Intent: Topic at New Horizons Academy

At New Horizons Academy, the intent of our 'Topic' curriculum is to equip learners with a broad understanding of their world, integrating essential knowledge with key skills that enable them to thrive. Carefully selected units allow for a variety of cross-curricular learning, where meaningful links can be made with other subjects to help support learner engagement, secure prior learning or develop learning further.

We aim to:

- **Promote Cultural Understanding and Curiosity:** Develop learners' appreciation of diverse cultures and histories, fostering respect and empathy for different backgrounds and viewpoints.
- **Encourage Lifelong Learning:** Instil a passion for learning by connecting topics to learners' personal experiences and future aspirations, enabling them to see the relevance of their studies to real-world applications.
- **Re-engage Learners in Their Education:** Utilise the careful selection of topics, some of which incorporate learners' input, to reignite their enthusiasm for learning and encourage ownership of their educational journey.
- **Develop Critical Thinking:** Encourage analytical skills through open-ended questions and discussions, enabling learners to formulate their own opinions based on evidence.
- **Support Emotional Wellbeing:** Acknowledge the social and emotional needs of learners, it is crucial for them to engage with topics that are relevant to their lives and promote resilience and self-expression.
- **Prepare for Future Settings:** Equip students with skills and knowledge to support them in their transition to future educational settings which they may transfer to.

Our ultimate aim is to create an inclusive environment where every learner feels valued and empowered to achieve their full potential and to help our learners engage positively with their learning and develop the skills, knowledge and confidence to be successful in their future endeavours.

Implementation - Topic at New Horizons Academy

Our Topic curriculum has been designed specifically for our learners; we have moved away from "off-the-shelf" schemes to create a bespoke curriculum that prioritises core National Curriculum skills while maximizing student engagement.

A Bespoke and Flexible Framework

- **Core Skill Mapping:** Each unit is mapped against core skills taken from the relevant National Curriculum documents to ensure academic rigor, while the content remains flexible enough to pivot, based on student interest and current world events whilst opportunities for oracy and critical thinking are given to support the pupils' development in these areas.
- **Broadening Horizons:** Topics are carefully selected to ensure that pupils have opportunities to learn about different people, places and events that they may not have studied due to their previous educational experiences. By focusing on areas of pupil interest, areas linked to the National curriculum and units which support SEMH and cultural capital development, pupils are given varied opportunities to engage positively with their learning.

High-Engagement Delivery

- **Hands-On Learning:** To re-engage learners who may have had negative experiences with formal education, our topic units use various strategies to "hook" our pupils and provide learning experiences which not only provide them with core skills and knowledge but foster a love of learning. Alongside the use of interactive resources, trips and or visitors, our learners are immersed in their topic.
- **Learner Voice:** In line with our intent to encourage ownership, students are given a say in the direction of their projects and topic units. This "co-construction" of the curriculum ensures that the learning feels relevant to their lives and aspirations.

Meaningful Cross-Curricular Links

- **Holistic Integration:** Throughout the Topic planning, we make cross-curricular links where applicable. This reinforcement helps secure prior learning and reduces the cognitive load for our students. British Values are linked across each unit and lesson supporting the teaching and understanding of these.
- **Adaptive Instruction:** Planning is adapted for every lesson to account for the emotional temperature of the classroom. We use appropriate resources such as: visual scaffolds, word banks, and multisensory resources to ensure that personal circumstances or learning barriers do not

prevent access to complex historical or geographical concepts.

Impact - Topic at New Horizons Academy

The impact of our Topic curriculum is seen in students who are more connected to the world around them and more confident in their ability to navigate it.

Re-engagement and Academic Agency

The primary impact is a measurable increase in learner engagement. Students move from a state of educational passivity to becoming active "researchers" and "explorers." This is evidenced through pupil voices, pupil engagement in topic learning and a visible pride in the work produced for their project outcomes.

Broadened Horizons and Cultural Capital

Our learners develop a genuine appreciation for diversity and global history. By exploring cultures and viewpoints different from their own, they develop the empathy and respect necessary for a positive, inclusive society. They leave us with a sense of "Cultural Capital" that bridges the gap between their personal experiences and the wider world.

Critical Thinking and Resilience

Through open-ended discussions and supported inquiry, students develop the ability to think critically. They learn that history and geography are not just about "facts" but about interpretation. This promotes resilience, as students become more comfortable with the idea that there isn't always one "right" answer, fostering a safer environment for self-expression.

Preparedness for Transition

The impact is seen in the "transferable skills" our students acquire. By mastering core skills they are better equipped for their next educational setting. They leave New Horizons Academy not just with knowledge, but with an improved confidence to communicate their ideas clearly in any future classroom environment.

New Horizons Academy

NHA Topic Vision Whole School Overview

Foundations	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topic Unit	All About Me	Light and Dark	Growing and Changing	Minibeasts	All About Animals: Under the Sea	The World Beyond Northampton
British Value Links	Mutual Respect Individual Liberty Rule of Law Democracy	Individual Liberty Mutual Respect Tolerance Rule of Law	Individual Liberty Mutual Respect Rule of Law Democracy	Mutual Respect Individual Liberty Democracy Rule of Law	Mutual Respect Individual Liberty Democracy Rule of Law	Mutual Respect Individual Liberty Tolerance Democracy Rule of Law

KS1 Cycle A	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topic Unit	All about Animals: Land Animals	Festivals and celebrations	Dinosaurs and Fossils	Roald Dahl:The Enormous Crocodile	Terrific Toys!	Fairy Tales: Traditional Stories from around the world
British Value Links	Mutual Respect The Rule of Law Tolerance Individual Liberty Democracy	Mutual Respect Tolerance Democracy Individual Liberty The Rule of Law	Mutual Respect Individual Liberty The Rule of Law Democracy	The Rule of Law Mutual Respect Individual Liberty	Mutual Respect The Rule of Law Individual Liberty Democracy	Individual Liberty Mutual Respect Democracy Tolerance

New Horizons Academy

NHA Topic Vision Whole School Overview

KS1 Cycle B	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topic Unit	Seas, Rivers and Oceans	Real Life Superheroes	Transport through the ages	Roal Dahl: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	The Great Fires of London and Northampton	Sun, Sea and Sand
British Value Links	Mutual Respect Individual Liberty Tolerance The Rule of Law	Mutual Respect Tolerance The Rule of Law Individual Liberty Democracy	The Rule of Law Individual Liberty Mutual Respect Democracy Tolerance	Mutual Respect Individual Liberty Tolerance Rule of Law	Rule of Law Individual Liberty Mutual Respect Tolerance Democracy	Mutual Respect Rule of Law Individual Liberty

LKS2 Cycle A	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topic Unit	Fabulous Food-Dishes from around the world	Endangered animals	Technology: how has it changed and how does it help us today?	Roald Dahl:The BFG	Ancient History and Civilisations:Ancient Greece	Achievers, Explorers and Inventors
British Value Links	Mutual Respect Individual Liberty Tolerance The Rule of Law Democracy	Individual Liberty Mutual Respect The Rule of Law Democracy	Individual Liberty Mutual Respect Democracy	Individual Liberty Mutual Respect Democracy	Mutual Respect Democracy Individual Liberty	Mutual Respect Individual Liberty Democracy The Rule of Law

New Horizons Academy

NHA Topic Vision Whole School Overview

LKS2 Cycle B	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topic Unit	Man-made and Natural Wonders of the World	Bletchley Code Breakers!	Plants and Growing	Roald Dahl: James and the Giant Peach	Ancient History and Civilisations: The Roman Empire	Mythological and Legendary Creatures
British Value Links	Mutual Respect Tolerance Individual Liberty Democracy The Rule of Law	Rule of Law Individual Liberty Mutual Respect Democracy	Mutual Respect Tolerance Individual Liberty Rule of Law Democracy	Individual Liberty Mutual Respect Rule of Law Tolerance	Mutual Respect Rule of Law Individual Liberty Democracy Tolerance	Individual Liberty Democracy Tolerance Mutual Respect Rule of Law

UKS2 Cycle A	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Topic Unit	Famous Artists and Designers who left their mark on the world!	Championes, Championes, Ole, Ole, Ole! Who is the GOAT?	Space, the final frontier!	Roald Dahl: Danny Champion of the World	History of Gaming	A United Kingdom! All about the countries of the UK
British Value Links	Individual Liberty Mutual Respect Democracy	Individual Liberty Mutual Respect Rule of Law Tolerance	Individual Liberty Mutual Respect Rule of Law Democracy	Individual Liberty Democracy Mutual Respect Tolerance Rule of Law	Mutual Respect Individual Liberty Democracy	Rule of Law Mutual Respect Individual Liberty Tolerance Democracy

UKS2 Cycle B	**Autumn 1**	**Autumn 2**	**Spring 1**	**Spring 2**	**Summer 1**	**Summer 2**
Topic Unit	Local History: Cobblers! Northampton and the shoe industry	All about the Olympics	Extreme Earth: Natural Hazards	Roald Dahl:The Twits	Mesmerised by Mayans	Magnificent Musicians from around the world
British Value Links	Mutual Respect Individual Liberty The Rule of Law Tolerance Democracy	Tolerance Mutual Respect Individual Liberty Rule of Law Democracy	Tolerance Mutual Respect Individual Liberty Rule of Law Democracy	Rule of Law Mutual Respect Individual Liberty	Mutual Respect Individual Liberty The Rule of Law Tolerance	Mutual Respect The Rule of Law Individual Liberty Tolerance