTUES**  
Resilience  
Ambition  
Confidence




**ACPs**

Advanced  
Cognitive  
Performance  
Characteristics

**HOW TO THINK**

Meta-thinking  
Linking  
Analysing  
Creating  
Realising

**VAAs**

Values  
Attitudes  
Attributes

**HOW TO BEHAVE**

Agile  
Empathetic  
Hard-working

# The HWGA HPL Wordsearch!

E	I	A	T	R	E	S	I	L	I	E	N	C	E
E	A	E	U	V	A	L	U	E	S	T	T	I	T
I	O	C	D	E	D	N	I	M	N	E	P	O	E
G	E	N	E	R	A	L	I	S	A	T	I	O	N
Y	T	I	L	A	N	I	G	I	R	O	S	E	D
A	A	Y	C	A	T	T	I	T	U	D	E	S	O
Y	C	A	R	U	C	C	A	B	T	P	C	A	A
A	T	A	B	S	T	R	A	C	T	I	O	N	U
S	O	R	C	A	T	T	R	I	B	U	T	E	S
C	S	P	E	E	D	S	S	I	D	G	P	D	D
E	N	Q	U	I	R	I	N	G	T	A	I	C	R
Y	I	O	T	E	S	R	N	R	U	I	I	L	E
E	Q	C	I	U	T	N	E	D	I	F	N	O	C
N	E	V	I	T	A	R	O	B	A	L	L	O	C

ATTITUDES  
CONFIDENT  
ABSTRACTION  
OPEN MINDED  
ACP  
ACCURACY  
ORIGINALITY  
RESILIENCE  
ENQUIRING  
SPEED  
GENERALISATION  
VALUES  
ATTRIBUTES  
COLLABORATIVE

Created by  
Abida – 10P